



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Center of Excellence on Autism Spectrum Disorders (CEASD)
Navigating the Transition Pathway for Individuals with ASD

Secondary Transition Discussion with CT State Agencies

April 30, 2021

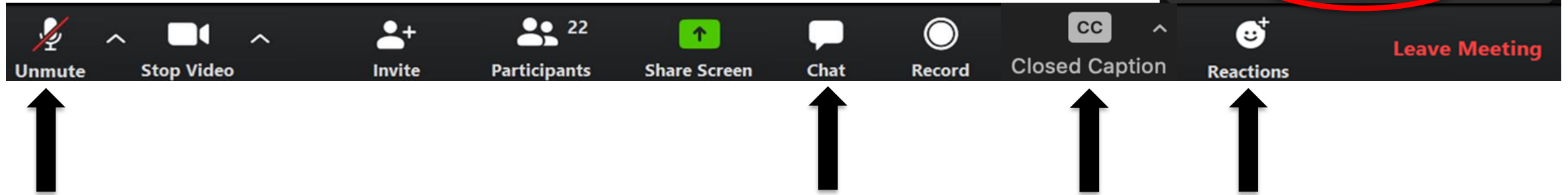
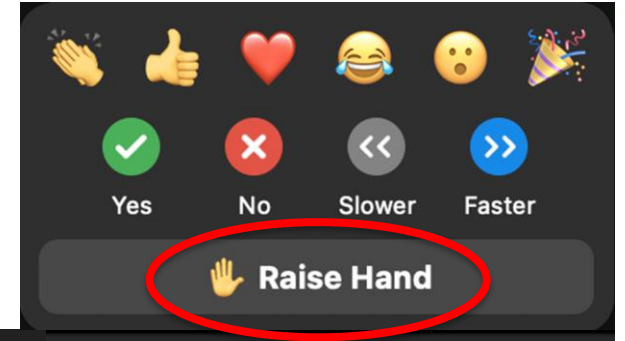


**RECORDING IN
PROGRESS**

Welcome!

Zoom Meeting Features

<https://www.southernct.edu/asd-center>



Audio: Please remain on “Mute” when you are not speaking. To ask a question, please use the “🙋 Raise Hand” feature within “Reactions”. When called upon, please “Unmute” to speak.

Chat: Use the “Chat” box to ask a question. Questions will be addressed by the presenters during the session. Download our session handout from the “Chat” box.

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Meet Our Session Presenters!

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Session Overview

- Review of Federal and State Secondary Transition Requirements
- Review of Secondary Transition Resources and Professional Learning Opportunities
- Overview of CT State Agencies
 - Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
 - Aging and Disability Services (ADS), Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)
 - Department of Social Services (DSS)
 - Department of Labor (DOL) and American Job Centers (AJCs)
- Q & A



Secondary Transition Requirements

Federal

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- [§ 300.1 Purposes](#)
(a) To ensure that all students with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and **prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.**
- [§ 300.43 Transition services](#)
- [§ 300.101 Free appropriate public education \(FAPE\)](#)
- [§ 300.102 Limitation – exception to FAPE for certain ages](#)
- [§ 300.305\(e\) Evaluations before change in eligibility](#)
- [§ 300.320\(b\) Definition of IEP](#)
- [§ 300.321\(b\) IEP Team](#)
- [§ 300.520 Transfer of parental rights at age of majority](#)

State

Regulations of CT State Agencies (RCSA)

- [§ 10-76 Children Requiring Special Education](#)
- [§ 10-76d-12\(b-h\) Transfer of rights; exception](#)

CT General Statutes (CGS)

- [§ 10-76d Duties and powers of boards of education to provide special education programs and services](#)
- [§ 10-221a High School graduation requirements](#)

A.R. v. Connecticut State Board of Education (CSBE)



Transition Planning and Services Requirements

Beginning not later than the first individualized education program (IEP) to be in effect when the student turns 14 (with the diagnosis of Autism)* and beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the planning and placement team (PPT), and updated annually, thereafter, the IEP must include—

- 1) **Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals** based upon **age-appropriate transition assessments** related to **training or education, employment**, and, where appropriate, **independent living skills**; and
- 2) The **transition services (including courses of study)** needed to assist the student in reaching those goals.

[CGS § 10-76d(a)(9), as amended by PA 19-49]

[IDEA § 300.320(b) Definition of IEP]

*ADS (formerly known as DORS) is not required to address transitional services for students until age 16.



Transition Goals & Objectives

Post-School Outcome Goal Statement (PSOGS)

- PSOGS are written as measurable statements that are generally understood to refer to those goals that a student will achieve **after** leaving secondary school.
- Every student must have a minimum of **two PSOGS**: one related to **Postsecondary Education/Training** and one related to **Employment**; and, where appropriate, one related to **Independent Living Skills**.
- For each PSOGS, there must be **a minimum of one separate, corresponding annual transition goal** with **short-term objectives** related to transition service needs.

Annual Transition Goals and Short-Term Objectives

- Should directly relate to the concerns and needs identified in the present levels of performance, aligned with grade level standards, relate to the student's transition service needs, and align to support the student's progress towards achieving their PSOGS.
- **Annual Transition Goals** are written as measurable statements that describe what the student can reasonably be expected to accomplish within the academic year.
- **Short-Term Objectives** describe meaningful and measurable intermediate outcomes between the student's current performance level and the annual transition goal.



Transition Services

(a) **Transition services** means **a coordinated set of activities** for a student with a disability that—

(1) Is designed to be within a **results-oriented process**, that is focused on **improving the academic and functional achievement** of the student with a disability **to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities**, including—

postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;

(2) Is based on the individual student's **needs**, taking into account the student's **strengths, preferences**, and **interests**; and includes—

(i) Instruction; (ii) Related services; (iii) Community experiences; (iv) The development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives; and (v) If appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and provision of a functional vocational evaluation.

(b) **Transition services** for students with disabilities may be **special education**, if provided as specially designed instruction, or a **related service**, if required to assist a student with a disability to benefit from special education.

[IDEA § 300.43 Transition Services]

Where are they going?

DESTINATION

What do they need to get there?

SUPPORTS & SERVICES



PPT Membership

For PPT meetings where a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals for student and the transition services needed to assist the student in reaching those goals, the school district **must invite student with a disability. If the student does not attend** the PPT, the school district must take other steps to **ensure that the students' preferences and interests are considered.**

Additionally, to the extent appropriate, with the consent of the parents or a student who has reached the age of majority, the school district must invite a **representative of any participating agency** that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services.

[IDEA § 300.321(b) IEP Team]



Transfer of Rights at Age of Majority

Beginning not later than one year before the student reaches the age of majority (18 in Connecticut), the IEP must include a statement that the student has been informed of the student's rights under the IDEA Part B, if any, that will transfer to the student on reaching the age of majority.

[IDEA § 300.320(c) Definition of IEP; IDEA § 300.520 Transfer of parental rights at age of majority]

When a student with a disability reaches the age of majority (adult student), the school district will provide any notices required by the IDEA and state special education law to the adult student and the parents. All other rights accorded to the parents under the IDEA and state special education law will transfer to the student, unless a court has determined the student to be incapacitated (the student shall be represented by the legal guardian appointed by the court*). The school district will notify the adult student and the parents when the rights are transferred.

An adult student may notify the school district, in writing, that the parent will continue to have the right to make educational decision on their behalf, even though the adult student has turned 18 years of age. The adult student may revoke the granting of these rights at any time.

An adult student can authorize another adult to make educational decisions on their behalf using a power of attorney consistent with the requirements of state statute.

[RCSA § 10-76d-12(b-h) Transfer of rights; exception]

*Visit the [CT Probate Court](#) for information about guardianship and conservators.



