

Aspire Launches Community-Based Transition and Employment Supports on Connecticut's Shoreline

Launching in Guilford, Conn., Aspire brings two connected pathways helping young adults with disabilities prepare for employment and independence.

GUILFORD, CT, UNITED STATES, August 6, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Aspire](#) Living & Learning is launching community-based transition and employment services on Connecticut's shoreline through a new location at 89 State Street in Guilford, increasing access to programs that prepare students and young adults with disabilities for employment, greater independence, and life beyond school.



Aspire Living & Learning is a private, nonprofit human services, behavioral health, and education organization with a growing, multi-state footprint.

Beginning September 6, 2026, Aspire will offer two pathways of support. The [Transition Program](#) serves students ages 18 to 22 receiving transition services through their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), while Adult Community & Employment Services support young adults ages 22 to 30 as they pursue employment, build greater independence, and strengthen community connections. Depending on the program, services may be funded through school district placements, DDS self-directed funding, or private pay.

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Dr. Elizabeth Sellinger

Research from the U.S. Department of Education has consistently found that students who participate in

meaningful work experiences while still in school are significantly more likely to be employed after graduation, making work-based learning one of the strongest predictors of successful adult outcomes.

At Aspire, learning extends far beyond the classroom. Guided by evidence-based practices and person-centered planning, students and young adults will build skills in workplaces, local businesses, and throughout their communities. Participants will have the opportunities to develop workplace skills, practice independent living, strengthen communication and self-advocacy, and explore career paths aligned with their strengths, interests, and goals.



Future home of Aspire Living & Learning's transition program in Guilford, CT.

"Over my career, I've watched students grow in ways that simply aren't possible within four classroom walls," said Tara Beatty, director of transition programs at Aspire. "When they're trusted with real responsibilities and supported as they navigate workplaces and their communities, they develop skills they'll carry with them throughout adulthood."

The programs are led by Tara, a certified transition specialist and special education teacher who spent more than 25 years serving students in Guilford Public Schools. She is also the co-founder of Guilford-based nonprofit Sound Life Connections Inc., bringing decades of local relationships and experience to Aspire.

"Families deserve services that are connected to the communities where their children will live, work, and build their futures," said Dr. Elizabeth Sellinger, chief of clinical and children's services at Aspire. "By building on the strong relationships that already exist across Connecticut's shoreline, we're creating more opportunities for young people to prepare for adulthood close to home."

Construction is currently underway at 89 State Street, with the new location expected to open in October 2026. Participants enrolled will begin participating through community partnerships, including vocational experiences at The Wave, an inclusive gelato café and training space, before transitioning into the permanent location this fall.

The launch reflects Aspire's growing investment in community-based transition and employment services, with a focus on expanding access to these supports where they're needed most.

School districts, families, and community partners interested in learning more about Aspire's Transition Program and Adult Community & Employment Services can visit allinc.org or contact Tara Beatty at tbeatty@allinc.org or 959-279-9583.

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