



## Diversion First

RESTORING HOPE, REPAIRING HARM. SERVING YOUTH SAFELY IN THE COMMUNITY.

Diversion First is part of a state-wide effort to divert youth from formal processing in the juvenile justice system for primarily low level offenses which could otherwise result in a referral to Juvenile Court and thus improving their long-term outcomes. Diversion First will utilize the Youth Diversion Team (YDT) model, Trauma-Informed Restorative Diversion, a restorative justice approach designed to focus on accountability of harm and offering supports to address underlying needs. Youth take accountability for their actions, while community accountability ensures that the youth's needs are met. The shared accountability reinforces the youth's connection to the community and engagement in pro-social behaviors.

### KEY COMPONENTS

- Participation is voluntary
- Length - 6 months
- Ages: 10-17
- Referrals accepted from Law Enforcement, Juvenile Court, and schools
- **Offense Type:** Referrals can be made for misdemeanor offenses pre- or post-arrest. Low level felonies are accepted on a case-by-case basis.
- **Location:** Community and home-based.

### Process

- Eligibility Screening
- Intake & Assessment
- Youth Diversion Team Meeting (Restorative Meeting)
- Restorative Agreement & Case Management Services
- Completion & Closure

Referral Process: Email below email address to make a referral

- Referrals accepted starting June 1, 2026
- Site 1: [Diversionfirstsite1referrals@wheelerhealth.org](mailto:Diversionfirstsite1referrals@wheelerhealth.org)
- Site 3: [Diversionfirstsite3referrals@wheelerhealth.org](mailto:Diversionfirstsite3referrals@wheelerhealth.org)

For information or to make an appointment:

#### NEW HAVEN

Ildiko Szabo, LMSW  
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[iszabo@wheelerhealth.org](mailto:iszabo@wheelerhealth.org)  
860.637.9084

#### WATERBURY

Tiyaira Jones-Gilchrist, MPA  
Program Manager  
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#### Locations

855 Lakewood Road, Waterbury, CT 06704

458 Grand Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513

#### Main Office/Mailing Address

91 Northwest Drive, Plainville, CT 06062

**Funding Source** Connecticut  
Department of Children and Families

WE SERVE YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES IN:

**Site 1:** Easton, Monroe, New Canaan, Wilton, Bethany, Milford, North Branford, North Haven and Woodbridge

**Site 2:** Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Canton, New Fairfield, Redding, Sherman, Roxbury, Warren, Washington, Oxford, Prospect, Wolcott and Wallingford

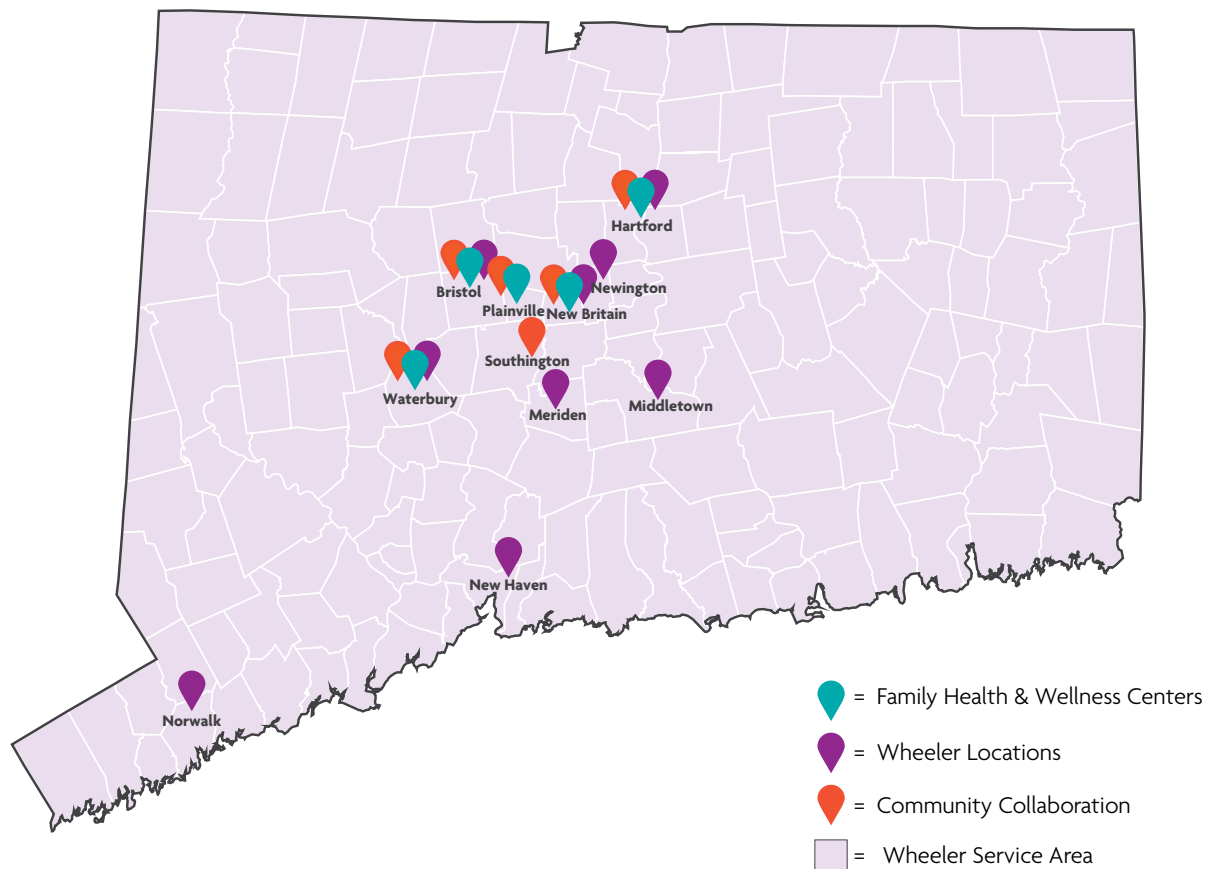
## ABOUT WHEELER

Wheeler provides comprehensive solutions that address complex health issues, providing individuals, families and communities with accessible, innovative care that encourages recovery, health and growth at all stages of life. Our integrated approach to primary and behavioral health, education and recovery creates measurable results, positive outcomes and hopeful tomorrows for more than 70,000 individuals across Connecticut each year.

## WHEELER'S CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- Driven by cutting-edge clinical innovation and use of evidence-based practices;
- Offers easy access to a comprehensive array of treatment and recovery support services that are culturally, gender, and age-responsive, trauma-informed, and build on individuals' strengths to foster resiliency and recovery;
- World-class customer care is provided in an integrated, coordinated fashion, ensuring continuity of care; and
- Partners with youth and families in yielding excellent outcomes and high client satisfaction.

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES ACROSS CONNECTICUT:



For more information about Wheeler, please call 888.793.3500 or visit [WheelerHealth.org](http://WheelerHealth.org)

Licensed or approved by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Connecticut State Department of Education, accredited by The Joint Commission.



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