Summary of Performance

For each student with an IEP whose eligibility under the IDEA terminates **due to either graduation from secondary school with a regular high school diploma** or **due to exceeding the maximum age of eligibility**, the school district must provide the student with a summary of the student's academic and functional performance, which includes recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting their postsecondary goals.

[IDEA § 300.305(e)(3)]

[CSDE Summary of Performance \(SOP\)](#)

[CSDE Topic Brief: SOP Frequently Asked Questions](#)



IDEA Eligibility Extended Until Age 22

Timeline:

- **June 10, 2020:** United States District Court for the District of Connecticut published the [A.R. v. CT State Board of Education \(CSBE\)](#) summary judgement.
- **July 10, 2020:** Judge Haight, United States District Court, District of Connecticut, filed the *Permanent Injunction Judgement and Order* and denied the State's application to stay the injunction during the pendency of the appeal.
- **August 27, 2020:** The Second Circuit Court of Appeals denied the State's request for a stay of the A.R. decision, therefore, the CSBE and Plaintiffs will be moving forward with notification and implementation of compensatory services when appropriate under the District court decision.

CSDE Guidance:

- [Updated Guidance Regarding IDEA Eligibility Extended Until Age 22 \(September 4, 2020\)](#)
- [Updated Guidance Regarding IDEA Eligibility Extended Until Age 22 \(July 24, 2020\)](#)
- [IDEA Eligibility Extended Until Age 22 \(June 19, 2020\)](#)

Highlights:

- The judgement displaces the state law and practice to exit students at the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years of age. This decision supersedes prior guidance issued by the CSDE related to that law and practice.
- As a result of this court decision, **all students who have not yet turned 22 years old and who have not received a regular high school diploma**, which includes students who were exited on or before June 30, 2020, due to reaching the maximum age of eligibility in accordance with then effective state law, **remain eligible for special education services under the IDEA up until their 22nd birthday or until they graduate from high school with a regular high school diploma, whichever occurs first.**
- Any student who exits high school as a result of either completing school with other credentials (student did not graduate with a regular high school diploma), discontinuing schooling, transferring to a GED program, or moving/not known to be continuing, still has an entitlement to FAPE. These students may be re-admitted to public school and maintain eligibility for receipt of special education and related services up until their 22nd birthday or until they graduate with a regular high school diploma, whichever occurs first. These students are not considered class members of the A.R. decision
- Students whose eligibility terminated when they graduated with a regular high school diploma are not subject to an extension of eligibility until they turn 22, nor entitled to compensatory education.



Federal, National, and State Resources

Federal

- ***REVISED August 2020*** U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) - [A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities](#)
- ED, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) - [Transition of Students With Disabilities To Postsecondary Education: A Guide for High School Educators](#)
- ED, OCR - [Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Technical Assistance Networks

- [National Technical Assistance Center on Transition \(NTACT: the Collaborative\)](#)
- [National Deaf Center on Postsecondary Outcomes \(NDC\)](#)



[CT State Department of Education \(CSDE\)](#)

- [EducateCT Newsletter](#) – Subscribe now!

[Bureau of Special Education \(BSE\)](#)

- [The Bureau Bulletin](#) – Subscribe now!
- ***REVISED March 2021*** [Procedural Safeguards Notice Required Under the IDEA Part B](#)
- [A Parent's Guide to Special Education in CT](#)
- [The IEP Manual and Forms](#)

[Secondary Transition – Planning From School to Adult Life](#)









**CT's Parent Training & Information Center:
[CT Parent Advocacy Center \(CPAC\)](#)**

Secondary Transition – Planning From School to Adult Life

- [Documents/Forms](#)
- [Related Resources](#)
- [Resources for Students and Families](#)
- **IDEA Part B Indicators: 1, 2, 13, and 14**
 - [Indicator 13: Secondary Transition](#)
 - [Indicator 14: Post-School Outcomes and Post-School Outcomes Survey \(PSOS\)](#)
- [Laws/Regulations](#)
- [CT Transition Programs Offering Transition-Only Services for Students with Disabilities](#)
 - For a list of CT Transition Programs, go to [EdSight](#);
 - Select Overview, then Find School/District; and
 - In the left-hand column, select Transition Programs.

- [Easing Into Secondary Transition: A Comprehensive Guide to Resources and Services in CT](#)
 - [Contacts](#)
 - [Related Resources](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

Easing Into Secondary Transition: A Comprehensive Guide to Resources and Services in Connecticut

Agency	Agency type	Contact
 ACES - Area Cooperative Educational Services Map of RESC coverage areas	Regional educational service center	Eric Prutis Director of Pupil Services 203-498-6460 aprotis@aces.org
 BESB - Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind Map of BESB Level III coverage areas	State agency	Berry Riss Transition Coordinator 860-402-4069 berry.riss@ct.gov
 BRS - Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Map of BRS Level III coverage areas	State agency	Cheryl Nuehring Education Consultant 860-424-5404 cheryl.nuehring@ct.gov
 CES - Cooperative Educational Services Map of RESC coverage areas	Regional educational service center	Mike McGrath Director of Special Education 203-365-8837 mcmgrath@ces.k12.ct.us
 CPAC - Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center Map of RESC coverage areas	Statewide services	Reh Reed Transition Coordinator 860-739-3089 reed@cpac.org
 CREC - Capital Region Educational Council Map of RESC coverage areas	Regional educational service center	Claudia Effrosch Education Specialist 860-439-4512 cel@crec.org
 CSDE - Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Special Education	State agency	Alycia M. Trakas Education Consultant 860-713-6932 alycia.trakas@ct.gov
 DDS - Department of Developmental Services Map of DDS coverage areas	State agency	Amber Burke Employment and Day Services Coordinator 860-418-6006 amber.burke@ct.gov

(October 7, 2018)

Easing Into Secondary Transition: A Comprehensive Guide to Resources and Services in Connecticut

Secondary Transition Resources and Services Available	ACES	BESB	BRS	CES	CPAC	CREC	CSDE	DDS	DMHAS	EASTCONN	EdAdvance	LEARN	SERC
Alignment of SSP with Individualized Plans (IEPs, 504, IHPs, SOPs) (workshop/PO)													
Assistive Technology Assessments (service)													
Assistive Technology & Transition (service, workshop/PO)													
Benefits Counseling (service)													
Career Guidance and Counseling (service)													
Common Core State Standards (technical assistance, workshop/PO)													
Community-Based Transition Services: A Path to College and Career Readiness (technical assistance, workshop/PO)													
Co-teaching (workshop/PO)													
Creating an AT Team at the High School Level (technical assistance, workshop/PO)													
Developing Partnerships for Work-Based Learning (technical assistance, workshop/PO)													
Developing Positive Relationship with Families (technical assistance, workshop/PO)													
Differentiated Instruction (DI) (workshop/PO)													
Educational Benefits Review Process (workshop/PO)													
Educational and Vocational Services for students and adults (service)													
e-learning modules (AT, employment skills, financial literacy, independent living planning, personal assistants, soft skills, etc.) (workshop/PO)													
Establishing/Enhancing Transition and Community-Based Services (technical assistance)													
Family Consultation and Technical Assistance (service, technical assistance)													

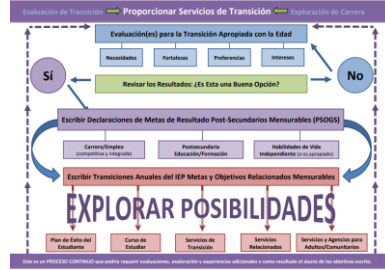
(October 7, 2018)



Secondary Transition Resources



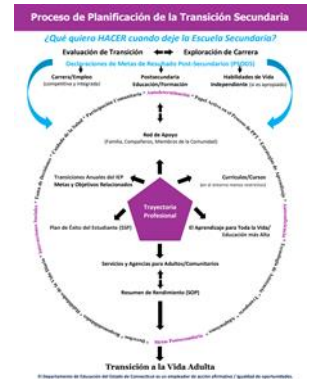
REVISED
[Providing Transition Services Flow Chart \(2020\)](#)



