

Secondary Transition Discussion with CT State Agencies Q&A

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Questions

- 1. If a family decides to apply for eligibility under Autism (IQ above 69) when the young adult is 20 years old (after the age of 18), is it still okay for them to apply?**

Yes. When you apply is not critical to eligibility. What is critical is when the clinical records, medical and other records are dated. For the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), they must be dated as being completed during the developmental period (prior to the age of 18). Whereas for the autism service program with DSS, they must be dated prior to the age of 22. One can apply at any time, it is the date of the records that is critical. We always encourage families to apply early. By applying early, we then not only becomes a resource to them/the family, but it allows DDS to plan for them/their family member.

➤ [DDS Eligibility](#)

- 2. Can you address what DDS can offer to an eligible client who is parenting or becomes a parent and needs support to maintain custody of their child(ren)?**

DDS offers support to individuals who are eligible for DDS services, based on their needs. The services are not for the children in the home (unless they are DDS eligible) but rather for the parent who is DDS eligible. The children, in turn, may receive indirect benefit to these supports. If the Department of Children and Families becomes involved, they would take the lead as the child protective service agency. DDS would work in collaboration with them on an appropriate service plan, maximizing all the services they offer. Yes we have individuals lose custody of their children, often custody shifting to a relative, but we ALSO have numerous DDS individuals who are also parents, who are successfully living in and working in their communities with supports.

➤ [DDS Parent Support Services](#)

- 3. Who is in charge of Community First Choice (CFC) services?**

CFC is run and operated by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

➤ [DSS Community First Choice](#)

- 4. Is there someone or somewhere I can call for a case specific DDS eligibility question regarding a transition student who was recently diagnosed with autism?**

You can contact me, Brian K. Smith, by phone at 203-805-7417 or by email at brian.k.smith@ct.gov, and I will be happy to discuss and provide guidance.

- 5. Would a DDS Case Worker refer a student to CFC?**

A DDS case manager may share this resource with an individual or family, as applicable to the needs of the individual. It would be the family or individual who would initiate the referral and application. The DDS case manager can be a support to the family in this process.

➤ [DSS Community First Choice](#)

- 6. What happens once the young adult graduates after 22 / Is there a list of day programs available for young adults who have graduated from school systems?**

The DDS Qualified Provider List can be accessed using the links below. Please note, the listing references the “main office” of the agency. If eligible, we encourage the family/individual to work with their case manager with navigating the listing.

➤ [DDS Employment and Day Services](#)

➤ [DDS Qualified Provider List \(PDF version\)](#) & [DDS Qualified Provider List \(Excel version\)](#)

Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Questions

1. What Level Up services are available for this summer? Will they be virtual or live?

All of our Level Up services, operated by the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) within the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), are available throughout both the school year and the summer. The summer Work Based Learning Experience tends to be longer than during the school year and therefore has historically been our most popular service. The work experience is in person. Most of our other services are primarily virtual at this time.

- [BRS Level Up Program](#)

2. How long is the on-site work training typically last?

The length of the on-site work training varies based on the level of funding we have available as well as the number of students who are interested state-wide. For example, the 2020-21 school year was up to 60 hours on the job site and Summer 2020 was up to 80 hours on the job site.

3. What type of support for postsecondary training/education does BRS adult VR services provide?

This is determined based upon the individual and their adult BRS counselor. Services available can include on-the-job trainings, internships, as well as assistance with obtaining certificate, credentials and postsecondary education. The level of assistance is individualized but can potentially include tech, adaptive technology, transportation training/support, supplies or financial support.

- [BRS Adult Vocational Rehabilitation \(VR\) Program](#)

4. If a student has not signed up for Level Up services, but is graduating and might need to access adult VR services, how can that person access an application form?

To get connected to BRS VR services, visit our website and contact the office closest to you.

- [ADS/BRS Office Locations](#)

5. If a student is not eligible for adult VR services, what are the other options for vocational assistance?

For most individuals who are found ineligible for adult VR services, it is recommended that they get connected with their local American Job Center (AJC) for vocational assistance.

- [CT American Job Centers](#)

Department of Social Services (DSS) Questions

1. Who is in charge of the CFC program? Why does it take so long to receive a response?

The Department of Social Services (DSS) administers the Community First Choice (CFC) Program, which is a State Plan service under the Affordable Care Act for Medicaid members (HUSKY A, C or D). The State partners with access agencies to provide assessment, care coordination and monitoring of the CFC program. The response time delays from the access agencies is due to the immense volume of applications the CFC program receives.

- [DSS Community First Choice](#)

2. Do you know about how long the Autism Waiver waitlist is at this point?

Currently, there are over 1800 people on the Autism Waiver waitlist.

