

**Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services**



Employment & Day Services Division

Employment Newsletter

May 2022

EDS Updates

Stay up to date with the Employment & Day Division! This section provides news and updates on different programs and services offered/overseen by the EDS Division Team.

Customized Employment (CE)

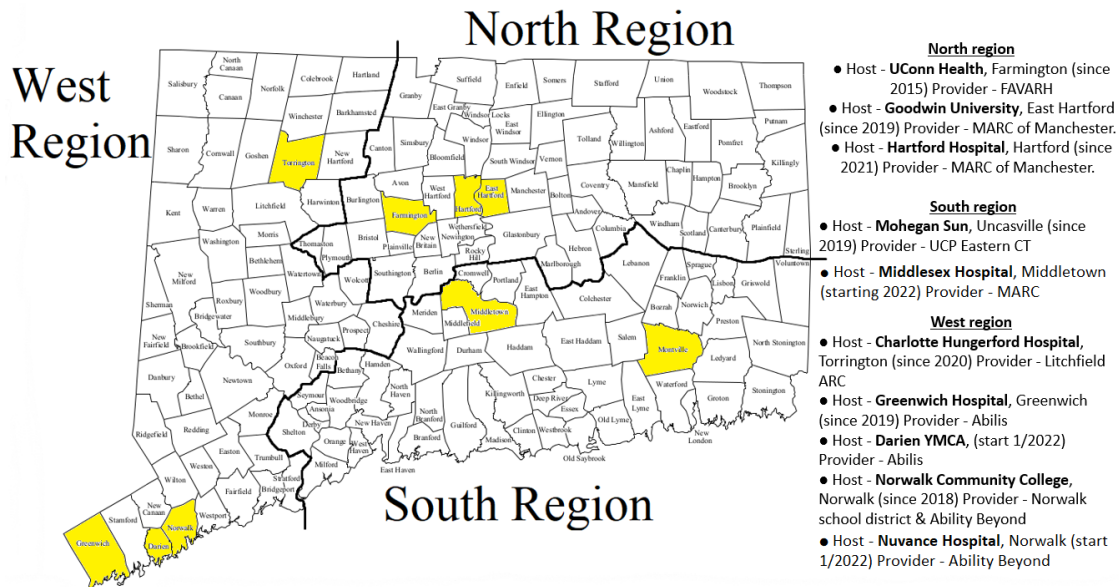
Provider staff certified in Customized Employment through the State Curriculum or an ACRE approved curriculum must complete the application to the CT CE Staff Registry. In order to provide CE services in the State of CT, staff must be listed on this registry.

[Connecticut Customized Employment Staff Registry](#)

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](#)

Case Management Corner

This section provides topical information to DDS Case Managers, Resource Managers, Transition Advisors, and other DDS staff involved in the planning process.

SELN e-Learning

In an effort to support DDS case managers, DDS has partnered with SELN to offer the Supporting a Vision for Employment E-learning course. The course is self-paced, and learners must complete all assignments during the 4-week section. To learn more, request information below:

[Request Information](#)

Self-Advocacy

There are 10 Self-Advocate Coordinators (SACs) in the Self-Determination Division to represent the people supported by DDS. Learn more about the SAC's different Focus Areas [here](#).



Virtual Self-Advocacy Group

On the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:30PM, DDS Self-Advocate Coordinators hold a virtual Self-Advocacy group for adults with disabilities. Any adult with disabilities is welcome to join. Email North Region SAC Yana [here](#) for more information and the link!

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. Dr. Ellis will work with EDS staff to share topical DEI information in this new section of the EDS Employment Newsletter!

Abilities in the Workplace

"I want future generations to know that we are a people who see our differences as a great gift, that we are a people who value the dignity and worth of every citizen – man and woman, young and old, black and white, Latino and Asian, immigrant and Native American, gay and straight, Americans with mental illness or physical disability."

President Barack Obama
January 20, 2015



“Unemployment and under employment for people with disabilities remain incredibly high, and that is a call to action for all of us. Our charge is to seek out and find creative solutions to these old challenges... The productivity and talent that people with disabilities can contribute is only limited by our own perceptions of what is possible.”

Source: Oswald Mondejar, Senior Vice President, Mission and Advocacy, Partners Continuing Care, the non-acute care division of Partners HealthCare in Boston, MA.

Respect employees.

Provide reasonable accommodations.

Have a framework for inclusion of those with

Diverse Abilities



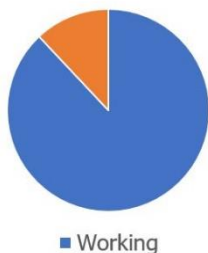
developed Cheryl Ellis, PsyD

Individuals with IDD



Historically, the majority of people with disabilities were either unemployed or under employed despite their ability, desire, and willingness to work in the community. In the past, individuals went to prevocational or disability-only workshops/programs that isolated them from those without disabilities.

Individuals Without IDD



According to data from Special Olympics, 44% of adults with intellectual disabilities age 21-64 are in the labor force. This compares to 83% of adults without disabilities in the workforce over the same age range.

Source: American Assoc. on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

Diverse Abilities



Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can be employed in the community alongside people without disabilities and earn competitive wages. They should be supported to make informed choices about their work and careers and have the resources to seek, obtain, and be successful in community employment.

Source: American Assoc. on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

Provider Highlight

Each month, the EDS team will highlight programs from different DDS Qualified Providers in an effort to share news, ideas, and innovations. Want to be highlighted? Send submissions [here](#).

The Light House Homestead & Stables



In April 2022, Employment & Day Staff traveled to the Lighthouse Homestead & Stables in Stonington, CT. The property was acquired by the Light House in 2021 from Horses Healing Humans (HHH), a nonprofit organization that provided therapeutic equine services in Stonington. In addition to continuing the work of HHH, the Lighthouse has created numerous skill development programs across the 40+ acre property. Individuals in their transition program plant, harvest, and sell

microgreens to local restaurants in a greenhouse located on the homestead. Individuals also participate in organizing, booking, and cleaning the Airbnb on the property.

The homestead has an office where the program is centered and a large kitchen where individuals build culinary skills for both work and personal life. In addition to these and many other activities on the property, individuals travel to multiple local businesses to participate in internship style programs where they develop a wide variety of skills. Individuals in the program manage their own time and use email and calendar services to organize their programs and learning activities. The different programs are constantly changing and evolving to fit the needs of the individuals at the Homestead as well as the community. The program has partnerships with businesses in town as well as surrounding towns including Mystic and New London. These partnerships allow a large variety of skill building opportunities within the community.

To learn more about this and other programs run by the Light House, click [here](#).

Employment Perspectives

Interviews conducted by Employment & Day staff to learn and share news and innovations.



Links & Resources

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

Training & Development

Free Travel Training - The Kennedy Center



The Kennedy Center provides free travel training to teach people with disabilities how to properly and safely use the local bus and rail system for their transportation needs. The travel trainer can meet the interested trainee at their home/or preferred location and show them how to travel on the bus system. This program is funded by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, therefore there is no cost for the training program. Each participant, however, is required to pay the bus or train fare while training is taking place.

For more information, email traveltraining@kennedyctr.org or call 203-365-8522

Want to receive the newsletter via email? Subscribe below:

Subscribe

Contact Employment & Day Services:

460 Capital Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

 Forward



Copyright © 2022 CT DDS Employment & Day Services, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are part of the State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, Employment & Day Services
Division community.

Our mailing address is:

CT DDS Employment & Day Services

460 Capitol Ave.

Hartford, CT 06106-1308