NEW
[Proporcionar Servicios de Transición \(2020\)](#)



REVISED
[Secondary Transition Planning Process \(2020\)](#)



NEW
[Proceso de Planificación de la Transición Secundaria \(2020\)](#)

[Secondary Transition Planning IEP Checklist \(District Summary\)](#)

[Lista de Control para Planeamiento de Transición en IEP de Connecticut](#)

[IEP Rubric for Scoring Secondary Transition](#)

[Stepping Forward: A Self-Advocacy Guide for Middle and High School Students](#)



More Secondary Transition Resources



[Building A Bridge: A Resource Manual for High School Students](#)



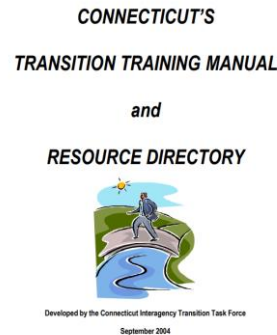
[Construyamos un Puente: Un Manual de Recursos para Estudiantes de Escuela Secundaria](#)



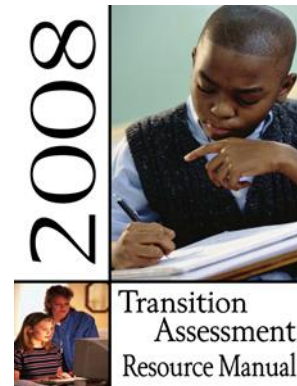
[Transition Bill of Rights for Parents of Students Receiving Special Education Services](#)



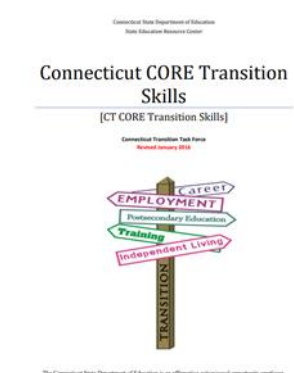
[Declaración de Derechos de Transición Para Padres de Estudiantes que Reciben Servicios de Educación Especial](#)



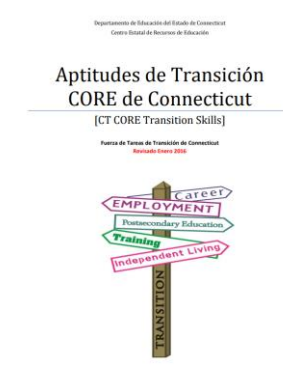
[Connecticut's Transition Training Manual and Resource Directory](#)



[Transition Assessment Resource Manual](#)



[CT CORE Transition Skills](#)



[Aptitudes de Transición CORE de Connecticut](#)



Secondary Transition Professional Learning Opportunities

VIRTUAL SESSIONS

- CSDE/SERC 2020-2021 Secondary Transition Sessions (Register at: <https://ctserc.org/events>.)
- CT Transition Community of Practice (CoP) Meeting on June 3, 2021 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Register at: <https://ctserc.org/events>.)
- [CSDE/RESC Alliance 2020-2021 Person-Centered Planning: LifeCourse Planning Tools](#) (Register through the RESCs – see flyer.)

WEBINARS AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

- [CSDE PMF 2020: Secondary Transition Discussion with CT State Agencies](#) ([PDF Slides](#))
- [CSDE BSE 17th Annual Back to School Event: Secondary Transition Updates](#) ([PDF Slides](#))
- [CSDE Professional Support Series: Secondary Transition Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) ([PDF Slides](#) & [Resource List](#))
- [CSDE/SERC Training Module: Transition Assessment](#)
- [CSDE/SERC Training Module: Transition Goals 101](#)

WEBINARS AVAILABLE ON CANVAS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- [CT 6th Annual Secondary Transition Symposium](#)
- [Secondary Transition Five-Part Webinar Series: Providing Services in a Variety of Learning Models](#)



Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

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**.



DDS Vision

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.



DDS Eligibility



Each year the number of NEWLY eligible exceeds the number of individuals leaving services.

DDS Eligibility Application Forms

- [Application for Someone under the age of three \(Birth to Three Services\)](#)
- [Application for Someone with Intellectual Disability \(formerly known as Mental Retardation\)](#)
- [Application for Someone with Autism and NO Intellectual Disability over the age of 3](#)
- [Application for Previous DDS Consumer, Someone with Missing Documents, or Someone who needs a Guardian/Conservator or Title 19](#)

[Eligibility Information Video](#)

[Eligibility Information Video \(Spanish\)](#)

DDS has a **SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY** for all individuals seeking eligibility for services. This approach is designed to simplify the application process and assure statewide consistency in reviewing and determining eligibility across the three regions.



FACTS ABOUT NEW REFERRALS

- Every month more than 90 people apply for services
- 65% of new referrals are for children (<18 years old)
- About 25% of new referrals are for adults older than 20 years of age
- The remaining 10% are young adults ages 18 through 20 years old

IDD ELIGIBILITY

3 Primary Factors Used to Determine Eligibility Based on CGS 1-1g:

1. Significant Deficits in Intellectual Functioning

- IQ profile <70 on standardized IQ test

2. Deficits in Adaptive Behavior

- evaluate using standardized measure
- consistent profile across social, economic & self-help domains

3. Manifest during Developmental Period

- clear evidence of both intellectual and adaptive deficits before age 18
- medical records, school records, standardized testing

***Includes individuals with Prader Willi Syndrome.**

AUTISM ELIGIBILITY

- Legal Residency in the State of Connecticut
- A **PRIMARY** diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (An evaluation for Autism Spectrum Disorder must **include** a standardized diagnostic instrument such as the Autism Diagnostic and Observation Schedule (ADOS), Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS), or Gilliam Autism Rating Scales (GARS). Evaluations that do not include standardized diagnostic instruments will not serve to qualify individuals for DDS service).
- A full scale IQ of 70* or higher (A diagnosis of intellectual ability **must include** tests such as the Wechsler or Stanford-Binet which assess the applicant's intellectual/cognitive ability and generate IQ scores. Psychological testing must indicate current (within 3 years) cognitive/IQ results).
*For children ages 3-7 where a valid IQ cannot be determined, eligibility will be based upon a diagnosis of an ASD and developmental delays.
- Impairment in at least **three** areas of adaptive functioning (To be eligible for DDS Division of Autism Spectrum Services, impairment in adaptive functioning must be determined by Adaptive Skills Testing. **Adaptive Skills** tests such as Vineland and Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC) evaluate the applicant's capability with daily activities such as dressing, grooming, and social skills).
- Live in either their own home or their family home (individuals living in residential or school settings are not eligible for the autism waiver services).
- Medicaid Eligibility (Applications will not be processed for individuals 18 years and older unless there is a copy of the Medicaid Card.)
- Impairment prior to age 22 years
- Impairment expected to continue indefinitely (chronic)



Who are we...

Divisions:

- Individual and Family Support
- Private
- Public
- Self Determination

Other:

- Equal Employment Opportunity Office
- Human Resources
- Education Support and Staff Development
- Investigations
- Legislative and Executive Affairs
- Legal Affairs
- Quality and Systems Improvement
- Business Information and Analytics Unit
- Fiscal Services
- Information Technology
- Audit and Rate Setting
- Medicaid Operations/Waiver Services
- Health and Dental Services
- Psychological Services
- Communication
- And more...



DDS – One partner in the total support plan.



DDS Supports and Services

Informed Choices



- **Family Supports**
 - Helpline
 - Respite
 - Family Support Teams
 - Family Grants
- **Transition Services**
- **Case Management**
- **Waiver Supports**

Supports Services can be managed as:

- Self-Directed Services
- Agency With Choice Services
- Private Agency Services



More Control

Less Control



DDS – One partner in the total support plan.



