

DDDS

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

TRANSITIONING TO ADULT SERVICES

Living the Mission!

The Mission of the Department of Developmental Services is to partner with the individuals we support and their families, to support lifelong planning and to join with others to create and promote meaningful opportunities for individuals to fully participate as valued members of their communities.



The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is responsible for the planning, development and administration of complete, comprehensive and integrated statewide services for persons with intellectual disability and persons medically diagnosed as having Prader-Willi Syndrome.

DDS

DDS Vision Statement

All citizens supported by the Department of Developmental Services are valued contributors to their communities as family members, friends, neighbors, students, employees, volunteers, members of civic and religious associations, voters and advocates.

These individuals:

- Live, learn, work and enjoy community life in places where they can use their personal strengths, talents and passions.
- Have safe, meaningful and empowering relationships.
- Have families who feel supported from the earliest years and throughout their lifetimes.
- Have lifelong opportunities and the assistance to learn things that matter to them.
- Make informed choices and take responsibility for their lives and experience the dignity of risk.
- Earn money to facilitate personal choices.
- Know their rights and responsibilities and pursue opportunities to live the life they choose.





DDS Eligibility

- Resident of the State of Connecticut
- Meets the statutory definition of Intellectual Disability as defined by CGS 1-1g.
 - A person may have a valid full-scale IQ of 69 or below as indicated on intelligence/cognitive tests and significant limitations in adaptive functioning, that began during the developmental period, before the age of 18.
- Medical diagnosis of Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Disability originated during the developmental period, prior to age 18.

Application Process

- Apply to DDS as soon as possible
- Application is on our website
- [Connecticut Department of Developmental Services](#)



- In addition to the required clinical evaluations:
 - Signed application
 - HIPAA form
 - Copy of applicant's birth certificate, medical insurance card, and social security card
 - Last medical examination report
 - Last 3 IEPs from the school, most recent triennial
 - Copy of guardianship or conservatorship (if applicable)

ALWAYS KEEP COPIES!!

Eligibility Determination

- Once the fully completed application is completed, it takes approximately 2-3 months to receive a determination.
- Eligibility Letter arrives by mail
- Introduction to the Department
 - Now eligible for services under the Individual and Family Support (IFS) Division of DDS.
- **If eligibility is denied:**
 - Can appeal within 60 days of the date of the letter.
 - Past 60 days, you will have to reapply.

IMPORTANT: DDS services are voluntary. Unlike the school years that are mandated by law, services and supports available through DDS are neither mandated nor entitlements, therefore, subject to appropriations from the state legislature every year.

DDS Eligibility Unit - Contact Information

Department of Developmental Services Eligibility Unit
460 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: 866-433-8192

Fax: 860-622-2797

Email: DDS.Eligibility@ct.gov



Autism Spectrum Disorders Waiver (DSS)

- Autism Waiver Program has moved to the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder Program eligibility determinations are still processed through DDS.
- If diagnosed with Autism and without ID, the case gets transferred to DSS.
- Diagnosed before age 22 & expected to continue indefinitely
- Person must have substantial limitations in two or more of the following major life activities:
 - self-care
 - understanding and use of language
 - learning
 - mobility
 - self-direction
 - capacity for independent living

Contact info:

- Cathleen Calway, ASD Resource Specialist 860-424-5567
- Nate Calixto, ASD Resource Specialist 860-424-5677



The Department of Social Services Waiver for Persons with Autism provides home-and community-based services to individuals with autism who do not have an intellectual disability (a full IQ score of 70 or higher). To qualify, an individual must have substantial limitations in two or more of the following major life activities: (1) self-care, (2) understanding and use of language, (3) learning, (4) mobility, (5) self-direction, or (6) capacity for independent living. The functional impairments must have been diagnosed before age 22 and be expected to continue indefinitely.

There is currently a waitlist for services under this program.

DDS Helpline and Individual and Family Support (IFS) Team

Services and Supports

- Respite Center Weekend Visits
- Camp Harkness pass
- Family Grants
 - Disability-related expenses not covered by insurance or schools
 - Respite, Assistive Technology
- Family Support Workers
- Transition Advisors
 - 18-22
 - 16 or 17 by referral
- Clinical Team Consultations
 - Speech Language Pathologists
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Physical Therapists
 - Psychologists
 - Behaviorists
 - Nurses

**REGIONAL HELPLINES SERVE ALL ELIGIBLE
INDIVIDUALS NOT ON A WAIVER.**



Contact Information – DDS Regional Helplines



North:

877-437-4577

dds.nr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

South:

877-437-4567

dds.sr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

West:

877-491-2720

dds.wr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

Traditional Case Management

- Transfer to traditional Case Manager in your area
 - In order to be transferred to a traditional case manager, the individual must have Husky C.
- Level of Need Assessment (LON) – completed with your case manager
 - Comprehensive evaluation to assess needs in areas such as medical, psychiatric, behavioral, activities of daily living, etc.
- LON helps determine funding needs based on present circumstances
 - Updated annually or if the situation changes
- Individual Plan (IP)
- Waiver Services - Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

IMPORTANT: TRANSFER TO TRADITIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT
IS DEPENDENT ON AVAILABLE REGIONAL RESOURCES.


