



State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

To: Private Providers of Day Services

From: Project SEARCH Pilot Steering Committee

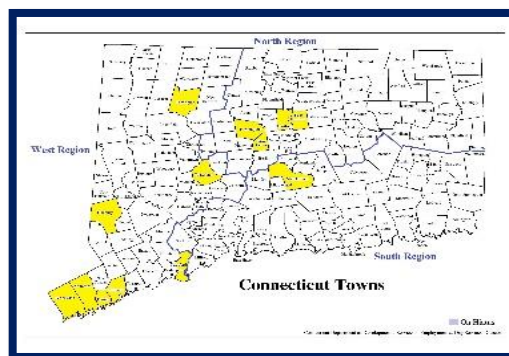
Date: 1/29/2024

RE: 2024 Project SEARCH Pilot Notice of Opportunity

Under the leadership of Commissioner Jordan Scheff, the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) continues to vigorously promote Employment First. DDS has committed to be creative and persistent in establishing programs that provide support to help people with intellectual disabilities find, get, and keep Competitive Integrated Employment. This cannot be accomplished without increasing the capacity of private providers to produce meaningful competitive employment outcomes for the individuals we support.

DDS is pleased to announce that it will continue its collaboration with Project SEARCH to expand its presence in CT. DDS will cover the cost of the Project SEARCH Training and the Host Business License Fee for the selected providers for the initial year. The provider will assume these costs after the first year. Up to 4 applicants will be awarded this grant. Preference will be given to proposals for programs in those areas of the state that do not currently have a Project Search option.

The below map provides locations of current Project SEARCH programs statewide:



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An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Successful applicants will demonstrate:

- Commitment to Competitive Integrated Employment for all individuals
- Considerable knowledge of, and commitment to, the Project SEARCH model
- DDS Qualified Transition Services provider status
- Agreement to work with other Pilot participants to share learning experience and provide mutual support
- An identified Host Business. *If a Host Business has not been identified, sufficient community & business relationships to ensure reasonable match with a host business for the 2025-26 program year must be outlined*
- Commitment to individuals earning real pay for real work
- A viable plan dedicating Lead Staff to participate in all project activities
- Collaboration with School systems and other appropriate agencies
- Endorsement of a customized approach to a myriad array of jobs/job duties
- Access to, and recommendation of, assistive technology when appropriate
- Ongoing training and teaching to host site business employees
- A Letter of Commitment from Agency CEO and Host Business (if identified)

DDS is now accepting applications from interested Providers for the Project SEARCH Pilot Opportunity. Applications and Commitment Letters must be sent electronically to The CT DDS Employment & Day Services Unit c/o Brian Gresko at dds.employment-dayservices@ct.gov.

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm EST on April 19, 2024.

Questions about the Project SEARCH Pilot Opportunity may be submitted electronically to the CT DDS Employment & Day Services Unit c/o Brian Gresko at dds.employment-dayservices@ct.gov until 5pm EST on March 8, 2024. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be posted to the DDS website by March 20, 2024.

Application – Key Dates and Information

Notice of Opportunity Release:	January 29, 2024
Questions regarding the application due by:	March 8, 2024
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document posting:	March 20, 2024
Application Submission Deadline:	April 19, 2024
Anticipated Funding Selection Date:	May 24, 2024