

Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Employment & Day Services Division

Employment Newsletter

April 2022



The Employment & Day Services Division sends a heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers in our community.

Volunteers touch the lives of the individuals we serve in many ways. Throughout the month of April, take the time to thank the volunteers in your community for their work and dedication!



EDS Updates

Customized Employment (CE)

The Connecticut Customized Employment Staff Registry is now complete. This registry will be used and monitored by ADS and DDS. In order to provide CE services in the State of CT, staff must be listed on this registry.

If you have a staff member who received an ACRE approved or Connecticut Customized Employment certificate, please have them complete the application to our registry.

[Connecticut Customized Employment Staff Registry](#)

Employment Services Strategic Planning Committees

The Connecticut Department of Developmental Services Employment Services Strategic Planning Committee released recommendations for the first quarter of calendar year 2022.

Seven sub-committees were created, each assigned to one of the seven sections of the report. A Steering Committee was created to organize the chairpersons and EDS Liaisons tasked with leading the sub-committees.

Quarterly public meetings will occur on the dates posted below to allow each sub-committee to report on their topic area and provide recommendations. The minutes from this meeting will be published as quarterly reports of the DDS Employment Services Strategic Planning Committee.

More information about this exciting process can be found [here](#).

1X Employment Incentives Survey

One of the seven sub-committees in the Employment Services Strategic Planning Process is the Financing & Contracting Methods sub-committee. The sub-committee is gathering information on the DDS One-time Employment Incentive that is used on an ISE or GSE path. The sub-committee created a survey for provider staff and DDS case managers, resource managers, and transition advisors to capture information about the usage of the incentive. The survey will be used to inform the sub-committee of questions, suggestions, problems, and successes with the 1X incentive.

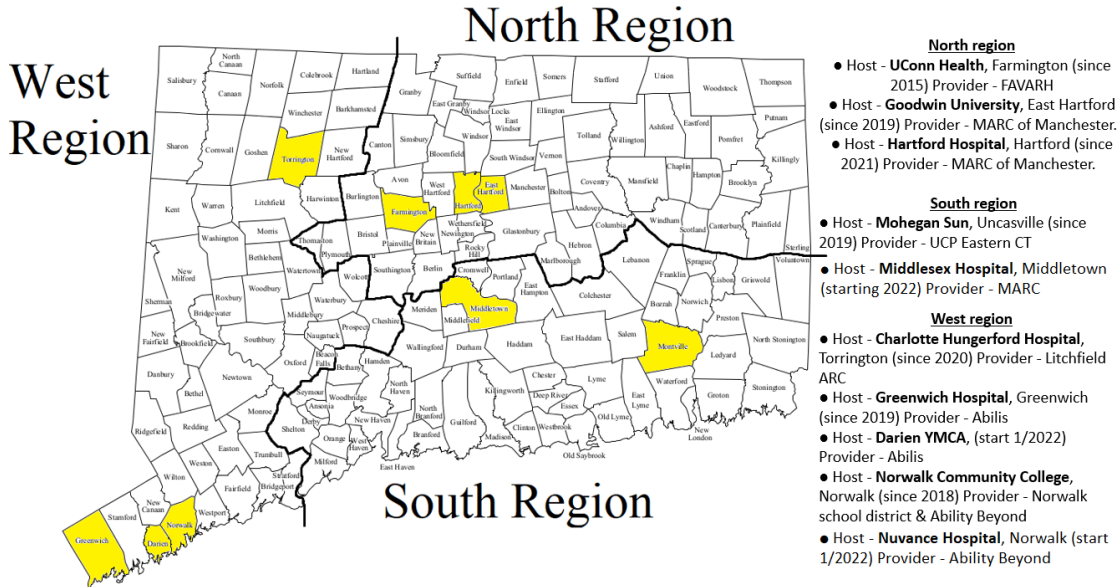
[1X Employment Incentive Survey](#)

Project SEARCH

There are **TEN** Project SEARCH host site/programs run by DDS provider agencies and school partners in Connecticut.

Project SEARCH is a nine-month internship training program, available to school transition age students and young adults eligible for DDS services, who need more intensive employment skills training.

Many of the programs are ***now accepting applicants*** for the 2022/2023 program year which starts in September of 2022.



