



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Date: May 15, 2017

To: Parents/Guardians of Students with Intellectual Disability Graduating in June 2017

From: Commissioner Jordan A. Scheff, Department of Developmental Services

Re: Employment Opportunities and Day Services Funding for 2017 Graduates

Many of you may be wondering whether the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be able to provide day supports for individuals exiting the school system in June 2017. Here is some information that we hope you find helpful:

- 1. Background:** While we recognize that employment/day supports are an important service for individuals living with their families, and we are fully committed to helping every person that we can, this service can only be provided based on available funding. It is not an entitlement program and unfortunately resources are very limited. We will do everything we can to help individuals and families find alternatives in the event we do not receive funding for employment/day supports.
- 2. The Connecticut Budget:** Currently, no budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 has been approved. Some versions of proposed budgets have included funding for graduates with intellectual disability; other versions have not. Once a final budget has been approved, DDS will provide you with information as to whether employment/day support services will be available for your child.
- 3. A Strong Foundation of Support:** DDS urges families to consider all supports and services available to them (e.g. personal resources, community resources, technology, other eligibility resources, personal networks, etc.). Families are encouraged to use of a wide variety of support services to help ensure that individuals are not solely dependent upon one source of support and have a strong foundation to rely on. LifeCourse planning materials have been created by DDS to help you think about a variety of supports that may be considered. You can get information about the LifeCourse planning materials from the CT Family Support Network (CTFSN) at <http://www.ctfsn.org/>, or from Parent to Parent Family Voices (PATH) at <http://pathct.org/>. You can also connect to other family groups, listed on the webpage linked below, who may be able to provide some assistance to you:
<http://www.ct.gov/dds/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=391160>.

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4. **Prioritization of Needs:** DDS recognizes that the uncertainty of not knowing whether employment/day supports will be available to 2017 graduates leaves many families in difficult circumstances. As noted above, all families are urged to explore a variety of support options for their family members. Families who have a graduate with significant health or behavioral concerns may contact their assigned case manager to determine whether respite, family grants, or other time-limited supports are available for your child. If a case manager has not been assigned, please contact the appropriate DDS Helpline:

North Region **Help Line 1-877-437-4577** email: dds.nr.ifshelpline@ct.gov
South Region **Help Line 1-877-437-4567** email: dds.sr.ifshelpline@ct.gov
West Region **Help Line 1-877-491-2720** email: dds.wr.ifshelpline@ct.gov

DDS will continue to keep you informed on this issue.

Thank you for your patience.