

### 3 Know your options.

- Accommodations: Providing reasonable accommodations can be much simpler and less costly than many employers expect. To find out more, visit [www.jan.vvu.edu/empl/index.htm](http://www.jan.vvu.edu/empl/index.htm).
- Benefits Planning: For most people who receive Social Security and other government benefits, their overall income will increase once they go to work. There are other work incentives such as Medicaid for the Employed Disabled, where eligible individuals can have an annual income of up to \$75,000 and still maintain their Medicaid coverage. It is important to talk to a benefits counselor about the effect working may have on your government benefits.

To learn about Social Security work incentives that provide funding for services that you may need in order to work, and to find the benefits counselor nearest you, contact 1.800.866.1903.

- Tax Credits for Accessibility: The federal government provides tax credits to employers that make their businesses accessible for persons with disabilities. Information for these credits are available at: [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/gendoces/GCEPD/bustaxcredits.htm](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/gendoces/GCEPD/bustaxcredits.htm).
- Ticket to Work: Provides funding to agencies, employers or other entities that become an "Employment Network" for qualified Social Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients whose earning are above certain levels. Further information is available at [www.cessi.net/ttw/index.htm](http://www.cessi.net/ttw/index.htm).
- Work Opportunities Tax Credit: Provide tax incentives to employers hiring qualified individuals. More information is available at [www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax](http://www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax).

### Remember!

- No single resource can guarantee access to employment.
- Be self-determined.
- Take control of your life.
- Do all you can to find, get and keep the job of your dreams.

#### Contact Us:



#### Department of Developmental Services

460 Capital Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06106

A Connect-Ability Partner  
[www.connect-ability.com](http://www.connect-ability.com)



Connect-Ability is managed by Connecticut Department of Social Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. Funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.



Department of Developmental Services

Resources to  
**find, get and  
keep** a job



## Ready, Set, Work

Department of Developmental Services

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## 1 Discover your passion.

### Print Resources

- Your local library is a valuable resource to help you discover your passion. Our favorite career guide is the book, *"What Color Is Your Parachute?"* Also, the book, *"A Supported Employment Toolkit"* was written for people with developmental disabilities. A free copy of this book can be downloaded at [www.dhs.state.or.us/dd/supp\\_emp/toolkit.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/dd/supp_emp/toolkit.pdf).

### Online Resources

- The CT Department of Labor website is a great resource for learning about different jobs. Visit [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/gendocs/JS-Workers.html](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/gendocs/JS-Workers.html).
- Connect-Ability provides information on how and where to look for a job, including a list of Internet-based employment networks. Visit [www.connect-ability.com](http://www.connect-ability.com).
- Partners in Policymaking has an employment website for people with developmental disabilities. Visit [www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/employment](http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/employment).

### CTWorks Centers

- The CT Department of Labor's CTWorks Centers website has lists of job openings, with some centers offering workshops on how to prepare for job applications, such as resume writing and practice your requests for an accommodation.
- CTWorks Centers are also responsible for recruiting for government-funded Summer Youth Employment programs.

To find the CTWorks Center nearest you, call 860.263.6000 or visit [www.ctdol.state.ct.us](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us).

### Networking and Informational Interviews

- Your friends, family and co-workers can serve as a network of information and support in your job search.
- Informational interviews allow you to make personal contacts with employers even if there are no current positions. Visit [www.iseek.org/jobs/infointerview.html](http://www.iseek.org/jobs/infointerview.html) to learn how to contact business through the use of an informational interview.

### Ongoing Education

- Finding new ways to add to your skills can include adult education or college classes.
- Attend talks, seminars and conferences relevant to your area of interest—good places to meet potential employers.
- Inquire about apprenticeship and internship programs.

## 2 Ask for help.

### Professional Employment Supports

Life coaches, headhunters, public speaking consultants, etc. are all examples of professionals who can help refine your job search and help improve your chances of finding the job that is right for you. Career associations may also have employment support services such as mentors, which can be beneficial to you.

### CT Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)

- BRS provides short-term supports to get and maintain competitive employment, including vocational counseling, job search assistance, skill training, career education, on-the-job training and adaptive technology.

- If you need ongoing job support, you'll need to be approved for DDS's employment waiver supports before BRS can provide the short-term services. Contact 1.800.537.2549 to locate the BRS office nearest you.

### CT Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) Employment Services

- DDS Employment Services offers a range of employment and day service options for adults who have graduated from school, who are eligible to receive DDS services and who have received an allocation for funds from the department. These supports include:
  - Time Limited Job Development Supports: Are provided through DDS Individual Supported Employment waiver services.
  - Time Limited On-The-Job Supports: Are needed to ensure that an individual maintains a job or learns new skills at a job can also be provided through the DDS Individual Supported Employment waiver services.
  - Ongoing Employment Supports: Can be provided through DDS Group Supported Employment waiver services or through DDS Individual Day Supports waivers services.

Your case manager can help you explore which DDS employment services are best for you.