

Transition Planning: Decision Making Options & Eligibility Based Benefits

The transition life stage is an important time to explore the combination of programs and services, that might be needed to assist a student in their adult life. This document is designed to be a quick reference starting point for some of the key protections and eligibility-based benefits that can help to build a smooth transition from school to adulthood.

Age of Majority

Every person in the State of Connecticut who is 18 years of age or older is an adult who is presumed legally capable of directing their personal decisions. Parents do not automatically retain legal decision-making authority after age 18.



For individuals who may need assistance making personal decisions, explore decision making options at age 17.

Decision Making Alternative Approaches

- Natural Supports
- Power of Attorney
- Advanced Directive(s)
- Supported Decision Making

Visit [Disability Rights CT](#) for Decision-Making resources

Probate Court Legal Decision-Making Options

- Guardianship (Plenary/Limited and Financial)
- Conservatorship (Person/Estate)

For more information about Legal Decision-Making Options, please refer to the [Probate User Guide](#) for Guardians, [Probate User Guide](#) for Conservators, or contact your local [Probate Court](#).

Social Security

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal income supplement program designed to help individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled, and who have little or no income. SSI provides cash to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. To be eligible for SSI, an individual must meet certain asset, income, and disability status criteria.



Being approved for SSI establishes that the student is a person with a disability, based on federal program criteria. Apply for SSI before applying for CT Medicaid.

Apply for Social Security at www.SSA.gov

- Apply when the individual turns 18 years of age.
- Application is for the individual only, as an adult. It is not based on parent's income.
- You can make an appointment to apply for SSI benefits in person at your local Social Security office. Download the application and start working on it before your appointment.
- During your appointment, speak with your Social Security representative to see if you may be eligible for other SSA programs.

TIP: When completing Federal and State Benefit applications, be sure to answer questions as if your family member is filling out the information. (Example: When asked about “family income”, you should be referring to your family member’s income)

MEDICAID Coverage under HUSKY C

Medicaid is a state-federal partnership to provide health care services to adults with disabilities, who are elderly or have low-income.



In order to be eligible for DDS individual case management services and funding upon exiting school, you need to be enrolled in Husky C.

Apply for Medicaid at connect.ct.gov

- Apply for Medicaid coverage under HUSKY C when the individual turns 18 years of age. The process will go smoother if the student has already been found eligible for SSI.
- Apply for the individual only, separate from other family members residing in the home who may also have Medicaid.
- To be eligible, an individual’s assets cannot exceed \$1,600, unless they are working.
- Students may still use parent’s/private insurance as primary insurance.
- If you cannot apply online, complete a paper application (W-1E). Write “Husky C” on the top of the paper application and send to: DSS Connect Scanning Center, P.O. Box 1320, Manchester, CT 06045-1320 or drop it off at any DSS office.



You can have a competitive job with competitive wages and still be eligible for CT Medicaid and for your DDS services!

- Talk to the Department of Social Services (DSS) about “MED-Connect”, “Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities” or the “S05 Program”. This program allows an individual who is employed to earn up to \$85,000 per year and still maintain Medicaid health insurance.

Check application status @ 1-855-626-6632 or by setting up an account through www.connect.ct.gov

Assistance Accessing Benefits and Entitlements

Families may request assistance from the DDS Helpline or their assigned Case Manager to assist with applications for benefit and entitlement programs offered by other agencies, which may include:

- Age of Majority and Decision-Making Options
- SSI / SSDI
- Adult Medicaid /Husky C
- And more

DDS Helpline

Exclusively for individuals already eligible for DDS services who do not have an assigned DDS Case Manager.

North Region	South Region	West Region
1-877-437-4577	1-877-437-4567	1-877-491-2720
dds.nr.ifshelpline@ct.gov	dds.sr.ifshelpline@ct.gov	dds.wr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

ALWAYS KEEP COPIES OF YOUR APPLICATIONS!