All supports and services provided to an individual should result in enhanced self-advocacy, self-determination, interdependence, productivity and enhanced relationships and inclusion.

“CT’s EMPLOYMENT FIRST INITIATIVE”

In April of 2011, Connecticut DDS was officially recognized as an “Employment First” State Agency, but what exactly does this mean?

Employment First Overview

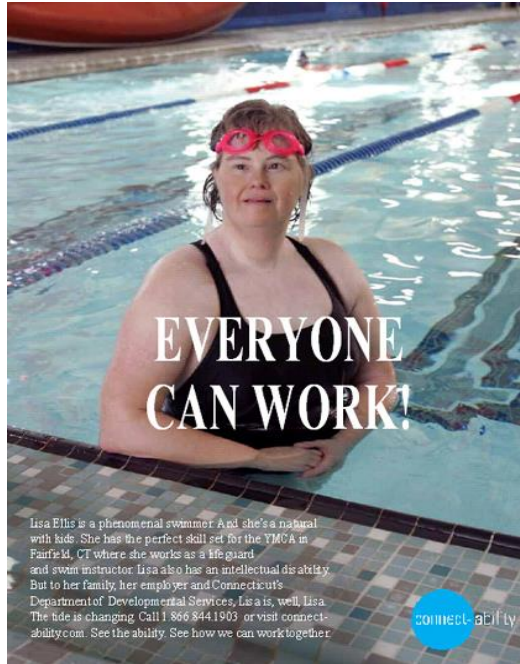


Employment and Day Services

EMPLOYMENT FIRST!

Age 22

Retirement



Support Service Options

- Competitive Employment
- Individual Supported Employment
- Group Supported Employment
- Individualized Day (Voc/Non-Voc)
- Pre-Vocational Services (Paid and Non Paid)
- Employment Transition Services
- Senior Supports...



DDS Resources

Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

- [DDS Eligibility](#)
- [Family Website](#)
- [Family Connection](#)
- [LifeCourse](#)
- [Topics A to Z](#)
- [Employment/Day Services](#)
- [Qualified Provider List](#)



- [Transition Resources](#)
 - [DDS Transition Timeline](#) (Available in [Spanish](#))
 - [DDS Transition Planning: Accessing Eligibility Based Supports & Benefits](#) (Available in [Spanish](#))
- [Self-Advocacy](#)
- [Self Determination](#)
- [Employment First Overview](#)
- [Career Planning Process: A Guide to Person Centered Career Planning in CT](#)
- [Real Work for Real Pay](#)

Aging and Disability Services (ADS)/Bureau of Rehabilitation (BRS)

Level Up Services

- Job Exploration
- Counseling for Post-Secondary
- Work Based Learning Experience
- Work Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy
- Students ages 16-22
- IEP, 504 Plan, documented disability
- Attending secondary, post-secondary



ADS/BRS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

The Connecticut VR program can help individuals with disabilities to prepare for, find and keep a job.

We offer individualized services for individuals with all disabilities (except legal blindness*), if eligible, and provide supports in planning for and achieving their job goals. To be eligible for the VR program, an individual must have a significant physical or mental condition which poses a substantial barrier to employment and must require VR services in order to prepare for, find, and succeed in employment.

*Individuals with legal blindness are served by the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB).



BRS may provide a full range of individualized services, including:

- Vocational counseling
- Benefits counseling
- Job search assistance
- School-to-work transition services
- Skills training and career education in college and/or vocational schools
- On-the-job training in business and industry
- Assistive technology services such as adaptive equipment for mobility, communication, and work activities
- Vehicle and home modification
- Supported employment services
- Services to assist in restoring or improving a physical and/or mental impairment
- Help accessing other programs and services

ADS/BRS Benefits Counseling Services

Benefits Counseling Services are offered to those on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Community Work Incentive Counselors can provide:

- Specific information on work incentives available to Social Security beneficiaries.
- Examples of how a combination of earning and benefits – or earnings alone – can help people achieve a more secure financial future.
- A review of benefits and services, both Federal and State, to help maximize financial independence.
- Follow-up services after return to work.



ADS/BRS Resources

Aging and Disability Services (ADS)

- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)
 - Level Up
- Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB)
- Connect-Ability
- CT Tech Act Project (CTTAP)
- Benefits Counseling
 - SSDI Pamphlet
 - HANDOUT: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Pamphlet
- Connect to Work Project



Department of Social Services (DSS)

In July 2006, the Autism Spectrum Disorder Pilot Program was established under the DDS

Section 37 of Public Act 06-188

- The pilot program began in New Haven county in July 2006 and then expanded to Hartford county in August 2008.
- In 2011, Public Act 11-4 established the Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services.
- Both the Pilot, and the Autism Division were established to fill a void in services for individuals with autism who do not have an intellectual disability.
- The pilot originally served individuals with ASD over the age of 18. It was later opened to those age 3 through the lifespan.
- To be eligible to receive services from the Division of Autism an individual must have:
 - **PRIMARY** diagnosis of autism
 - A full scale IQ of 70 or above
 - At least three years of age
 - Legal residency in Connecticut
 - Medicaid eligibility
 - Impairment prior to age 22
 - Impairment expected to continue indefinitely
 - Reside in their own home or their family home



Waiver For Persons With Autism (Lifespan Waiver)

- 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 (individuals must have a full IQ score of 70 or higher).
- Services provided under the waiver include:
 - Behavioral Services
 - Job Coaching
 - Community Mentor
 - Life Skills Coach
 - Social Skills group
 - Respite (In-home and Out-of-home)
 - Assistive Technology
 - Interpreter
 - Specialized Driving Assessment
 - Personal Emergency Response System
 - Individual Goods and Service
 - Non-Medical Transportation
- *****The Waiver for Persons with Autism is not an entitlement; therefore, services and access to services under the ASD waiver may be limited, based on available funding and program capacity. A waiting list applies.**



Lifespan Waiver Cont'd

- The Autism Lifespan Waiver was renewed at the end of 2017 for 5 years, and currently has a cap for 2021 of 134 slots.
- Number of individuals presently being served by the waiver: 124
The waiver is expected to expand by 10 slots per year over the next 5 years
- Maximum Waiver cap per person per year: \$50,000
- ***There are currently over 1700 individuals on the wait list.

State Plan Services

- The State Plan for ASD services was the result of guidelines issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This required Medicaid programs to cover autism services for individuals under the age of 21, citing the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) child health component under federal law.
- The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services.
 - **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early,
 - **Periodic:** Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals,
 - **Screening:** Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems,
 - **Diagnostic:** Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified, and
 - **Treatment:** Control, correct or reduce health problems found.



State Plan Services Cont'd

- The State Plan Services for ASD are managed under the Integrated Care Unit in the Division of Health Services at DSS.
- The Autism Lifespan waiver is managed under the Community Options Unit within the Division of Health Services.
- **Beacon Health Options** is the Administrative Service Organization for the State Plan ASD services. They are responsible for reviewing documentation to support level of care guidelines and medical necessity to authorize ASD services for Medicaid (HUSKY A, C and D) members under the age of 21.
***Husky B members are not eligible for State Plan ASD services.
- Beacon Health Options also provides Care Coordination and Peer Specialist Services for individuals with ASD.



