

## BACKGROUND

### Group Support

GSE is supported employment on a job site where you and a group of participants are working under the supervision of a permanent Employment Specialist/Job Coach.

These services can lead to Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) and can include Career Planning which is an active ongoing process that includes a variety of activities to help match your abilities, interests, values, and personality with the expectations of the real world of work.

### DDS Qualified Providers

Qualified providers are essential to accomplish our goal of delivering quality services.

Click [HERE](#) to search for Qualified Providers that offer GSE.



Questions?

[DDS Employment and Day Services](#)

## MORE INFORMATION

### Transportation



Service offered to enable you to get to your place of employment or community-based day supports. This may include agency provided transportation, pre-purchased bus tickets / paratransit bus passes, or private transportation. Payment per mile is made for a maximum of one round trip daily. Wheelchair accessible transportation is paid at a higher rate only if the individual requires the use of a wheelchair accessible vehicle.



### Portability

Portability means that you have control over your supports and the money used to pay for the services you receive. The portability process may be used when you are not satisfied with the services you receive from your current public or private provider, or when you need to change who provides your services for some reason.



State of Connecticut  
Department of  
Developmental Services



## GROUP SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (GSE)

Do you enjoy being part of a group working toward common goals? Group Supported Employment gives you the opportunity to be a paid employee in a group, working alongside people with and without disabilities. While on the job, you will have access to support from a Job Specialist/Job Coach. Some features of Group Supported Employment include:

- ❖ WORK SITE OPPORTUNITIES
- ❖ CORE SUPPORTS
- ❖ CAREER EXPLORATION

**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.

State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental  
Services (DDS)

## WORK SITE OPPORTUNITIES

### Experiences

DDS offers GSE to support you in your journey to Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). You will participate in work or work-like tasks in a group setting with an Employment Specialist/Job Coach who provides ongoing supervision and instruction on assigned tasks. You also have the added benefit of peer support while in GSE.



### Goal

You may or may not be working at a competitive wage, however, the goal is continuous movement toward greater independence including individualized support and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).

### What is Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)?



Employment at minimum wage or higher, in a fully integrated setting. **Integrated** means an inclusive work site in the community working alongside people with and without disabilities.

For more information about CIE, visit the U.S. Department of Labor website: [Competitive Integrated Employment \(CIE\) | U.S. Department of Labor](#)

## CORE SUPPORTS

### Benefits of GSE

While in GSE, you will have access to helpful supports such as:



- Ongoing support from a Job Coach/Employment Specialist
- Support with job tasks in a group setting
- Career assessments/planning
- Work in the community or at a business
- Job search and development
- Preparation to transition to Individual Supported Employment (ISE) or other individualized supports

### Questions to consider when choosing a GSE Provider:

- Does your agency provide a variety/range of supported employment opportunities?
- What work sites are available in the community?
- Do people receive their paychecks from the provider or from the employer?
- What is the staff ratio on work sites?
- Does your agency provide other employment pathways such as Individual Supported Employment or Customized Employment?



## CAREER EXPLORATION

### Your Future

As you progress in GSE, your provider can develop a career plan for you by exploring career assessments and inventories. Career Planning can help you identify your strengths, interests, preferences, personality, and skillset.

### Travel Training



You may receive travel training to learn how to safely use different types of transportation (bus, paratransit, train, etc.) to get to your place of employment.

### Benefits Counseling

Benefits Counseling is available to learn how employment earnings may impact your benefits.

### [Benefits Counseling Website](#)

### Assistive Technology (AT)

You can learn how AT may benefit you on the job site. Provider agencies may have AT support built into GSE.

### [Assistive Technology](#)

### [STEP Assistive Technology Fact Sheet](#)

### How do I know if GSE is for me?

Talk to your Case Manager to see if GSE could be the right fit for you.

