



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.  
Commissioner

Jordan Scheff  
Deputy Commissioner

**To:** Department of Developmental Services PRAT Managers,  
Resource Managers and Case Managers  
**From:** Jordan Scheff, Deputy Commissioner  
**Date:** 10/18/2016  
**Re:** Day Support Options (DSO) Access

**Policy Change:**

Effective 11/1/16, only individuals with a LON score of 6, 7, 8 may access DSO programs. Requests for exceptions to this DSO access must be approved by PRAT.

**Rationale for Change:**

The CT Department of Developmental Services (DDS) supports the Employment First movement, which promotes the belief that all individuals with disabilities can work, given the right support. CT DDS is in the process of redesigning its day services to reflect this belief. It is understood that those with a high level of need may have greater challenges in finding and maintaining competitive employment. Therefore, individuals with a significant level of need (defined here as LON score of 6, 7, or 8), who experience significant barriers to employment, may access DSO non-work services where they can develop the accommodations and skills needed to overcome barriers to employment. Individuals with a LON score of 1-5 may use their allocated DDS funds to pay for participation in time-limited Transitional services that lead to competitive employment. Individuals can also choose to use their allocated funding for ISE, IDV or self-directed vocational services. Requests for exceptions to this DSO access must be approved by PRAT.

**Implementation Process:**

- Individuals with a LON score of 1-5, who had an authorization to participate in a DSO prior to (11/1/16) will be grandfathered into the system and can remain in their DSO. Grandfathered individuals can move from service to service without permission from PRAT.

- All new individuals to DDS day services, wishing to access DSO services (after the effective date), must have a LON of 6, 7, or 8.
- All new individuals to DDS day services, with a LON score of 1 - 5, who wish to attend DSO services, must submit a request to PRAT that identifies why an exception to this rule should be authorized. Factors that may be considered by PRAT for an exemption are: significant health issues, significant behavioral issues, or those who may be of retirement age.
- WIOA Requirements: Individuals age 18-24 cannot participate in **any** 14c program that pay subminimum wages unless WIOA requirements are met (DORS assessment). Individuals over age 24 must receive career counseling and self-advocacy, self-determination and peer counseling information as required by WIOA.