



State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Project SEARCH Overview

DDS is pleased to continue its collaboration with Project Search, an internship program with international success.

Project SEARCH provider agencies (DDS Qualified Providers of Transition Services) partner with a host business (a medium to large size community-based business) as well as a school district and other support partners. Through this collaboration the Project SEARCH program delivers employment skill training needed to fill current job openings available at community employers in their area, as well as teaching community & living skills necessary to enhance individual's community interactions.

Project SEARCH Expansion in CT

- In 2015 CT had **1** Project SEARCH program, provided by Favarh at UConn Health in Farmington.
- Through DDS efforts to expand this and other transition models, there are currently **10** active Project SEARCH host sites in CT with additional program pending.
- With the launch of this Notice Of Opportunity DDS will expand **3** additional program sites bringing the expected **total of Project SEARCH sites in CT by February 2023 to 14.**

Notice Of Opportunity (NOO)

DDS is now accepting applications from providers for the Project Search NOO. Recognizing there are large swaths of the state which are un/under-represented by the level of training Project SEARCH programs provide to folks with a higher degree of challenging disabilities, the NOO is intended to *encourage* growth of programs in these areas. For example, the New Haven – Middletown – Old Saybrook triangle, the Waterbury area, the north east corner of the state, etc.

DDS will cover the cost of the Project SEARCH Training and the Host Business License Fee for the initial year for those providers selected through the NOO process.

The NOO packet to providers consists of:

- A memo to providers justifying the expansion, defining basic expectations of applicants, and highlighting the award to chosen applicants.
- A Commitment letter form, which provider agency CEO's are requested to sign to signify buy-in from agency leadership, including board of directors.
- Application

The timelines cited in the NOO process are:

- 10/11/22 – Release of NOO through Everbridge notification & posting on DDS website
- 10/21/22 - Deadline for potential applicants to submit questions for a FAQ document
- 10/28/22 – Questions answered & posted on DDS website; link shared with providers
- 11/25/22 – Application submission deadline

Phone: 860 418-6000 ♦ TDD 860 418-6079 ♦ Fax: 860 418-6001
460 Capitol Avenue ♦ Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.ct.gov/dds ♦ e-mail: ddsct.co@ct.gov
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Project SEARCH – Proven success in intensive training, support & community placements

9-month program, mirrors school year	Provides classroom training for soft skill training/enhancement
Targets transition age youth & young adults	Job assessment /job development/placement/follow along supports
Trains interns transferrable employment skills	Competitive employment is the expected outcome
Provides 3 internship rotations for business immersed skill training	

Current Project SEARCH Programs in CT

South Region HOST Middlesex Hospital (Middletown) / PROVIDER MARC CR	West Region HOST Darien YMCA (Darien) / PROVIDER Abilis
South Region HOST Mohegan Sun (Uncasville) / PROVIDER UCP (on hiatus for 2022-23)	West Region HOST Greenwich Hospital (Greenwich) / PROVIDER-Abilis
North Region HOST UConn Health (Farmington) / PROVIDER Favarh	West Region HOST Norwalk CC (Norwalk) / PROVIDER Norwalk School District & Ability Beyond
North Region HOST Goodwin University (East Hartford) / PROVIDER MARC of Manchester	West Region HOST Norwalk-Nuvance Hospital (Norwalk) / PROVIDER Ability Beyond
North Region HOST Hartford Hospital / PROVIDER MARC of Macnehster	West Region HOST Charlotte Hungerford Hospital / (Torrington)/PROVIDER LARC

Pending Project SEARCH Programs:

<u>South Region HOST (Pending) /Provider</u> <u>NEBA</u>	