Autism Spectrum Disorder Services: The State Plan

- Autism services available through the Medicaid State Plan (HUSKY A, C and D) for individuals under the age of 21 include:
 - Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation
 - Behavioral Assessment
 - Treatment Plan Development
 - Development of a Program Book
 - Direct Intervention
 - Group Treatment Services (Social Skills groups and Parent groups for members and their families)

DSS Resources

CT Department of Social Service (DSS)

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
 - Overview - Program description and services offered.
 - Eligibility - Program eligibility criteria and links to application.
*****The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) currently determines eligibility for the Department of Social Services (DSS) Autism Waiver. Please note that the application is the same for both the DSS Autism waiver and the waivers provided through DDS.**
 - Related Resources - Autism Checklists and Guides by age, Autism resources at the Local, State and National level.
 - Contact - How to reach us.

American Job Centers

The American Job Center is a partnership of the **CT Department of Labor**, the **Workforce Development Boards** and other partner agencies providing employment and training programs and services for all job seekers of working age.



Workforce Development Boards



North Central



East



Northwest



Southwest

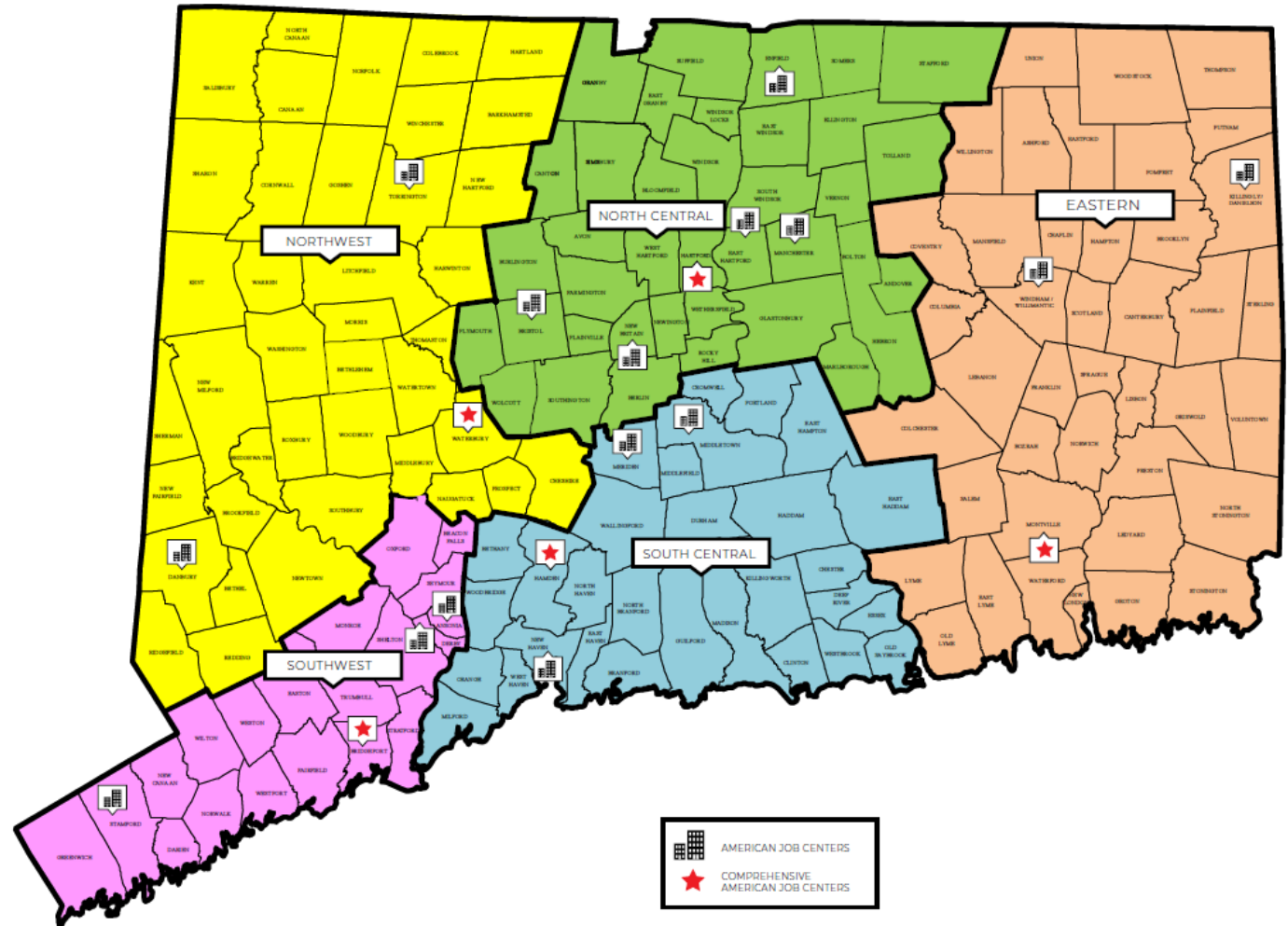


South Central

CT Hires

Pre-registration in CT Hires is required for all American Job Center information sessions, programs, recruitment events and other services.

Visit [CT Hires](#) for a wide variety of online services!



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth

Young Adults Ages 16 or 18 through 24 (varies by region)

Priority: out of school (young adult) youth

Targeting young adults with one of the following barriers:

- Foster Care
- Documented Disability
- Parent/Parenting
- Involved with Adult or Juvenile Justice System
- High School Dropout
- Homeless
- Basic Skills Deficient and Low Income*
- English Language Learner

****Income information may be required to determine eligibility***

WIOA Young Adult Services

- Case Management
- Soft Skills/Pre-employment Training
- Community College Setting
- Supportive Services
- Paid Work Experience
- Industry-Recognized Credentials*
- Job Placement
- 1-Year Retention Follow Up
- Financial Literacy

*industries may vary by region



Additional Youth Programs

- Youth Build (CWP, WorkPlace, Northwest WIB)
- Summer Youth Employment
- Apprenticeship CT Initiative
- Job Corps (Hartford and New Haven)

Programs and training vary by region and eligibility varies by program: check the Workforce Development Board websites in your area for more information.

Hint: Applications Accepted Now for Summer Youth Opportunities – Applications available on Workforce Board websites.

DOL Resources

CT Department of Labor (DOL)

- American Job Center Partners
 - Capital Workforce Partners
 - Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board
 - Northwest Regional Workforce Board
 - Workforce Alliance
 - The Workplace Inc.
- CT Hires
- Job & Career ConneCTion – Explore Careers
- Job Seeker Services
- Labor Market Information
 - LMI for Students
- SkillUp CT – Free Online Training
- Today's Youth – Tomorrow's Workforce
 - A Look at CT's Entry Level Occupations (2016)
 - CT Career Paths
 - CT Job Journeys
 - CT's Manufacturing and Other Middle-skills Jobs
- CT Job Corps Hartford and New Haven

Thank you for joining us!

Q&A



	<p>Ian Card, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (Level Up), ADS/BRS</p> <p>Lisa Farrell, Benefits Specialist, ADS/BRS, Connect to Work Project</p> <p>Richard Martinez, Benefits Specialist, ADS/BRS, Connect to Work Project</p> <p>MaryEllen McGarry, Benefits Specialist, ADS/BRS, Connect to Work Project</p> <p>Cynthia Scott, Benefits Specialist, ADS/BRS, Connect to Work Project</p>
	<p>Alycia M. Trakas, Education Consultant, CSDE, Bureau of Special Education</p>
	<p>Brian K. Smith, Assistant Regional Director – West Region, DDS, Individual and Family Support Division</p>
 	<p>Karen Quesnel, RETAIN-CT Project Manager, DOL, Office of Workforce Competitiveness</p> <p>Ebony Johnson, Lead Workforce Specialist – CareerHub, The Workplace</p>
	<p>Cathleen A. Calway, Autism Support and Resource Specialist, DSS, Division of Health, Community Options Unit</p>

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI) AND MEDICARE

SSDI provides cash benefits to individuals with disabilities or blindness who have worked and paid Social Security taxes for enough years to be covered under Social Security insurance. SSDI may be received by the worker, the worker's widow(er), the surviving divorced spouse, or the worker's child with disabilities. Many people who receive SSDI have earnings as well.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR SSDI WHEN WORKING

If you are receiving Social Security Disability benefits and attempt to work, you are generally entitled to 12 months of work during which your earnings will not affect your benefits. Here's how it works:

You are entitled to a **Trial Work Period** of nine (9) months while you test your ability to work on a regular basis. These 9 months need not be in a row, but they must take place within a 60-month period. At the end of the nine months of Trial Work, the work is reviewed to see if it shows that your work is "substantial." If it is "substantial," you get 3 more months of benefits before they stop.