Employment First Initiative...

Real Work for Real Pay

We Believe...

- Everyone can work and there is a job for everyone. Our job is to be creative and persistent in providing supports that help people with intellectual disabilities to find, get and keep real pay.
- Not working should be the exception. All individuals, schools, families and businesses must raise their expectations.
- People will be hired because of their ability not because they have a disability.
- Communities embrace people who contribute.
- Everyone has something to contribute and needs to contribute.
- People are healthier, safer and happiest with meaningful work.
- True employment is not a social service.
- Employment is a win/win for everybody.

Types of Support Services

- Individual Supported Employment (ISE)
 - Individualized Day Supports
 - Vocational (IDV)
 - Non- Vocational (IDN)
 - Group Day Supports
 - Group Supported Employment (GSE)
 - Day support option (DSO)
 - Transitional Employment Services
- PORTABILITY** 
- Part of the mission of the Department is to create opportunities for people with intellectual disability to "make choices in pursuit of a personal future."
 - The portability process may be used when you are not satisfied with the services you receive from your current public or private provider, or when you need to change who provides your services for some other reason.

Service Delivery Options



Agency with Choice

- Individual shares responsibility with an agency for the hiring and management of the employees who provide waiver services to them.

Traditional Provider Agency

- Agency assumes full responsibility for the hiring, supervision and management of employees who provide waiver services to the individual

Self-Direction

- Primary role in designing, selecting, directing and evaluating your supports

TO LOCATE AN AGENCY IN YOUR AREA, SEARCH THE [DDS QUALIFIED PROVIDER LIST.](#)

Transition Tasks

Beginning at Age 18:



The DDS Helpline recommends the following tasks:

1. Connect with your DDS Transition Advisor
2. Explore Decision Making Options (Probate Court)
3. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
4. CT Medicaid: Husky C (DSS)
5. Work Assessment (BRS)
6. Photo ID (DMV)
7. Register to Vote

For additional information about these steps, check out the DDS Transition Timeline available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on the DDS Website.

Role of the DDS Transition Advisor



- Assist students, families, school systems, adult service agencies, and DDS case managers in planning a student's transition from school to adult life.
- Collaborate with other state agencies to ensure that all transition options are explored and presented to students, families, and school systems for consideration.
- Collaborate with providers of adult services to ensure that students, families, and school systems become knowledgeable of the various employment and day service supports available.

Explore Decision Making Options



Guardianship

- Petition your local Probate Court up to 180 days before 18th birthday
- Fee \$250 plus sheriff fee (fee can be waived depending on income)
- Initiates a process culminating in a court hearing
- 2 types : Limited or Plenary (full)
- Process completed within 45 days
- Guardianship is reviewed every 3 years and can be terminated

PLEASE NOTE: Court appointments for guardianship/conservatorship will not be effective until the 18th birthday.

Conservatorship

- Petition your local Probate Court up to 45 days before 18th birthday
- Conservator of Person
- Conservator of Estate
- Conservatorships may be voluntary or involuntary

Other Options to Consider

- Natural Supports
- Power of Attorney
- Advanced Directive(s)
- Supported Decision Making



Apply for SSI

- Supplemental Security Income
 - Federal program designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income
- Cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter
- Apply for Social Security at www.SSA.gov or call 1-800-772-1213
- Being approved for SSI establishes the student's disability
 - Apply for SSI before applying for CT Medicaid (Husky C)
- After age 18, family income and assets should not be documented in the application. The individual is considered a family of one.

Important: Eligibility and benefit amounts of most recipients are redetermined every 1 to 6 years

ALWAYS KEEP COPIES!!

Apply for CT Medicaid (HUSKY C)

- Medicaid is a state-federal partnership to provide health care services to adults with disabilities, who are elderly or have low-income.
- When the individual turns 18 years of age, apply for CT Medicaid (Husky C) at connect.ct.gov.
- The process will go smoother if the student has already been found eligible for SSI.
- **Apply for the individual only**, separate from other family members residing in the home who may also have Medicaid.
- To be eligible, an individual's assets cannot exceed \$1,600, unless they are working.
- Students can remain on parent's/private insurance as primary insurance.
- Check application status @ 1-855-626-6632

Always Keep Copies!!

