

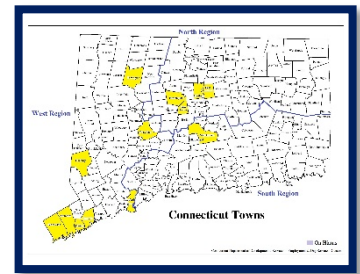


2024 Project SEARCH: Connecticut Pilot Application

Opportunity

Thank you for your interest in developing and operating a Project SEARCH program. Through a partnership between the Connecticut Department of Developmental Disabilities and Project SEARCH/Cincinnati Children's Hospital, we have a common goal to develop **up to 4 new** Project SEARCH programs.

Please note: Preference will be given to proposals for programs in those areas of the state that do not currently have a Project SEARCH option.



Timeframe

The goal is to begin the new programs by the start of the 2025-26 program year beginning in September 2025. **DDS has committed to covering the cost of the Project SEARCH licensing fees for the organizations chosen for the initial program year.** The selected providers will assume these costs after the first year.

This application is for those organizations that are prepared to attend all required trainings during the year leading up to August 2025. Applications chosen will be confirmed by the DDS Project SEARCH Advisory Committee.

Contact Information & Questions

Please complete the application and return it electronically to Brian Gresko by **April 19, 2024**. Those submitting applications will receive a confirmation email within 2 business days of receipt of the application.

Applications and questions can be directed to Brian Gresko at the following email address:

dds.employment-dayservices@ct.gov

All questions should be received in writing by **March 8, 2024**. Questions and answers will be posted in a *Frequently Asked Questions* Document that will be posted to the DDS Website by **March 20, 2024**.

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Instructions: Provide the following information and respond completely to all questions.

1. Organization Name:

2. Address:

3. List the partner organizations (and names if possible) that will serve on your planning/steering team.

- School District(s):

- DDS:

- BRS/ADS:

- Family Members:

- Business Partner(s) including potential Host Site:

- Others:

4. How did you learn about Project SEARCH:

5. Please list the names of people you have spoken to about Project SEARCH:

6. Please explain your level of knowledge of Project SEARCH and how that would translate to your organization's development and oversight of a new Project SEARCH program:

7. Please list the required components and describe your plan for financially supporting each:

- Site Instructor
- Skills Trainer/Coach
- Job Development
- Supervisory/Support Staff
- Ancillary Costs/Overhead Costs

8. Once fully operational, Project SEARCH sites ideally serve 8-12 interns each year. Please describe the anticipated size of your organization's proposed program. Include long-term plans to identify and recruit interns, including referral sources, into your Project SEARCH program.

9. Please give details about your potential (or secured) host business site. (type and size of business, plan for securing this business as a host site, current status of their interest in partnering with your team, etc.)

10. Please describe the kinds of internships available within the potential host business setting for your Project SEARCH site. Include departments within the host business site identified for micro-internship rotations.

11. Describe your organization's commitment to Employment First principles. Provide the breadth and length of experience your organization has in leading initiatives and developing programs aligned with Employment First and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE).

12. Please indicate organizational support that would be committed to the proposed Project SEARCH program. Include titles and roles of key staff throughout the agency’s organizational chart and their level of involvement.

13. What is the agency’s experience and commitment to providing/accessing travel training for interns?

14. In what areas do you anticipate needing assistance to successfully implement a Project SEARCH program?

Additional Application Requirements:

1. A fully signed Commitment Letter from CEO of provider agency
2. A fully signed Commitment Letter from CEO of potential host business site (if a host business site is identified)
3. Sufficient community & business relationships to ensure reasonable match with a host business (provide a representative list as an attachment)
4. Agreement to work with other Pilot participants to share learning experience and provide mutual support.
5. Provider applicants must be Qualified for Transition Services as this model follows the curriculum DDS is seeking for its Transition Services programs.

NAME AND SIGNATURE

Executive Director/CEO (printed name)

Executive Director/CEO (signature, date)