- [DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Program](#)

3. Will students be placed on the autism waiver waitlist as soon as they apply and are accepted, or only after they graduate high school? Since IDEA eligibility has been extended up until the students 22nd birthday, if a student graduates from high school, can they begin autism waived services prior to age 22?

Individuals who apply for the DSS Waiver for Persons with Autism, are placed onto the waitlist by the date their application is received, and slots for the DSS Autism Waiver are assigned in that order. Individuals may apply for the Autism Waiver beginning at age three through the lifespan. Individuals who are placed on the DSS Autism Waiver waitlist are not assigned a Case Manager and are unable to access any waived services until they receive a slot on the waiver. They do, however, have full access to the Autism Resource Specialists, who can provide information and assist them with identifying resources and supports they might not otherwise be aware of.

- [DSS Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) - Related Resources](#)

4. I need help guiding my individuals on how to switch from HUSKY D to HUSKY C.

It is my understanding that when an individual is placed onto a waiver, DSS will automatically change their status in terms of what HUSKY plan they have. You may also contact HUSKY Health Member Engagement Services at 1-800-859-9889, or the DSS Client Information Line and Benefits Center at 1-(855) 626-6632.

- [HUSKY Health CT – Contact Us](#)
- [DSS Client Information Line & Benefits Center](#)

5. Any ideas on how to get reimbursed for costs of group therapy/social skills services from HUSKY given that primary health/medical insurance denied these services, so I am currently paying out of pocket for these services?

Autism State Plan Services (up to age 21) are only available to Medicaid members (HUSKY A, C or D).

*****Note: HUSKY B recipients are unable to access any Autism supports or services under the State Plan.**

Families of individuals who do not have a dedicated funding stream (waiver) under Medicaid, have often explored utilizing grants or alternate financial resources such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) through the Social Security Administration (SSA) to pay for supports.

- [HUSKY Health CT Member Information](#)
- [SSA Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) Benefits](#)

Department of Labor (DOL) / American Job Center (AJC) Questions

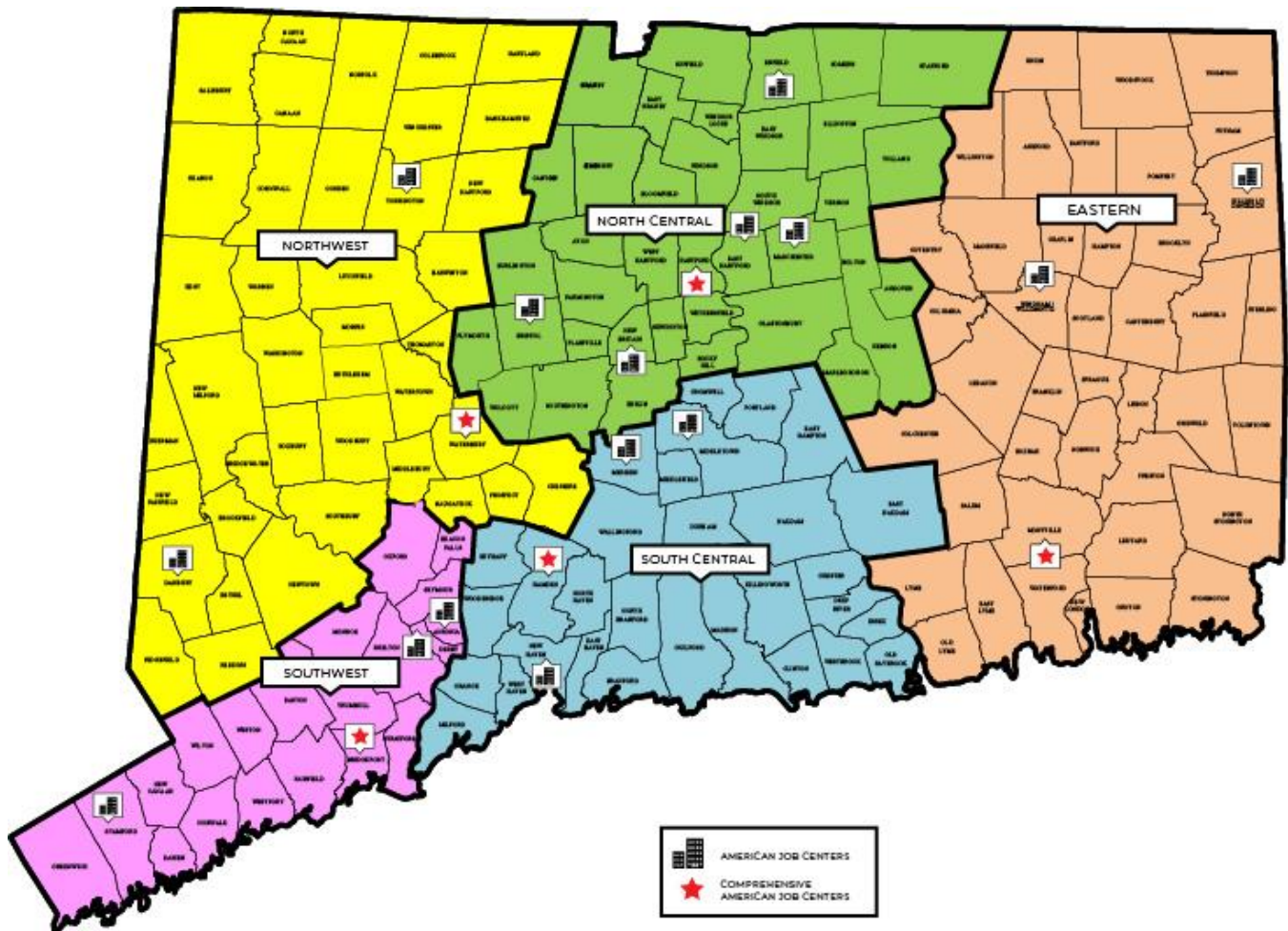
1. Does the DOL assist people with Intellectual Disabilities who have behavioral challenges and limited verbal and cognitive skills?

