

WHAT IS SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Self-employment means you work for yourself.

Self-employment is a person-centered, highly individualized form of employment based on your interests and skills. You may choose to pursue self-employment full or part time. Any individual served by the Department of Developmental Services may pursue self-employment regardless of the complexity of their support needs.



EXAMPLES OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCLUDE:

- Operating an online store with in-person pop up events.
- Renting a workstation within an established business. For example, a hairdresser can rent a chair within a salon.
- Making and selling goods for profit, such as crafting, baking, or producing handmade products to sell online or at markets.

Talk to your case manager to learn more!



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WHY PURSUE SELF-EMPLOYMENT?

Benefits of Self-Employment may include the following:

- Inclusion and interaction with your community, by selling to customers in the community.
- Flexible scheduling
- A chance to earn money if it has been difficult to find a job in the community
- Meaningful work activities centered around your personal fulfillment.



WHAT IS A MICRO-ENTERPRISE?

Micro-enterprises are small businesses built around your skills, strengths, and interests. In many cases, they have fewer than 10 employees, start with a small amount of money, and focus on selling products or services in the local community. Did you know you may request Micro-Enterprise funds to act on a business idea/establish a small business?

WHAT IS MICRO-ENTERPRISE FUNDING?

You can apply for up to \$5,000 in Micro-Enterprise funding to help start or grow your small business. The money can be used to buy things like equipment and supplies for your business.

Check out the [Micro-Enterprise 1X Flyer](#) for details about the application process.

HOW TO GET STARTED

- Review the [Micro-Enterprise Pre-Application Checklist](#)
- Talk to your Case Manager and support team
- Plan your business idea and choose people who can help you
- Consider [Benefits Counseling](#) to learn how earning money from your business might affect your benefits.

NEED SUPPORT?

A DDS Provider Agency can help you with your small business by handling money and other business jobs through something called [Fiscal Account Management](#).

For more information or questions, reach out to:

DDS.microenterprise@ct.gov