

# Employment Services

As an Employment First agency, DDS believes everyone should have the opportunity to work in a job that matches their skills, abilities, and interests. DDS supports people working in their local communities alongside people of all abilities, while being paid equally for the same work. Employment supports through DDS help people develop work skills and obtain a good job in their community, with the necessary support to ensure their success.



▲ Scan the QR code to visit [ct.gov/STEP](http://ct.gov/STEP) for more information



## What are some options for employment services?

- **Individualized Supported Employment (ISE):**  
You work with a job coach who helps you find a competitive job through a job discovery process, provides you with training and support and then slowly reduces support as you learn your job. Once the individual has learned the job, a job coach will provide follow-along supports to ensure continued success.
- **Customized Employment (CE):**  
A method to find employment that matches your strengths, skills and abilities with employers who need employees with those strengths, skills, and abilities. You are provided supports that are just for you to help you achieve your employment goal. Once the individual has learned the job, a job coach will provide follow-along supports to ensure continued success.
- **Employment Transition Services (ETS):**  
Community-based services that help you learn job skills and life skills like managing your money, finding out what type of job you want, and networking to help you get a job.
- **Group Supported Employment:**  
Community-based employment where you and a small group of other people with disabilities work at a local business and are supported by a job coach and a provider. Supports can also include career planning that helps match you with an employer if you are interested in moving to an independent competitive job.
- **Project Search:**  
A nine-month internship training program that takes place in an area business for students close to school graduation and young adults who need more intensive employment skills training.

## What are some of the benefits?

- You earn a paycheck to live more independently, pay your bills and enjoy activities
- Helps you work more independently
- Helps you to participate more fully in the community and meet people
- You can use employment services for work, and still use day supports for community activities



## What are the potential challenges?

- It takes time to match you to the right employer
- Finding reliable transportation to and from work
- Understanding how wages can impact benefits
- Work schedules might not be as consistent as people and families are used to



## How can I learn more?



- Talk to your Case Manager
- Visit the STEP website: [ct.gov/STEP](https://ct.gov/STEP) ►
- Contact the ADS Bureau of Rehabilitation Services' (Formerly DORS) benefits counselors to understand how employment could affect your benefits: [tinyurl.com/4xat5kdm](https://tinyurl.com/4xat5kdm) ►
- DDS website to learn more about DDS Employment Services: [tinyurl.com/j34nc6u3](https://tinyurl.com/j34nc6u3) ►
- DDS Fourth Tuesday Forum on Innovative Employment Options: [tinyurl.com/bdcwh6nh](https://tinyurl.com/bdcwh6nh) ►

