

Employment Newsletter



Jump into Spring with Employment & Day Services!

The Employment & Day Services team will be representing DDS at multiple conferences and events this Spring! Below are some of the events that the EDS team will be presenting on Employment & Day Service Options:

Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities

The Annual Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities is **Friday, April 28th from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm**. The conference is an excellent opportunity to meet a wide representation of experts and professionals, along with family and friends of individuals with disabilities. The EDS will be hosting a Workshop on Innovative Employment Options. To register for the conference, [click here](#). If you need assistance with online registration, contact the ATDN staff at (860) 361-9374.



2023 CT APSE Conference: ReconnECTed and Back on Track!



The CT Chapter of the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Annual Employment Conference is **Wednesday May 10th from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm** at the Sheraton Harford South in Rocky Hill. There will be a host of fantastic breakout sessions, including topics on: Informed Choice, Integrating Technology for Progressive Job Coaching, Assistive Technology for Employment, Customized Employment, Travel Training, Transportation in CT, and more! [Click here](#) to register.

Coalition of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) Spring Conference

Two members of the ADS-DDS Customized Employment Project team, Trever Rogers and Torrey Morse, will be presenting at the CSAVR 2023 Spring Conference in Bethesda, Maryland on April 18th. Their presentation, titled "Innovative Partnerships" will focus on the interagency partnership between the Departments of Developmental Services, Aging & Disability Services, and Education (SDE) that made the launch of Customized Employment possible in Connecticut.



EDS Updates

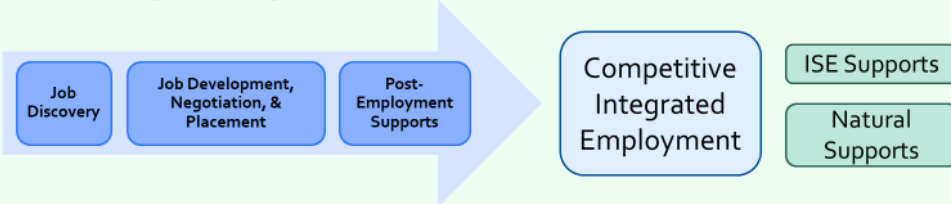
The Employment & Day Services (EDS) Division was created in 2018 to oversee DDS employment and day service options. EDS works with individuals, families, providers, community partners, and businesses to prepare individuals for competitive employment. The division currently offers a variety of day and employment services to individuals with intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities (IDD) across Connecticut, learn more below:

Customized Employment (CE) Services

What is Customized Employment?

Customized Employment (CE) is an alternative method of finding **competitive integrated employment** that focuses on the strengths, skills and abilities of individuals with significant disabilities and the unmet needs of employers.

It is a **highly structured, person-centered process, carried out over time in three separate phases**. It serves as a separate service model with more intensive creative and specifically modified supports to help the individual achieve their self-directed employment option. The service is **job seeker driven**.



Individuals & Families

Learn more about CE [here](#).

Listen to a Customized Employment Job Seeker's experience [here](#).

Provider Staff

Learn more about CE [here](#).

View the CE FAQ [here](#).

CT CE Technical Assistance Community of Practice

Join the ADS-DDS team at the 2nd Connecticut Customized Employment Technical Assistance Community of Practice on Monday, April 17th, 2023. All provider agencies are welcome to join: those curious about CE, those currently in a CE Certification Course, and those currently providing CE Services.



Quarter 2 – [RSVP](#)

April 17th, 2023

9:00AM to 12:00PM

Job Discovery

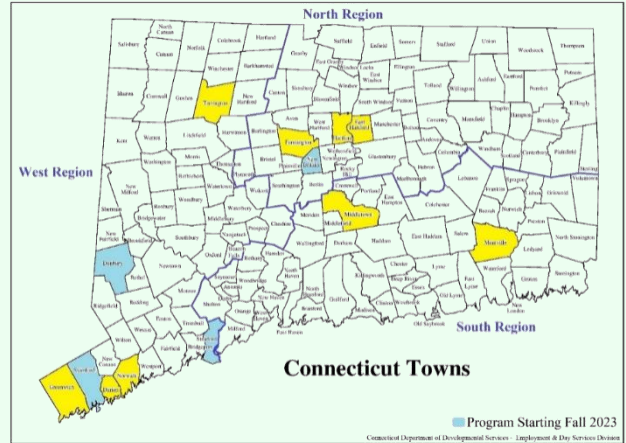
The first half of the meeting will focus on the Discovery Phase of CE and the second half staff from Job Path NY will join us for questions, answers, and discussion. Questions can be submitted when you RSVP.

More information and the RSVP link can be found in the attached one-pager found [here](#).

