

BACKGROUND

Pre-Employment Service




Project SEARCH serves young people with disabilities, typically high school and transition-aged students who are on an IEP and in their last year of school eligibility. The program can also serve recent graduates and young adults.

Project SEARCH internships are unpaid, temporary positions designed to provide you with real work experience in a specific field to add to your resume.

It is a business led program, where YOU (the intern) learn relevant, marketable skills to prepare for a competitive job. Your internship will take place in a host business, typically a large company with many departments that can accommodate several internship opportunities. Programs are run by DDS Provider Agencies and school partners.



 There are **over 700 Project SEARCH programs** in 48 states! Project SEARCH maintains a **75%** employment rate; CT programs have had an even higher success rate!

TYPICAL SCHEDULE

Planning

Project SEARCH programs typically run for nine months from September to June and mirror the traditional school calendar. Program hours are generally Monday through Friday from 8:00am-2:30pm.



How to get started: January - May



- Attend an Open House/Informational Session for the upcoming year
- Fill out an application
- Participate in assessment day

June - August

- Acceptance letters are sent.
- Signing day! This the day when you commit to the program.
- Onboarding, getting your badge and uniform

September-June

- Internship!



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services
460 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
dds.employment-dayservices@ct.gov

PROJECT SEARCH



Project SEARCH is a nine-month internship training program, available to school transition-age students and young adults eligible for DDS services, who need more intensive employment skills training.

The program takes place in various community settings where total inclusion in the workplace helps the teaching and learning process as well as gaining employability and marketable work skills. The primary goal of Project SEARCH is to secure meaningful competitive employment.

Key components:

- ❖ **INDIVIDUALIZED INTERNSHIPS**
- ❖ **EMPLOYMENT SKILLS CURRICULUM**
- ❖ **INTERNSHIP ROTATIONS**

IMPORTANT: DDS services are voluntary unlike the school years that are mandated by law. Services and supports available through DDS are neither mandated nor entitlements, and therefore, subject to appropriations from the state legislature every year.



INDIVIDUALIZED INTERNSHIPS



Orientation

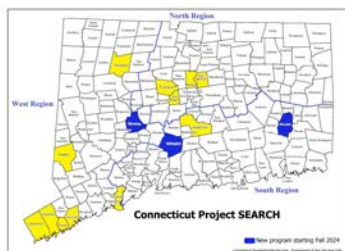
The first few weeks are focused on getting you used to and comfortable with the work environment and completing a hands-on skills assessment.

Your training will consist of learning employment skills AND developing a career plan that guides your internship selection process and job search.

Internships are individualized and based on your skills and interests. You will spend most of your day in your assigned departments, including breaks and lunch times.

Project SEARCH locations in Connecticut:

- Hospitals
- Universities
- Large Businesses



To view a list of current CT Project SEARCH sites, visit the link below:
[Project SEARCH Contact List](#)

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS CURRICULUM



Skill development

Any future job seeker can benefit from working on skill development in different areas. Throughout the Project SEARCH program year, you will work on employability and functional skills both in your internship and in the onsite training room.



The host business provides access to an onsite training room. The site is staffed by a special education teacher and up to three skills trainers to meet your educational and training needs. Training room activities are centered around these focus areas:

- Team building
- Workplace safety, manners, and culture
- Technology
- Maintaining employment
- Self-advocacy
- Financial literacy
- Health and wellness including hygiene and presentation
- Preparing for employment



GOAL Project SEARCH

The goal is competitive employment and includes individualized job search (at host business or in the community) and ongoing support (including natural supports, like a co-worker).

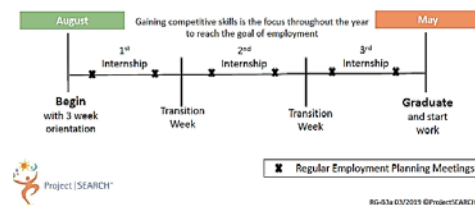
INTERNSHIP ROTATIONS



3 different internships

Through a series of 3 targeted internships beginning after orientation, you will gain competitive and transferable skills to enable you to apply for a related position in the community (or host business).

Each internships rotation is about **10 weeks long.**



Sample internships:

- Food preparation, meal delivery
- Reception and office work
- Data entry
- Childcare
- Maintenance and cleaning
- Stocking shelves & refilling supplies



If you are interested in Project SEARCH, consider attending an information session.

Need more information?

[Project Search Employment and Day Services](#)