CT Project SEARCH Contact List

The Project SEARCH National Team visited PS sites across the state throughout the beginning of April. The National team met with several of the newest Project SEARCH programs & partners including host businesses, provider agencies, interns, families, and DDS staff. These synergistic visits create opportunities for collaboration across all stakeholders.

Project SEARCH with UCP of Eastern CT
2022-2023 Program Year

Virtual Informational Sessions via Zoom
(Students, Families, Case Managers and School Districts Welcome)

January 21, 2022 at 10am
February 15, 2022 at 4pm
March 17th, 2022 at 10am
April 11, 2022 at 4pm
May 11, 2022 at 10am
June 2, 2022 at 4pm

Project SEARCH is a unique, business-led, one year internship program that takes place entirely in the workplace. The program allows each student with a disability to be immersed in a workplace setting giving hands on experience that will increase their skills and abilities. These skills and abilities will enhance their chances at real competitive work and reaching their ultimate goals.

Benefits for Students & Families

UCP of Eastern CT 22- 23 Information Sessions

May 11, 2022 at 10:00AM
June 2, 2022 at 4:00PM

Please RSVP to colbrys@ucpect.org
for session links and/or questions.

Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion

In 2021, DDS solidified its efforts toward Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion (DEI) by naming Dr. Cheryl Ellis as the first DDS DEI Director. Each month, Dr. Ellis will work with EDS staff to share topical DEI information in this new section of the EDS Employment Newsletter!

-- Check back next month for Dr. Ellis' first collaboration with the EDS Newsletter! --

Links & Resources

DDS does not endorse or recommend any particular product, process, or service listed below.

Entrepreneurial Resources

Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

**Supporting
entrepreneurs
with disabilities**



JAN is an ODEP supported service that provides entrepreneurial resources to individuals with disabilities, family members, and service providers. JAN consultants offer self-employment and small business development expertise and referrals regarding business planning, financing strategies, disability-specific programs, income supports and benefits planning, e-commerce, independent contracting, and home-based business options.

To learn more about JAN Entrepreneurial Resources, click [here](#).

Starting Your Own Business - CT American Job Centers



Employment News

1. U.S. AbilityOne Commission Releases Draft 5 Year Strategic Plan

Three strategic objectives anchor the Commission's Draft FY 2022–2026 Strategic Plan:

1. Expand competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities.
2. Ensure effective governance across the AbilityOne Program.
3. Partner with Federal agencies and AbilityOne stakeholders to increase and improve CIE opportunities for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities.

The plan also builds on the Commission's proposed rule to end the payment of subminimum and sub-prevailing wages on all AbilityOne contracts. The AbilityOne Commission welcomes feedback.

2. HEADs UP Act Would Designate IDD as Medically Underserved

The Healthcare Extension and Accessibility for Developmentally Disabled and Underserved Population (HEADs Up) Act would designate people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) by the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The MUP designation would open over 25 government programs within HRSA and other federal agencies to the community of Americans with people with I/DD. These include:

- Eligibility to apply for federal funding to develop and operate Community Health Centers;
- Access to loan repayment and training programs in HRSA's Workforce Development and Training Programs including the national Health Service Corps Scholarships;
- Incentives for physicians to treat this population in the form of higher CMS reimbursement rates for physician services delivered in Health Professional Shortage Areas; and,
- Preference given to research at federal agencies that studies MUPs (including the NIH)

3. House and Senate Pass Omnibus Appropriations Bill

The FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 2471) includes funding increases that support family caregivers:

- \$1 million increase for the Lifespan Respite Care Program (\$8.1 million)
- \$5.5 million increase for the National and Native American Family Caregiver Support Programs
- \$5 million increase for the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Program

The agreement also includes encouragement for ACL to coordinate with the Department of Labor to explore new strategies for the recruitment, retention, and advancement opportunities needed to attract or retain direct care workers.

Training & Development



The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, together with Connecticut State Department of Education and Connecticut College of Technology's National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, is pleased to present **People, Pathways & Technology for the Future Manufacturing Workforce – a Professional Development Series for Educators**. The series will be held online on Wednesdays from 1–3 pm. Sessions will focus on raising awareness of Manufacturing careers, improving access, and engaging students underrepresented in STEM. For more information, view the flyer [here](#).

May 4 – Session 3: TECHNOLOGY | [Register Here](#)

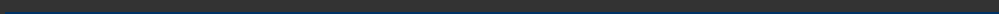
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