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH (PS) 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. There are **14** Project SEARCH programs across Connecticut for the 2023-2024 Program Year! Learn more about Project SEARCH [here](#). View the CT Project SEARCH Contact List [here](#).

Connecticut Locations

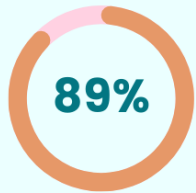


Connecticut Project SEARCH

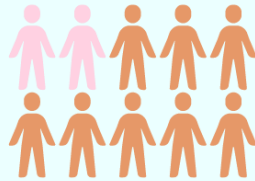
Project SEARCH has over 730 programs in 48 states and around the globe. On average, 75% of interns find employment upon completion of their internship.

There are **14** Project SEARCH Programs in Connecticut with outcome data higher than the national average.

Connecticut Data:



Graduation Rate



79.8% Employment Rate

Interns have a wide range of work experiences, including:

- Manufacturing/Product Assembly
- Office Administration/Clerical
- Stocking/ Materials Management
- Dining Room Attendant/Busser
- Receptionist/ Front Desk
- Laboratory Technician
- Barista/ Food Preparation
- Data Entry
- Patient Care
- Sales
- Maintenance
- Mailroom
- Laundry
- Courtesy Clerk
- Cashier/Retail Clerk
- Childcare

New Project SEARCH Programs Starting Fall 2023!

Danbury Hospital

Provider: Ability Beyond

Stratford YMCA

Provider: The Kennedy Collective

Stamford Hospital

Provider: Abilis

Hospital of Central CT (New Britain)

Provider: CCARC

Fourth Tuesday Forums on Innovative Options

Each month a different topic is discussed by DDS staff from the content area. These meetings will be informational listening sessions to allow stakeholders to learn more about different DDS services.

Meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm and are held on Microsoft Teams. Meetings links and past meeting recordings are posted [here](#).

April 25, 2023
Technology for Optimal Independence

May 23, 2023
Individual and Family Supports/Respite

June 28, 2023
Children's Services & Transition Age Youth

Employment Transformation/ARPA: March 2023

The Employment & Day team presented at the March 28th, 2023 4th Tuesday Forum on Innovative Employment Service Options and ARPA Initiatives. Watch the video to learn more about Project SEARCH, the Innovative Employment Opportunity (IEO) Grant, and Customized Employment. A special thanks to our guest presenters which included individuals who shared their experiences in employment services as well as provider agency staff.

Video ↓



Self-Advocacy

April 2023 Self-Advocate Recreation Calendar

Virtual Recreation for CT adults (20 + up) in DDS services.

Link to Join:

<https://tinyurl.com/62rn5ujn>

Meeting ID: 222 399 8386

Passcode: 479813

If you have any questions, Contact Corinne Jackson

corinne.jackson@ct.gov

Employment Success Story



Michael Galinski is 24 years old who loves to work with his hands and stay busy, so much so that he has two jobs! Michael works doing maintenance work at Commercial Sewing in Torrington, CT and cleaning at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Torrington.

Michael said “Work keeps me busy doing stuff I like and I get to talk to my friends!” Michael likes to work and make money to buy things he enjoys. When asked what he enjoys, Michael shared he loves going bowling with friends, going on vacations, to the movies, and especially loves getting ice cream!

Submitted by James Louchen, DDS Self Advocate Coordinator

Links & Resources

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

Hartford Business Journal:

In DEI conversation, employers often overlook people with disabilities

Learn more about Cate Alix an office assistant at Avon-based advertising agency Mintz+Hoke. Cate is a 26-year-old business professional with Down Syndrome have been an asset to his team.

Dan Bracken, Easterseals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut career development services manager, worked with Cate to find her position. Bracken told the HBJ “everyone has their own way of being in the world. A lot of times people with quote-unquote ‘disabilities’ have been discriminated against. And if you choose to go forward hiring somebody like that, they’re oftentimes going to be the hardest working person on your team.” Read the full article about Cate and employment for individuals with IDD [here](#).



Mintz+Hoke CEO Ron Perine with employee Cate Alix

Start the Hiring Chain



Learn more

Autism Resource Fair

Learn information about various resources in our community that support individuals with autism. Connect with representatives from agencies such as DDS, DSS, BRS, Beacon Health, Abilis, Kennedy Center, ABA providers and more! A panel of parents and service providers will be sharing experience and expertise and will be available to answer questions. The resource fair will be held Thursday, April 20th, 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at Greenwich High School: 10 Hillside Road, Greenwich, CT 06830. **RSVP to [Kristen mulhearn@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:Kristen_mulhearn@greenwich.k12.ct.us)**



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