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Department of Developmental Services Explores Supporting Employment with Technology

Hartford, CT- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has received an employment grant from the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities to help increase employment outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities through the use of iPad technology. This project is called the *Supporting Employment with Technology*.

The New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Center at Oak Hill has been selected as the project vendor to implement the project. DDS and NEAT will be working with providers, who serve employed individuals, to improve communication and organizational skills, increase independence and enhance social skills. This pilot is a small-scale preliminary project conducted in order to evaluate feasibility and develop recommendations for system-wide training needed to advance the use of iPad technology to a broader DDS audience.

A total of 15 provider agencies from across the state applied to be a part of this project -- evidence of a wide-spread enthusiasm and need for assistive technology to achieve better employment outcomes. All applicants will be offered introductory training at NEAT on the iPad's basic navigation, accessibility features, pre-installed applications and accessories in March and will be provided various resource materials throughout the course of the pilot program.

Three provider agencies, Windsor Independent Living Association (WILA), Futures, Inc., and Community Systems, Inc. have been selected to become part of this project group, receiving extensive iPad training, assistive technology evaluations and technical assistance to the selected providers, and the individuals they serve over the course of the next 10 months.

For more information on the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities, please visit their website:

www.ct.gov/ctcdd

For more information about The New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Center at Oak Hill, please visit their website at: www.neatmarketplace.org

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