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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Connecticut Developmental Disability Council Awarded \$45,000 National Grant

(Hartford, CT) – The Connecticut Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is one of five states to receive a \$45,000 grant to participate in a five year *Community of Practice* study. Along with Oklahoma, Tennessee, Washington and the District of Columbia, Connecticut's Council on Developmental Disabilities and DDS will focus on creating a learning environment for intense exploration into policy, practices, trends and barriers for individuals with intellectual disability.

"We are delighted to have DDS and the DD Council work in partnership on something as critical as Family Support," said DDS Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D. "The *Community of Practice* process will help ensure that Connecticut resources are used efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of all families who have children with a disability."

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) has funded the grant through the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) in partnership with UMKC Institute for Human Development, National Association of Councils for Developmental Disabilities, and Human Resource Services Institute. The purpose of the grant is to identify and implement policies and practices that will serve as a national framework for states to use to support individuals and their families across the lifespan.

The *Community of Practice* is designed to include ideas, innovations and recommendations not only from the states identified but from the broader community. Each state will form a team with partners from their service system including members from self-advocacy and family organizations, universities, education, aging and other contributing organizations.

For questions about the national *Community of Practice*, please contact Mary Lee Fay at [mlfay@nasddds.org](mailto:mlfay@nasddds.org) For questions about the Connecticut *Community of Practice* please contact Robin Wood at 860-418-6035, or Molly Cole at 860-418-6157.

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