What Months Count Toward Trial Work?

As of January 1, 2021, a Trial Work month is any month in which your earnings are more than \$940 gross. If you were working in your own business or profession, the Trial Work Period would be any month in which your earnings are more than \$940 gross or you spend more than 80 hours in your business. These amounts increase annually. See the chart on Page six (6) for the amounts in previous years.

Is Your Work Substantial?

The amount of money you earn is the best gauge of whether your work is substantial, although there are some work incentives that Social Security considers in making this decision that will be explained on the next page. Starting January 1, 2021, monthly gross earnings of over \$1,310 are considered Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). For people who are blind, the amount of gross earnings indicating Substantial Gainful Activity is \$2,190. If Social Security has found you disabled due to blindness, substitute the \$2,190 amount for the SGA of \$1,310 wherever it appears in this handout. The amount used to determine Substantial Gainful Activity level increases annually based on the national average wage. Refer to the chart on page 6 for the amounts used in previous years.

What Happens If You Don't Earn Above SGA During Trial Work?

If, after your 9 months of Trial Work, you have not performed substantial work and still have a disability, your benefits will continue. You will use your Extended Period of Eligibility even if your work is not substantial. See Page 3 for information on Extended Period of Eligibility

WORK INCENTIVES AVAILABLE UNDER SSDI:

SSDI recipients who work may be eligible for a number of Work Incentives, such as:

- **IMPAIRMENT-RELATED WORK EXPENSES (IRWE)**

It often costs more for a person with a disability to work than for other people. Many of these expenses are a result of the disability. Medication you need in order to be able to work, wheelchairs, and a large screen computer to help you see are all items that may be necessary to permit you to work. When **you pay for these types of items yourself**, Social Security may exclude their costs when counting your income to see if you are working at substantial work activity level.

What Expenses Can be Deducted as IRWE's?

Some examples of items that can be deducted under this rule (if you pay for them yourself) are:

- ❖ Costs of medicine
- ❖ Job coaching services
- ❖ Pacemakers, braces, and artificial limbs
- ❖ Attendant care services needed to prepare for work, perform at work, or to get to and from work
- ❖ Modifications to your home, car or van
- ❖ Some transportation costs, if needed because of your disability

*Most individuals on SSDI who work will have the option of becoming eligible for the MED-Connect Medicaid Program through the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (see Page 5). Any medical expenses covered by Medicaid would no longer be considered Impairment Related Work expenses as the individual with the disability would not be paying out-of-pocket for them.

The chart at the end of this pamphlet will help you keep track of your earnings and IRWE's.

- **SUBSIDIES**

Sometimes, a person with a disability may be able to secure "subsidized" employment. This happens when an employee receives supports on the job that result in more pay than the actual value of the services the person performs.

Social Security deducts the value of a subsidy from earnings to determine if a person is performing substantial work activity. This permits a more realistic assessment of the person's ability to perform substantial work activity in an unsubsidized workplace. It also makes the transition to the workplace somewhat easier.

Some examples of Subsidized Employment are:

- An employer or a job coach gives an employee with a disability more supervision than other employees doing the same job yet pays him at the same rate.
- An employer rehires a former employee at the same rate of pay he was getting prior to his disability, yet allows him to work fewer hours with lower productivity.
- An employer gives an employee with a disability fewer or simpler tasks to complete than other employees doing the same job, yet pays the employee with a disability at the same rate.

- **PLAN TO ACHIEVE SELF SUPPORT (PASS)**

If you are receiving monthly SSDI benefits and have an idea that will bring you closer to independence, you may want to develop your idea into what Social Security calls a "Plan to Achieve Self-Support" or PASS. A PASS is a special program which allows you to use or save money to help you pay for such things as a training program, job coaching or assistance with starting a business. This work incentive usually applies only to the SSI program but sometimes a Social Security Disability (SSDI) beneficiary may become eligible for SSI by using a PASS.

How does a PASS work for SSDI beneficiaries?

If you qualify for a PASS, you would use your SSDI benefits to save for the services or items you would need in order to reach the vocational goal that has been approved by Social Security. By using your SSDI benefits in this way, you may become eligible to receive SSI benefits.

WORK INCENTIVES THAT EXTEND SSDI SAFETY NET

When benefits stop because you have completed a trial work period and are doing substantial work, you become entitled to a number of work incentives designed to support your ability to work if you continue to have a medical disability. These are considered as Safety Nets in case you find your health prevents you from continuing to work at the same level.

- **EXTENDED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY (EPE)**

Holding a job with a disability can be unpredictable. There may be good days and bad days - periods during which it is not possible for you to work, and earnings drop accordingly. For this reason, the rules provide an "extended period of eligibility" designed to protect your right to benefits after a successful trial work period.

The rule says that for **36 months** following a trial work period, you may receive a benefit for any month gross earnings do not exceed \$1,310, so long as you remain medically disabled. This means that for any month you cannot work, or if you work less and your earnings drop below \$1,310, your benefits can be started again without a new application, disability determination, or waiting period. All you have to do is provide proof to your local Social Security office of the change.

The **extended period of eligibility** begins the month after the trial work period ends. It continues for 36 months. If you are earning above SGA (\$1,310 gross) after your trial work period ends, you will receive your SSDI benefits for an additional three-month grace period, which overlaps the first three months of your extended period of eligibility. The "grace period" may occur later if you are not working at SGA at the end of your trial work period.

- **EXPEDITED REINSTATEMENT (EXR)**

If you have completed the 9-month trial work period and the 36-month extended period of eligibility for SSDI and have lost eligibility due to performance of SGA (over \$1,310/month in gross earnings), you may still be able to request reinstatement of your benefits if necessary. EXR requires that **you are unable to continue working above SGA and that you file the request during the 60-month period following the month of termination of SSDI eligibility**. You will be eligible for up to 6 months of benefits while SSA does a medical continuance review to determine if you can be reinstated. These provisional benefits do not have to be paid back to SSA even if it is determined you are not eligible for reinstatement.

For individuals who are receiving both SSDI and SSI, SSI beneficiaries who go off benefits for 12 consecutive months and do not qualify for 1619(b) will also be able to request reinstatement of cash benefits for 60 months. If you are on both SSDI and SSI, you will also be given an SSI handout that explains 1619(b).

Changes Effective January 1, 2002

Work activity no longer triggers a Medical Review for individuals who have been receiving SSDI benefits for at least 24 months. Continuing Disability Reviews not triggered by work activity will be done on a regularly scheduled basis unless you are making progress using Social Security's Ticket to Work program.

Ticket to Work

The Ticket to Work is available to provide Social Security beneficiaries with the support needed to transition to greater financial independence and self-sufficiency. Eligible beneficiaries may choose to assign their Ticket to an Employment Network (EN), the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services (BRS) or the Bureau of Education and Services to obtain the supports and services needed to find and maintain employment. SSA will not conduct a review of your medical condition if you have a signed employment plan and are meeting SSA's standards for timely progress toward your employment goal. Additional information is available by calling the Help Line at 866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967 TTY or online at <https://choosework.ssa.gov>.

MEDICAL COVERAGE

I. Medicare

Medicare Coverage Continues After Benefits Stop

Much of the expense of working with a disability comes from medical bills. Medical expenses resulting from the disability can be so high that they eat up the extra income from work.

