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**Subject:** DDS Five-Year Plan  
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Dear DDS Staff,

We are the Serow family of South Windsor and our daughter is a DDS client. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the draft five-year plan developed by the Department of Developmental Services.

As families of DDS clients, it is imperative that the needs of our community be addressed and served. Our disabled family members struggle to gain access to supported living arrangements and enough staffing. Their needs are real. We are writing to ask that DDS address the specific real-life needs of our unique disabled individuals.

As parents and siblings of a DDS client, we rely on DDS to plan for our family member's well-being, as well as that of other clients. Those of us with such disabled family members recognize the need for our family members to be provided with a very supportive and inclusive community, with programs and services of DDS. They cannot function without that critical support.

We need additional resources for our DDS community, as this environment is constantly changing and many parents and siblings are facing more challenges in finding supported living, employment opportunities, and services. We DDS families need to be involved, respected and heard because we are a crucial part of our DDS members' lives.

Please add to and revise your planning to include:

- More individualized, supported living options, including transportation,
- Resources to support person-centered planning, employment progression and affordable community-based housing options,
- Increased training for families and support personnel,
- Improved medical and behavioral emergency support, and
- Increased collaboration opportunities with DDS for supported individuals and their families,

We encourage increased funding and collaboration with our non-profit private service providers, who work tirelessly with our disabled family members.

Thank you for your interest and concern.  
Sincerely,  
The Serow Family

