



Overview of OPWDD Supports and Services

OPWDD is committed to providing a wide variety of support and service options, providing different levels of assistance to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. Most OPWDD services are funded through the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver, Community First Choice Option (CFCO), and/or State Funded Services. These services are designed to work together with natural and community supports to help people accomplish their goals and outcomes.

Self-Direction

Self-Direction provides more flexibility and gives maximum control over available supports and services. Aided by the Circle of Support, services and supports are selected to meet identified needs. With Self-Direction you can exercise decision-making authority (within HCBS Waiver guidelines) over some or all of your services.

Services that support Self-Direction include:

- **Fiscal Intermediary (FI)** - assists by billing and making payments for approved supports and services, and provides fiscal accounting, reporting, and general administrative supports.
- **Brokerage** - assists with developing the self-directed budget, assists with employer responsibilities related to self-hired staff, day-to-day management of self-directed services, and provides support and training to the individual and family regarding the ongoing decisions and tasks related to self-direction.
- **Individual Directed Goods and Services (IDGS)**- services, equipment or supplies that meet identified criteria, and are not otherwise provided through Waiver or State Funded services. These items or services meet needs identified in the Life Plan, reduce reliance on other supports and services, and increase independence.

Housing

OPWDD helps people live in apartments and homes of their own in the community, and provides certified alternatives with added supports for those needing more assistance.

Housing supports include:

- Independent Supports and Services (ISS) - Housing Subsidy- helps adults with DD live in their communities by assisting with rent and utilities in their own apartment.
- Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs) - provide room, board, services and supports in a certified, home-like environment. Some people who live in IRAs need around the clock support to meet their medical or other needs; others need less support.
- Family Care (FC) - provides community based housing in private homes that are approved and certified by OPWDD. The FC program offers a caring and stable home environment in a family home.

Employment Services

OPWDD supports people in preparing for working and volunteering in integrated community settings. These supports provide an opportunity for career exploration; identify and enhance skills, abilities and interests; and obtain and maintain competitive employment.

Employment supports include:

- Pathway to Employment (PTE) - a time-limited service that helps develop a plan for employment success. PTE uses person-centered planning to identify job interests/ goals, try various jobs to determine what works best, and learn work-related social and communication skills.
- Prevocational Services (Pre-voe) - helps people learn skills needed to maintain employment - work-related social and communication skills, task completion, time management, safety skills, etc.
- Supported Employment (SEMP) - supports people in getting and keeping paid competitive jobs in the community.
- Employment Training Program (ETP) - offers opportunity to work in a paid internship in a community business. Supports individuals with job readiness training opportunities such as conflict resolution and how to dress for work.

Habilitation Services

OPWDD helps people increase their independence, learn and keep life skills, and work toward personal goals.

Habilitation supports include:

- Community Habilitation (Comm Hab) - helps people learn and keep skills needed to increase independence, health and safety, work toward personal goals, and experience community based activities. As of 1/01/20, Comm Hab may be funded through CFCO, and would be known as Skills Acquisition, Maintenance and Enhancement, or SAME
- Day Habilitation (Day Hab) - helps people learn and keep skills needed to increase independence, participate in community activities, and work toward personal goals in a set, certified location, or in the community (referred to as Day Hab Without Walls)
- Residential Habilitation (Res Hab) - habilitation services as discussed above, delivered in certified residences such as IRAs and Family Care.

Respite

OPWDD helps families support people with developmental disabilities in their own homes by providing caregivers with needed breaks.

Respite supports include:

- In-Home Respite - respite provided in the family home or in the community.
- Site-Based Respite - respite provided in a Free-Standing Respite site, a certified temporary use bed, or a community setting, whether certified or not, that the provider pays to use.
- Recreational Respite - respite that occurs in the community with no fixed location (movie outings, ball games, shopping malls, etc.)
- Camp Respite - respite provided in a camp that possesses a permit.
- Intensive Respite - any of the respite types above may be intensive respite; intensive respite provides opportunities for individuals whose high medical or behavioral needs might otherwise preclude them.

Family Support Services (FSS)

OPWDD helps families care for their loved ones at home. These services can provide training, recreational and social activities, etc.

Family Support Services include:

- Support to manage challenging behaviors;
- Reimbursement;
- Sibling services; parent-to-parent networking; family member training.

Assistive Technology

OPWDD provides a category of services that encompasses both environmental modifications and adaptive technology.

Assistive Technology includes:

- Environmental Modifications (E-Mods) - E-Mods provide physical changes to the family home to accommodate health and safety needs. Examples include a ramp, bathroom modifications, etc.
- Vehicle Modifications (V-Mods) - V-Mods make a family vehicle accessible for the individual.
- Adaptive Technology (AT) - AT includes communication aids and adaptive devices, including aids for dining and meal preparation, and other tools to help a person live more independently.

Additional Information

Additional information regarding supports and services operated, certified, or funded by OPWDD may be found on the opwdd website: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/>

To receive updates and announcements regarding OPWDD initiatives visit:
<https://opwdd.ny.gov/form/email-sign-up/>