

DDS HELPLINE

Exclusively for individuals already eligible for DDS services who do not have an assigned DDS Case Manager.

North Region Helpline 1-877-437-4577

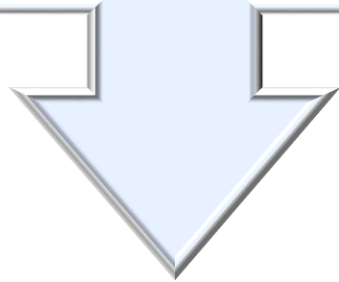
DDS.NR.ifshelpline@ct.gov

South Region Helpline 1-877-437-4567

DDS.SR.ifshelpline@ct.gov

West Region Helpline 1-877-491-2720

DDS.WR.ifshelpline@ct.gov



ASSISTANCE ACCESSING BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS

Families may request assistance from the DDS Helpline or their assigned Case Manager to complete and file applications for benefit and entitlement programs offered by other agencies which may include:

- Guardianship/Conservatorship
- SSI / SSDI
- Adult Medicaid /Husky C
- And more



You can have a competitive job with competitive wages and still be eligible for CT Medicaid and for your DDS services!

Talk to the Department of Social Services (DSS) about “MED-Connect”, “Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities” or the “S05 Program”. This program allows an individual who is employed to earn up to \$6,250 per month or up to \$75,000 per year and still maintain Medicaid health insurance.

Questions about your vocational goals, your potential earnings, and your health insurance?

Benefits Counseling is available to provide accurate information!

A Benefits Specialist (also known as a Community Work Incentive Counselor or CWIC) at your local Aging and Disability Services (ADS) understands how work and earnings will affect your benefits.

They can assist with:

- Specific information on the work incentives available to Social Security recipients.
- Examples of how you can achieve a greater income through a combination of earnings and benefits, or earnings alone.
- Review your benefits and services to maximize your independence.
- Follow up services after you return to work.

*For more information contact the
Connect to Work Center at:
1-800-773-4636*



State of CT Department of Developmental Services

TRANSITION PLANNING:

Assessing Eligibility Based Supports & Benefits



The transition life stage is an important time to explore the combination of programs and services, that might be needed to assist a student in their adult life. This document is designed to be a quick reference starting point for some of the key protections and eligibility-based benefits that can help to build a smooth transition from school to adulthood.

AGE OF MAJORITY

Every person in the State of Connecticut who is 18 years of age or older is an adult who is presumed legally capable of directing their personal decisions. For individuals that may need assistance making personal decisions, there are options. One of the more formal options is Guardianship.

Explore Guardianship at the CT Probate Court website www.ctprobate.gov

- Apply to the Probate Court with jurisdiction as early as 180 days prior to the individual turning 18 (age 17 ½).
- The Probate Court with jurisdiction is typically in the district where the individual lives.
- The fee payable to Probate Court is approximately \$250. If this is a hardship, you can request to have the fee waived based on your income.
- The Court hearing is typically set within 45 days of the Court's receipt of the application.
- When the process begins, DDS will be asked to complete an assessment to assist the Court.
- You should share school, medical and other records requested by the DDS representative preparing the assessment for the Court.
- The Court may appoint an attorney to represent the individual's interests in the Probate Court hearing.
- A plenary (full) or limited guardian may be appointed by the court. Areas within the guardian's authority may include: residence, education/vocation, release of records and photographs, medical/dental care, and ability to access services.
- A separate application may be filed to request financial authority for assets that exceed \$10,000.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a Federal income supplement program designed to help individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled, and who have little or no income. SSI provides cash to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. To be eligible for SSI, an individual must meet certain asset, income, and disability status criteria.



Being approved for SSI establishes that the student is a person with a disability, based on federal program criteria. Apply for SSI before applying for CT Medicaid.

Apply for Social Security at www.SSA.gov

- Apply when the individual turns 18 years of age.
- Application is for the individual only, as an adult. It is not based on parent's income.
- You can make an appointment to apply for SSI benefits in person at your local Social Security office. Download the application and start working on it before your appointment.
- During your appointment, speak with your Social Security representative to see if you may be eligible for other SSA programs.

TIP: When completing Federal and State Benefit application, be sure to answer questions as if your son/daughter is filling out the information. (Example: When asked about "family income", you should be referring to your son/ daughter's income).

ALWAYS KEEP COPIES!

MEDICAID Coverage under HUSKY C

Medicaid is a state-federal partnership to provide health care services to adults with disabilities, who are elderly or have low-income.



In order to be eligible for DDS individual case management services and funding upon exiting school, you need to be enrolled in Husky C.

Apply for Medicaid at connect.ct.gov

- Apply for Medicaid coverage under HUSKY C when the individual turns 18 years of age. 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 may still use parent's/private insurance as primary insurance.
- If you cannot apply online, complete a paper application (W-1E). Write "Husky C" on the top of the paper application and send to: DSS Connect Scanning Center, P.O. Box 1320, Manchester, CT 06045-1320 or drop it off at any DSS office.

Check application status @
1-855-626-6632 or by setting up an account
through www.connect.ct.gov

For additional information regarding transition, visit the DDS Secondary Transition page:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DDS/Family/Transition-Resources/Transition-Information>