IMPORTANT: In order to utilize available DDS resources post-school, the individual must be eligible for CT Medicaid (Husky C). **DSS requires an annual redetermination to maintain Husky C eligibility.**

Contact the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)



- BRS is under the State Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Their sister agency, the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), is also under ADS.
- BRS assists individuals with significant disabilities to obtain, maintain and advance in competitive integrated employment (CIE).
 - *full or part-time work at minimum wage or higher, with wages and benefits similar to those without disabilities performing the same work, and fully integrated with coworkers without disabilities.*
- Individuals who are interested in employment or are still making this decision are encouraged to contact BRS within the year that they are exiting special education.
- **When?**
 - *BRS presently recommends contacting them six months prior to an individual's 22nd birthday at minimum.*
- **Who do you contact?**
 - lynn.frith@ct.gov or (860) 424-4863
- Annual Letter sent by BRS and DDS
- Ongoing collaboration between DDS and BRS

Level Up Services Through BRS

- BRS provides pre-employment transition services (referred to as Level Up in CT) to students while in secondary, postsecondary and WIOA approved training programs.
- BRS will collaborate with Local Education Authorities (LEAs) to provide or arrange for the provision of pre-employment transition services for all students with a disability (ages 16-22).
- Pre-employment transition services:
 - Job exploration counseling
 - work-based learning experiences
 - counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs
 - workplace readiness training
 - self-advocacy

Additional Tasks



Apply for a State ID

- Issued by DMV
- Must be a Connecticut resident
- Apply at any DMV
- Fee \$28.00
- Bring birth certificate, Social Security card, two pieces of mail (or other documents listed on DMV website)

Register to Vote

- Voting managed through CT's Office of Secretary of the State
- Register online, through local town hall, voter drives, or when applying for CT Medicaid (Husky C)
- To register, you must be:
 - Age 18
 - US citizen
 - Resident of town where registering
- No charge

Life Course Planning

- Core Belief: All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations just as others do in their community.
- Person Centered Planning Tools
 - [Charting the Life Course](#)
- These tools provide an opportunity for the individual to express his/her vision for the future.
- [DDS Advocates' Corner](#)
 - Self determination, self advocacy, peer to peer, healthy relationships

Charting the LifeCourse

Guiding Principles

Focus on ALL

Life Stages and Life Domains

Early Life & Employment
 Address the social, economic, and environmental conditions that affect the ability to work and earn a living.

Financial Stability
 Address the ability to manage and grow assets, including income, investments, and retirement.

Health & Wellbeing
 Address the ability to live a healthy and active life, including physical, mental, and emotional health.

Healthy Living
 Address the ability to live a healthy and active life, including physical, mental, and emotional health.

Legal & Financial
 Address the ability to manage and grow assets, including income, investments, and retirement.

Education & Learning
 Address the ability to learn and grow, including formal education, vocational training, and lifelong learning.

Relationships
 Address the ability to build and maintain meaningful relationships with family, friends, and community.

Community
 Address the ability to participate in and contribute to the community.

Early Childhood
 Address the ability to thrive in early childhood, including physical, social, and emotional development.

School Age
 Address the ability to succeed in school, including academic achievement and social skills.

Transition
 Address the ability to transition from school to work or further education.

Adulthood
 Address the ability to live a productive and meaningful life.

Retirement
 Address the ability to live a secure and comfortable retirement.

Planning
 Address the ability to plan for the future, including financial, legal, and personal goals.

Agency Links

SOCIAL SECURITY ([SSA](#)):

- [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES ([DSS](#)):

- [CT Medicaid \(Husky C\)](#)
- [Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) (ASD)
- [Community First Choice](#) (CFC)
- [Katie Beckett Waiver](#)

DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES ([ADS](#)):

- [Level Up](#)
- [Bureau of Rehabilitation Services](#) (BRS)
- [Bureau of Education Services for the Blind](#) (BESB)

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES ([DMHAS](#)):

- [Young Adult Services](#) (YAS)

CONNECTICUT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: BEACON HEALTH ([CT BHP](#))

BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ([BSE](#))

- [EdSight](#) – search for transition programs and private schools throughout the state

Additional Resources

- Disability Rights Connecticut ([DRCT](#))
- Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center ([CPAC](#))
- Connecticut Family Support Network ([CTFSN](#))
- Autism Services and Resources CT ([ASRC](#))
- Special Education Resource Center ([SERC](#))
- Office of the Healthcare Advocate ([OHA](#))
- Surrogate Parent [Program](#)
- Recreation and Leisure ([DDS](#))
 - Best Buddies, Special Olympics, Camps

Transition Advisors – North Region



Jennifer Bundy

(Newington office)

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jennifer.bundy@ct.gov

Avon, Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, Farmington, New Britain, Newington, Plainville, Plymouth, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Southington, West Hartford, Wethersfield

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Vacant: Contact Susan

Paul, Supervisor

(Willimantic office)

860-456-6326

susan.paul@ct.gov

Andover, Ashford, Bolton, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, Ellington, Glastonbury, Hampton, Hebron, Killingly, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Somers, South Windsor, Stafford, Sterling, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Willington, Windham, Woodstock

Transition Advisors – South Region



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