



# STEPing Into Summer

**DDS**

[portal.ct.gov/dds](http://portal.ct.gov/dds)

## DDS Stakeholders,

As you are aware, DDS has been focused on launching our STEP (Supporting Transformation to Empower People) initiative in 2023. STEP highlights seven core supports that focus on independence, choice, and community integration. While these core supports are only a portion of the menu of services we offer, we believe that they can give many individuals the best opportunity to create the lives of their choosing.

In May, DDS hosted virtual informational forums on the seven core STEP supports. I hope many of you were able to participate. If you were unable to join us, you can access recordings of each forum here: [ct.gov/STEP](https://ct.gov/STEP)

After watching the forums and learning more about STEP's core supports, I encourage individuals and families to start talking with their providers and case managers about these core supports that can promote and enhance independence. Provider and case management teams take a thorough and person-centered approach in ensuring everyone is matched with the right supports that meet your needs while promoting growth and success. Any changes to your current supports will be made carefully and with a detailed transition plan.

To stay connected as we release new resources and videos about STEP, please sign up for the DDS e-newsletter and follow us on social media. I encourage you to also visit the website frequently for the upcoming release of videos and one-pagers on the highlighted supports through STEP.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Scheff,  
DDS Commissioner



◀ Scan the QR code to visit the STEP website. Disponible en español con el código QR.



## LGBTQ Pride Month

Governor Lamont has declared June as "LGBTQ Pride Month" in the State of Connecticut. You will see a rainbow DDS logo used throughout the month of June. Connecticut and DDS remain committed to supporting our LGBTQ community members.

## Providers are STEPing Up

In March and April, numerous providers across the state submitted STEP Transition Plans detailing how providers will support individuals to live and work as independently as possible in their communities.

Throughout the summer and into next year, DDS and providers will work together to finalize and implement transformational plans.



## Did You Know?

- With **Self-Direction**, you have the most control over your supports and you decide who works for you
- In a **Community Companion Home (CCH)**, your staff does not change because you are supported by your provider family
- With **Supportive Housing** you have your own apartment and live in a community with people of all abilities
- **Individualized Home Supports (IHS)** support your success in community living, whether you live with your family or on your own

- **Assistive Technology** gives you cutting edge tools to live more independently at home, work and in the community
- **Remote Supports** use the latest technologies to offer two-way communication to people who support you
- **Employment Services** help you develop work skills and obtain a good paying job in your community

Visit the STEP website in the coming weeks to learn more about each of these supports through videos and information sheets: [ct.gov/STEP](http://ct.gov/STEP)

## STEPs Coming Soon

Starting this month and throughout this summer, we will be introducing a series of short videos about the seven highlighted STEP supports. Each video will feature individuals, family members, and support staff discussing the impact the support has had on their lives. Some videos will also feature demonstrations of the supports and will candidly address families' challenges and concerns when their loved ones transitioned to supports that offered more independence. Stay tuned to the DDS website, email updates, and social media for the premiere of each video!



## STEPing into Summer

- Connecticut's Assistive Technology Innovation Conference  
June 22 at 9:00 am  
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel  
100 Capital Blvd, Rocky Hill, CT  
Register [tinyurl.com/24ahfxz9](http://tinyurl.com/24ahfxz9)
- Fourth Tuesday Forum  
June 27 from 3:00–4:30 pm  
Children's Services and Transition Age Youth
- Fourth Tuesday Forum  
July 25 from 3:00–4:30 pm  
Advances in Supportive Housing
- Fourth Tuesday Forum  
August 22 from 3:00–4:30 pm  
Staying Connected through Technology

## Sign-up for E-Updates

Throughout the remainder of 2023, DDS will continue to mail out newsletters directly to families.


Beginning January 2024, digital newsletters will replace hardcopy newsletters as our agency embraces more environmentally friendly means of sharing content. Individuals and families will be able to receive these by email or read them on the DDS website.


Please make sure we have your email by signing up to receive our e-blasts: [portal.ct.gov/DDS/newsletter](http://portal.ct.gov/DDS/newsletter)




◀ Scan the QR code to sign up for the DDS e-newsletter

## Follow DDS Every STEP of the Way

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