

## 2022 Innovative Employment Opportunity Grant Notice of Opportunity and Application

Under the leadership of Commissioner Scheff, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Intellectual Disability Partnership (IDP) is relaunching the Innovative Employment Opportunity (IEO) grant program. This opportunity was established to provide support and resources for the creation or expansion of business ventures that integrate individuals with intellectual disabilities into their communities through meaningful employment.

DDS is an Employment First agency with a goal of increasing opportunities for people with disabilities based on their skills and interests to find and retain employment in the general workforce that is equivalent to Competitive Integrated Employment (“CIE”). The general workforce includes typical jobs available to all job seekers in typical work settings including self-employment, working side-by-side with people of all abilities, earning industry standard wages and benefits and contributing to the labor force of society.

This grant program is intended to support innovative business ideas that will increase meaningful employment for people with intellectual disability that aligns with the DDS commitment to Competitive Integrated Employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Nationally, individuals with developmental disabilities are disproportionately unemployed, underemployed, and living in poverty. DDS, an Employment First Agency, realizes that meaningful employment can be a cornerstone of any individual’s successful participation in their community. The Innovative Employment Opportunity Grant increases opportunities for people with disabilities to become self-employed or to engage with entrepreneurs in employment opportunities, thereby increasing their economic self-sufficiency.

All applications, proposals, business plans, and relevant attachments, must be submitted electronically to the DDS Employment & Day Services Division at ([dds.employment-dayservices@ct.gov](mailto:dds.employment-dayservices@ct.gov)) by November 10, 2022. DDS will select grantees up to the total program funding cap. Include your business name and “2022 Innovative Employment Opportunity Grant Application” in the subject line of your message.

For a link to the Notice of Opportunity and Application please [click](#) here: [CTsource](#)

\*A link to the 2022 Innovative Employment Opportunity FAQs will be posted on October 31, 2022.