How Long Coverage Continues

Extended Medicare coverage allows you to keep this benefit for at least 93 months after the end of your Trial Work Period. This coverage may continue no matter how much you are earning during these 93 months. If you are still medically disabled when the Medicare coverage ends, you can purchase Medicare benefits. In some instances, if your income is low enough, it may be possible for the state Medicaid program to pay this coverage for you.

II. Medicaid

Medicaid Coverage for SSDI Recipients

If you receive SSDI *and* State Supplement before you begin working and then lose your State Supplement because of earnings, you can keep your Medicaid benefits as long as you continue to have a disability and your income and liquid assets are below a certain level. This regulation is called 1905q. DSS calls this S-04. Currently, the limit for earned income is \$53,709 (2021) and the asset limit is \$1,600 for a single individual. If you were not receiving State Supplement, but had SSDI and Medicaid coverage, you may still be able to retain Medicaid (see below). Also, if you received SSI that stopped due to earnings, you would continue Medicaid under 1619b (S-04) with the same income limit and a \$2,000 asset limit. See the SSI handout for additional information.

MED-Connect

Connecticut's MED-Connect program provides Medicaid coverage to individuals who are 18 years of age or older and are working despite having a medical impairment, even if their income and/or assets exceed the usual Medicaid limits. To be eligible, a person must work and pay F.I.C.A. taxes or have bonafide wage stubs proving earnings if not paying F.I.C.A. Income may be as great as \$75,000 annually (\$6,250 a month) and liquid assets may be as high as \$10,000 for a single person or \$15,000 for a couple. A home and one vehicle are not counted as assets; monies held in retirement accounts, individual development accounts, medical accounts, and accounts for disability related expenses are also excluded. A spouse's income is not considered in determining initial eligibility for MED-Connect but it is used to calculate a possible premium.

If you are found to be medically improved by SSA but still have a significant medically determinable impairment, you can keep Medicaid as long as you work and earn a monthly wage equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage times 40 (Currently \$7.25/hour so earnings per month must be at least $\$7.25 \times 40 = \290.00). You will then be under the Title XIX **Medically Improved Group**.

The chart and information below are meant to help you keep track of your earnings and IRWEs.

How to use the chart:

1. Enter your earnings for each month. Monthly earnings to be used in this chart are based on your gross weekly earnings x 4.3 (4.3 is the average number of weeks in a calendar month), not on paychecks received during a calendar month. If Social Security doesn't have the breakdown for your earnings, a new law allows them to use when you got paid instead. It may be to your advantage to give them the breakdown.
2. Trial Work Period (TWP) begins 1st month above TWP Limit (\$940/month for 2020) and ends 9th month above TWP Limit. These months do not have to be in a row but must be within a five-year period.
3. **Once Trial Work Period has ended**, you can use Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWEs) to reduce your countable income. Enter the amount of IRWEs and subtract from gross wages. Remember to keep proof of IRWEs (i.e., receipts and canceled checks) to present to Social Security.
4. Grace Period - Checks are received for the first month above Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) after Trial Work ends and for 2 additional months. SGA for 2021 is \$1,310 gross.
5. Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE) - Begins the month after TWP is completed and ends after 36 consecutive months. EPE months are counted even if you stop working after Trial Work Period is completed.
6. Termination - Eligibility for SSDI stops the first month of SGA after EPE ends unless you have not used the Grace Period (See #4 above).

Year		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	Wages - IRWEs												
	= Subtotal												
	Wages - IRWEs												
	= Subtotal												
	Wages - IRWEs												
	= Subtotal												
	Wages -IRWEs												
	= Subtotal												
	Wages - IRWEs												
	= Subtotal												

Trial Work and Substantial Gainful Activity amounts usually change in January.

	Trial work month	Hours for self- employment	SGA for non- blind beneficiaries	SGA for blind beneficiaries
2021	\$940	80	\$1,310	\$2,190
2020	\$910	80	\$1,260	\$2,110
2019	\$880	80	\$1,220	\$2,040
2018	\$850	80	\$1,180	\$1,970
2017	\$840	80	\$1,170	\$1,950
2016	\$810	80	\$1,130	\$1,820
2015	\$780	80	\$1,090	\$1,820
2014	\$770	80	\$1,070	\$1,800
2013	\$750	80	\$1,040	\$1,740
2012	\$720	80	\$1,010	\$1,690

For more information about the ways work affects State Supplement, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare, Medicaid and other benefits and services, contact a Benefits Specialist/Community Work Incentive Coordinator in your area. To find the Benefits Specialist closest to you call:

The Connect to Work Project

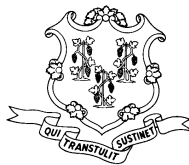
**Department of Aging and Disability Services/Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
(800) 773-4636**

Rev: 01/05/2021

The Department of Aging and Disability Services' programs are available to all applicants and recipients without regard to race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, learning disabilities, national origin, ancestry or language barriers. Auxiliary aids are also available for blind or visually impaired persons. The Department of Aging and Disability Services is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.

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Social Security Benefits for People with Disabilities

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

SSI is a program that offers a monthly cash benefit to individuals who are aged, blind or have a disability and have limited income and resources. Many people who receive SSI have earnings as well.

SSI BENEFIT ADJUSTMENTS WHEN WORKING

When you are on SSI and go to work, your SSI cash benefit amount will be adjusted according to how much you are earning. You need to report new employment to Social Security by sending them a copy of your pay stub. You also need to let Social Security know what you expect your gross (before tax) earnings will be per month and you need to report your earnings monthly.

Wages can be reported at a local Social Security office, using the automated SSI Telephone Wage Reporting Service, SSI Mobile Wage Reporting App, *my* Social Security online wage reporting tool, and at the following link: <https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/howtoreachus.htm>.

When you first go to work, you must first report your earnings to Social Security so they can adjust your check (payment) so you are not overpaid.

If earnings go down significantly or stop, you need to report this to Social Security quickly so that they can take action to have SSI increased (or started up again if it had stopped). If you or your employer provides written proof of the change in earnings (copy of paycheck stub that shows hours, rate of pay, etc. or a letter from your employer giving the detailed information on the change in earnings), SSI can be adjusted within an average of two to four weeks.

Some individuals may also be eligible for Unemployment Benefits. The amount received from Unemployment will be used to determine how much SSI, if any, an individual will receive (Unemployment may be higher than SSI). You must report your Unemployment Benefits to Social Security as soon as you receive them.

WORK INCENTIVES AVAILABLE UNDER SSI:

SSI recipients who are working may be eligible for a number of work incentives, such as:

- **IMPAIRMENT-RELATED WORK EXPENSES (IRWE)**

It often costs more for a person with a disability to work than for other people. Many of these expenses are a result of the disability. Medication you need in order to be able to work, a large screen computer to help you see, wheelchairs, are all items that may be necessary to permit you to work. When **you pay for these types of items yourself**, Social Security excludes the cost of them in counting your income to figure the amount of your SSI payment. Individuals who are blind may be eligible for Blind Work Expenses (BWE). (If you are blind, please request our SSI pamphlet that explains work incentives for the blind.) Use the worksheet shown on page 4 to see how IRWE's affect your SSI.

What Expenses Can be Deducted for IRWE's?

Some examples of items that may be eligible IRWEs (if you pay for them yourself) are:

- ❖ Costs of medicine
- ❖ Pacemakers, braces, and artificial limbs
- ❖ Attendant care services needed to prepare for work, perform at work, or to get to and from work
- ❖ Modifications to your home, car, etc.
- ❖ Some transportation costs to get to work
- ❖ Job coaching

• PLAN TO ACHIEVE SELF SUPPORT (PASS)

If you are presently receiving monthly SSI and are working or have a combination of SSI and SSDI benefits with or without work, you may be able to use Social Security's PASS program. You will need to have an idea about the work you will do that will bring you closer to independence. Then, you will need to develop your idea into what Social Security calls a "Plan to Achieve Self-Support" or PASS. A PASS can then help you pay for such things as a training program, job coaching, or a car if they are necessary for work or assistance with starting a business.

