



**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Developmental Services**

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

To: Private Providers of Day Services

From: Project SEARCH Pilot Steering Committee

Date: May 14, 2018

RE: Project SEARCH Pilot Notice of Opportunity

Under the leadership of Commissioner Jordan Scheff, the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) continues to vigorously promote its Employment First Policy. Commissioner Scheff believes it is the Department's job to be creative and persistent in establishing programs that provide supports to help people with intellectual disabilities find, get and keep community-based, competitive wage jobs. This cannot be accomplished without increasing the capacity of private providers to provide meaningful competitive employment outcomes for the individuals we support. DDS is pleased to announce that it will be collaborating with national Project Search to expand the number of providers by one (1) per region, utilizing this employment training model. Successful applicants will demonstrate:

- Commitment to Integrated, competitive employment for all individuals
- Commitment to the Project Search model
- Be a DDS Qualified Transition Services provider
- Participate in a learning community throughout the project
- Develop Host Business opportunities
- Commitment to individuals earning real pay for real work
- Sufficient community & business relationships to insure reasonable match with a host business
- Assign Lead Staff to participate in all project activities
- Collaborate with School systems and other appropriate agencies
- Endorse a customized approach to a myriad array of jobs/job duties
- Access and recommend assistive technology when appropriate
- Offer ongoing training and teaching to host site business employees

DDS will cover the cost of the Project Search Training and the Host Business License Fee for the selected providers. DDS is now accepting applications from interested Providers for the Project Search Pilot Opportunity. Applications and Commitment Letters must be sent to Martin Zaugg electronically at [martin.zaugg@ct.gov](mailto:martin.zaugg@ct.gov) and be received by June 29, 2018.