The American Job Centers (AJCs) are open to anyone of working age who is looking for work. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. The Career Centers are part of the “public workforce system” and are equipped with the tools and resources necessary to conduct a self-directed job search. Additionally, the AJCs leverage their resources with other state agencies such as the ADS, DDS, and DMHAS (Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services) to name a few, and therefore job seekers are often accompanied by support staff from those agencies to help them utilize the career centers and their services. Specific programs such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), or other employment and training programs use assessment tools, tests and other processes that measure the ability of the individual to successfully participate in the program rather than the person's physical, mental/cognitive, or sensory impairment. AJC programs provide the legally required reasonable accommodations, as necessary, so the job seeker has equal access to programs and services.

➤ [CT American Job Centers](#)

2. Are there WIOA services in the northwest region (Kent, Cornwall, Sharon, Salisbury, Canaan, and Falls Village)?

Yes - there are AJCs in Waterbury, Torrington, and Danbury. More information can be found on the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board website or on the CT Hires website at <http://nrwib.org/> or on CT Hires at cthires.com. Additionally, the Map of Connecticut's Workforce Investment Board Areas can be found below:



3. Can an individual who is eligible for BRS Adult Services also be eligible and get services through WIOA?
BRS may in some cases leverage resources with an AJC program. That means that services, whether from BRS or the AJC, must not be duplicated but instead leveraged so that the job seeker can get the wrap around supports needed for a successful employment outcome.

➤ [DOL WIOA Administration Unit](#)

4. Do individuals need to have an autism disability or can any disability participate in the WIOA?
Anyone, regardless of disability may participate in a WIOA program as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

➤ [DOL WIOA Services](#)

5. Is there any data on the number of individuals with disabilities receiving these amazing transition-oriented work-experiences across agencies actually get full- or part-time competitive integrated employment after completion of the program immediately, and 1 and 2 years out? Is there a "No Wrong Door" point of entry for individuals and families or do they need to explore all of these options themselves?

WIOA Performance Reports, Annual Report Narratives, and State Data Books can be found on the [US DOL Employment and Training Administration – Workforce Performance Results](#) website.

[MyPlaceCT.org](#) is a free web-based resource designed to help older adults and people with disabilities live with optimal independence, health and wellbeing. This information hub helps you explore your options, make informed decisions and connect with a wide range of services and supports - all in one place. The easily accessible information and the opportunities for training featured on MyPlaceCT.org, will help a variety of stakeholders - providers, communities, partners - maximize time, create efficiency and have an even greater impact on the people they serve. As a virtual home of No Wrong Door (NWD), MyPlaceCT.org reflects the philosophy that each person is unique, with individual needs, on their own journey to seek long term services and supports. Regardless of where an individual starts, partners and providers can help people utilize MyPlaceCT.org to better understand and access their options and support their decision-making. MyPlaceCT.org is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Social Services, in collaboration with partner State Agencies, 2-1-1/United Way of Connecticut and My Place CT Partners. MyPlaceCT.org is an initiative of Connecticut's Strategic Plan to Rebalance Long-term Services and Supports and is aligned with initiatives to address the social determinants of health. Funding is provided by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Connecticut's Aging and Disability Resource Centers, known as “Community Choices”, is a powerful information hub linking older adults, persons living with disabilities, and caregivers in Connecticut to the services and supports they seek. The dedicated staff can connect you to everything from a name and phone number to more detailed information regarding community services through activities such as benefit screening, options counseling, and care transitions. For more information, please visit the [CHOICES](#) website or call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422 to speak with a counselor in [your area](#) (the “your area” link will bring you to a list of Area Agencies on Aging, where you can find a listing of the towns served by each agency).