



Benefits & Advocacy



Helping families navigate the complex world of benefits, while planning for the future.



About Vista Life Innovations

Vista Life Innovations, Inc. (Vista) is accredited by the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services—offering an array of community-based services for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Vista offers a continuum of services for individuals and their families, including:

- Employment Services
- Life Skills Training
- Assessment Services
- Benefits and Advocacy Services
- Transition Services
- Educational Day Services
- Cognitive and Social Skills Development
- Social and Recreational Services
- Counseling Services
- Individualized Strategies and Coping Skills
- Arts Programming
- Community-Based Educational Opportunities

Benefits and Advocacy Overview

A program of Vista Life Innovations, Benefits and Advocacy services is available to individuals with a diagnosed disability, over the age of 18 and residing in the state of CT. The Benefits and Advocacy Department offers 3 services: Benefits Consultation, Ongoing Benefits Management and Advocacy Services. Detailed information about these services can be found in this brochure.

Vista offers these services to help individuals and their families navigate and coordinate a myriad of issues that can impact individuals with disabilities. The Benefits and Advocacy Department creates an individual benefits and advocacy profile to discern what benefits and entitlements an individual may be eligible for in their current situation. There is also a focus on future planning to ensure that as an individual ages, their needs are being met.

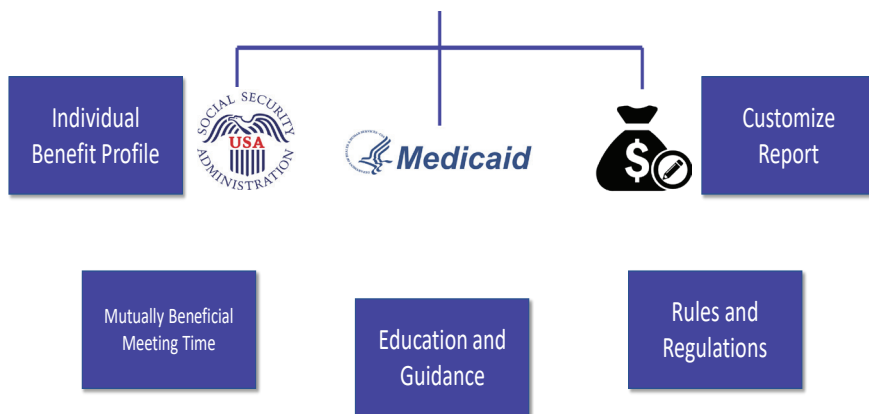
Benefits Consultation

Meet with a member of the Benefits team and receive a 2 hour assessment around an individuals current and future needs. During the Benefits Consultation you will receive the following:

- Informational handouts for reference
- Education and guidance to empower the individual to understand and manage their Social Security Programs and/or Entitlements
- A review of the rules and regulations to ensure compliance and understanding
- A detailed report outlining notes from the consultation



Benefits Consultation



*Gain peace of mind
by having Vista's
Benefits Counselors
manage ongoing
benefits and
entitlements*



Advocacy Services

Advocacy Services can include a variety of items based on the needs of the individual and the mutual goals between the family and advocate. Some of these items include:

- Manage and oversee the implementation of a life plan
- Coordinate caregivers and services, including supporting the family to hire personal care support(s)
- Oversee programs (i.e. vocational, recreational, day programs, private hires)
- Observe an individual on-site to evaluate the individual's quality of life, particularly regarding their services, programs and living environment



Advocacy Services

- Consult at least annually and regularly communicate with the individual, family members, financial representatives and service providers
- Advocate on a client's behalf when issues arise with housing, programs, service providers, etc.
- Create a budget and bill paying plan
- Assist with obtaining programs, services or resources, i.e. speech therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, support groups



Ongoing Benefits Management



Ongoing Benefits Management

Gain peace of mind by having Vista's Benefit Counselors manage ongoing benefits and entitlements. Some examples of Ongoing Benefits Management include:

- Maintain an individual's federal, state and local entitlements
- Plan, coordinate and oversee ongoing requirements from a variety of programs
- Assist individuals when applying for appropriate funding sources
- Expertise regarding overpayments and underpayments
- Oversee and communicate income and asset limits



**Set Up Online
Systems**



Apply



Collaborate



Monitor Assets



Maintain Benefits

Core Values

Respect. All people have the right to equal opportunity and to be treated with dignity.

Diversity. Differences among us bring strength, value and perspective.

Integrity. We are honest, sincere and trustworthy with each other in our decisions and actions.

Personal Development. We have high expectations for ourselves and others, encourage curiosity, and support opportunities to grow and learn.

Community & Human Connection. Relationships within our chosen communities are necessary to the human experience and create value, significance and belonging.

Leadership. We inspire, create solutions and impact others positively.

Accountability. We are responsible to each other and for the results of our actions.

Perseverance. We have the will to try and the courage to change.

Excellence. We strive to be the best we can be and take pride in achieving high standards.

Inquiry Process

To learn more about Vista's Benefits and Advocacy Program:

Inquires can be made by
visiting our website at
www.vistalifeinnovations.org or
use the QR code to fill out a
Benefits and Advocacy Inquiry Form.



At Vista Life Innovations, our Core Values describe what is important to us, and they are essential to our mission. Vista students and members, staff, community partners, and leadership, including the Board of Directors, pledge to hold true to these Core Values.



Madison Campus

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Madison, CT 06443

Westbrook Campus

1356 Old Clinton Road
Westbrook, CT 06498

Southeastern Connecticut Campus

101 West Broad Street
Pawcatuck, CT 06379



www.vistalifeinnovations.org