

**State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services**



Employment & Day Services Division

Employment Newsletter



Every March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and its partners collaborate to observe [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#) (DDAM). This year's theme, *Worlds Imagined*, focuses on how the world is changing as we move through and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

The social media campaign highlights the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities. The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.



EDS Updates

Customized Employment (CE)

The CT Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has worked in conjunction with the CT Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) and the State Department of Education (SDE) to expand Customized Employment Services in Connecticut. The Connecticut Customized Employment Curriculum was developed by the Regional Educational Service Center (RES-C) Alliance in consultation with all three state agencies.

The second training iteration is already in session and will end in May. The ADS-DDS team worked with training facilitators and students from the first iteration to revise the 2022 format of the CT CE Curriculum. The focus remains to build the capacity of existing CE providers and coverage for our job seekers statewide while addressing the time constraint concerns voiced by our first cohort of trainees.

The State of 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 State of Connecticut Customized Employment certificate, please have them complete the application to our registry.

CT DDS Employment Services Strategic Planning Committees

In February 2021, the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) published their Finding & Observations Report on the State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services Employment Services. The report commends strengths, reviews areas of improvement, and makes recommendations for action. The report is organized into the seven content areas below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Leadership | 5. Interagency Collaboration |
| 2. Strategic Goals & Operating Policies | 6. Services & Service Innovations |
| 3. Financing & Contracting Methods | 7. Employment Performance Measurement, Quality Assurance, & Program Oversight |
| 4. Training & Technical Assistance | |

Throughout the end of 2021, the committees established and began reviewing the different sections of the report. Seven sub-committees were created, each assigned to a different section of the report. A Steering Committee was created to organize the chairpersons and EDS Liaisons tasked with leading the sub-committees. The group was formally referred to as the “DDS SELN Strategic Planning Committee” but was renamed the “DDS Employment Services Strategic Planning Committee” to better reflect the focus of the group on employment services.

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

1X Employment Incentives Survey

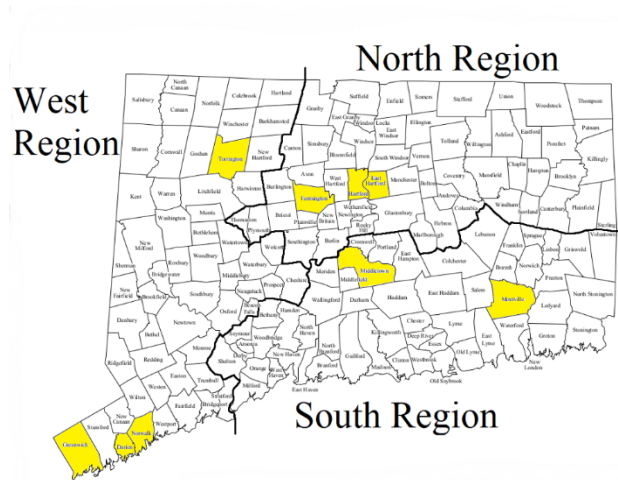
The Financing & Contracting Methods sub-committee has spent much time gathering information on the DDS One-time Employment Incentive that is used on an ISE or GSE path. The sub-committee created a survey for provider staff and DDS case managers, resource managers, and transition advisors to capture information 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

CT now has **TEN** Project SEARCH host site/programs run by DDS provider agencies and school partners, with the newest program at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown now taking referrals for the next program year starting in September of 2022!

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.



West region

- Host - **Charlotte Hungerford Hospital**, Torrington (since 2020) Provider - Litchfield ARC
- Host - **Greenwich Hospital**, Greenwich (since 2019) Provider - Abilis
- Host - **Darien YMCA**, (start 1/2022) Provider - Abilis
- Host - **Norwalk Community College**, Norwalk (since 2018) Provider - Norwalk school district & Ability Beyond
- Host - **Nuvance Hospital**, Norwalk (start 1/2022) Provider - Ability Beyond

North region

- Host - **UConn Health**, Farmington (since 2015) Provider - FAVARH
- Host - **Goodwin University**, East Hartford (since 2019) Provider - MARC of Manchester.
- Host - **Hartford Hospital**, Hartford (since 2021) Provider - MARC of Manchester.

South region

- Host - **Mohegan Sun**, Uncasville (since 2019) Provider - UCP Eastern CT
- Host - **Middlesex Hospital**, Middletown (starting 2022) Provider - MARC

[CT Project SEARCH Contact List](#)

Links & Resources

Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Transition Resources Expo

The State Education Resource Center (SERC), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS), and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be presenting at the transition resource expo.

Wednesday March 23, 2022

5:00PM-7:00PM

For questions and inquiries, please contact Margo Sheldon:
sheldonm@cestrumbull.org



CES TRANSITION RESOURCE EXPO

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

5:00-7:00 PM

Please register by March 18th in order to receive the webinar link:

[CES EXPO REGISTRATION LINK](#)

Please join us for a virtual informational session:
Transition Updates and Services

PRESENTERS:



State Education Resource Center (SERC)
Presenter: Missy Wigley

Information will be presented to highlight what professionals and families need to know about secondary transition planning services.



Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)
Presenter: Sean Kennedy

Come learn about the new approach ADS/BRS is taking to increase career success for students. We will discuss your role as a stakeholder and pre-employment transition services.



Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
Presenter: Brian K. Smith, Catherine DeStefano

DDS 101: Information will be shared regarding the Eligibility Application Process, Transition Tasks, Types of Support Services and Service Delivery Options.

For questions and inquiries, please contact Margo Sheldon: sheldonm@cestrumbull.org

RSVP for the Meeting [here](#).



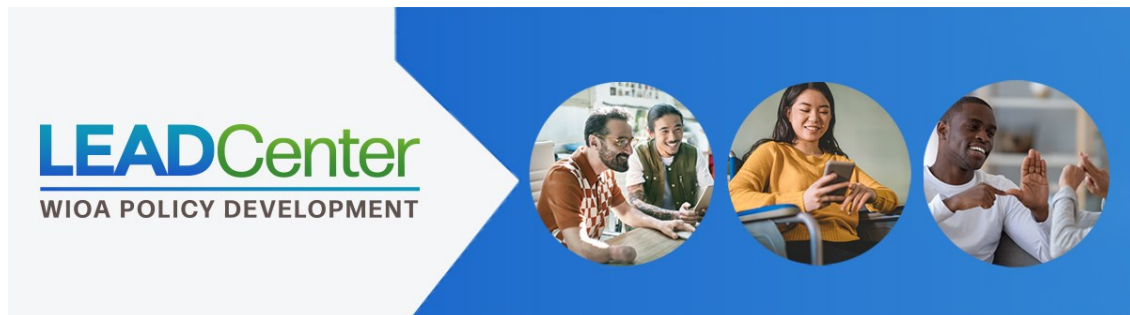
The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, together with Connecticut State Department of Education and Connecticut College of Technology's National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, is pleased to present **People, Pathways & Technology for the Future Manufacturing Workforce**

– 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](#).

April 13 – Session 2: PATHWAYS | [Register Here](#)

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

How Blended, Braided or Sequenced Funding can Help Drive Employment, Equity and Inclusion



Register [here](#) for the webinar on Tuesday, March 22 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm ET

Contact Employment & Day Services:

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(860) 418-6091 | [Email](#) | [Website](#)



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