Who May Have A Plan?

Any person who receives SSI because of a disability or blindness may have a PASS Plan as long as you also have earnings and/or other unearned income, such as SSDI or Veterans Benefits, to put into your PASS savings. Sometimes, people also put their savings into a PASS, which then makes them eligible for SSI. If Social Security approves your Plan, the income or resources that you set aside will not count in figuring your eligibility for SSI payments. Because of your PASS savings, you will generally get a higher SSI check. The money set aside in a PASS Plan also does not count toward the SSI resource limit of \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple. All income or savings set aside under a PASS, must be used in accordance with your Social Security approved PASS.

• TICKET TO WORK

The Ticket to Work is available to provide Social Security beneficiaries with the support needed to transition to greater financial independence and self-sufficiency. Eligible beneficiaries may choose to assign their Ticket to an Employment Network (EN) or the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services (BRS) to obtain the supports and services needed to find and maintain employment. SSA will not conduct a review of your medical condition if you have a signed employment plan and are meeting SSA's standards for timely progress toward your employment goal. Additional information is available by calling the Help Line at 866-968-7842 or 866-833-2967 TTY or online at <https://choosework.ssa.gov>.

• STUDENT EARNED INCOME EXCLUSION

Individuals under age 22 who regularly attend school may be eligible for this exclusion. As of January 1, 2021, if you qualify for the Student Earned Income Exclusion, you can earn up to \$1,930 per month, with a maximum of \$7,770 in earnings for 2021, and still keep your full SSI payment. If you earn more than this, you are still entitled to the other income exclusions that are available to all SSI recipients. Most students eligible for this work incentive will see no change in their SSI checks. You can use this work incentive during the summer months while not attending school as long as you are planning to return to school in the fall. You must report your student status to Social Security to be able to use this work incentive.

Continued Medicaid Benefits for Working SSI Recipients

Your Medicaid coverage can continue even if your earnings alone or in combination with other income, cause you to lose your SSI cash payment. Medicaid benefits will be protected until your earnings go above \$53,709 (2021) as long as you continue to have a disability. This rule is called 1619(b) (the Connecticut Department of Social Services calls this SO4). In order to keep your

Medicaid, your liquid assets cannot exceed \$2,000 for a single individual or \$3,000 for a couple.

The home you live in and one vehicle are not counted as assets. Other accounts are evaluated on an individual basis to determine if they are counted as liquid assets.

Even if your income and/or assets go above these amounts, you may still be able to keep Medicaid (see MED-Connect below).

If you are eligible for continued Medicaid under this rule, you will receive a yearly questionnaire from Social Security asking whether you still need this coverage. You must be sure to return this to Social Security promptly.

If you are on SSI and Medicaid and your SSI cash benefit stops due to new earnings, you will be eligible for SSI as long as your liquid assets are below \$2,000 and you continue to meet Social Security's disability requirements.

MED-Connect

If you are 18 years of age or older and continue to meet Social Security's definition of disability, you may continue on Medicaid even when your income and/or assets exceed the usual limits for 1619(b)/SO4 that were described above. In Connecticut, this program is called MED-Connect.

To be eligible, you must work and pay F.I.C.A. taxes or have bonafide wage stubs proving earnings if not paying F.I.C.A. You can have income of up to \$75,000 annually (\$6,250 a month) and be eligible for Medicaid/Title XIX on a sliding scale buy-in. (Spouse's income is not considered in determining initial eligibility but is used to determine if you will have to pay a premium.) Liquid assets must be below \$10,000 for a single person or below \$15,000 for a couple. Your home and one vehicle are not counted as assets. Monies held in retirement accounts, medical accounts, individual development accounts, and accounts for disability related expenses are excluded.

Even if you are found to be medically improved by Social Security but continue to have a severe medically determinable impairment you can maintain Medicaid as long as you continue to work and earn a monthly wage equal to or greater than the Federal minimum wage times 40 (Currently \$7.25/hour so earnings per month must be at least $\$7.25 \times 40 = \290.00). **You will then be under the Title XIX Medically Improved Group.**

Reinstating SSI Eligibility

If you have stayed on Medicaid/Title XIX, under 1619(b)/SO4 (because you were on Medicaid at the time that your earnings were high enough that your SSI checks stopped), you will only need to contact Social Security and provide proof that your earnings are low enough that you can now receive an SSI check.

If you earned too much or had too much in savings to stay on Medicaid under 1619(b), there is another work incentive, called Expedited Reinstatement, which allows you to go back on SSI without a new application. It must be within five (5) years from the month your benefits were terminated due to your earnings and/or savings. You can request to have your benefits started again without having to complete a new application, as long as you are below the \$2,000 asset limit. You can receive benefits for up to six (6) months on a provisional (temporary) basis while a determination is made about restarting your benefits.

COMBINED SSI BENEFITS CALCULATION (WITH EARNINGS ONLY)

If an individual has earnings only, SSI benefits are computed as follows:

<u>STEP 1</u>		\$	Earned Income
	–	\$ 85.00	Earned Income exclusion plus general exclusion
	=	\$ _____	Subtotal
	–	\$ _____	IRWE's (if applicable)
	=	\$ _____	Subtotal
		<u>2</u>	Divide by 2
		\$ _____	Countable Earned Income
<hr/>			
<u>STEP 2</u>		\$ 794.00	Federal Benefit Rate (2021 max. annual FBR) *
	–	\$ _____	Countable earned income from Step 1
	=	\$ _____	SSI

COMBINED SSI BENEFITS CALCULATION (WITH BOTH EARNED AND UNEARNED INCOME)

If you are receiving SSI with another benefit such as SSDI, VA or Unemployment, SSI benefits are computed as follows:

<u>STEP 1</u>			<u>STEP 2</u>		
_____	Unearned income **(SSDI, VA Benefits, etc.)		_____	Earned income	
– \$20.00	General exclusion		– \$20.00	General exclusion (if not used in step 1)	
= _____	Countable unearned income		_____	Remainder	
			– \$65.00	Earned Income exclusion	
			= _____	Calculated difference	
			– _____	IRWE (if applicable)	
			= _____	Subtotal	
			<u>2</u>	Divide by 2	
			= _____	Countable earned income	
<hr/>					
<u>STEP 3</u>			<u>STEP 4</u>		
_____	Countable unearned income		\$ 794.00	Federal Benefit Rate (2021 Max. FBR) *	
+ _____	Countable earned income		– _____	Total countable income from Step 3	
= _____	Total countable income		= _____	SSI	

INCOME AVAILABLE

	_____	Gross earnings
+	_____	SSDI (and/or other unearned income)
+	_____	SSI
=	_____	Total monthly income
–	_____	IRWE (if applicable)
=	_____	Subtotal
+	_____	STATE SUPPLEMENT (if applicable)
=	_____	Total Gross Income

* Use actual SSI federal benefit rate per month for an individual. It will generally be maximum SSI of \$794.00 for annual 2021 FBR but can be less.

**Welfare benefits such as State Supplement and SSI are not included.

For more information about the ways work affects State Supplement, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare, Medicaid and other benefits and services, contact a Benefits Specialist in your area. To find the Benefits Specialist closest to you call:

The Connect to Work Project
Department of Aging and Disability Services/Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
(800) 773-4636

The Department of Aging and Disability Services' programs are available to all applicants and recipients without regard to race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, learning disabilities, national origin, ancestry or language barriers. Auxiliary aids are also available for blind or visually impaired persons.

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