Pathways to Independent Living & Adult Services: OPWDD

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Our Mission

To empower people through innovative solutions one person at a time.

ADAPT's tagline is **[we change]**. Whether it is lives, communities, social attitudes or our own services, it's the most important thing we've learned to do.

Supports and Services

ADAPT Community Network is a leading non-profit organization with over 80 years of experience in creating an inclusive world for over 20,000 individuals with disabilities.

Our diverse range of programs supports individuals and families annually, addressing a wide array of disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and neuromuscular disorders, among others.

At ADAPT, we are committed to ensuring that every individual, regardless of their disability, has the opportunity to thrive and lead a fulfilling life.

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NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)



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What is OPWDD?



The New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is a NY State agency that is responsible for coordinating services for New Yorkers of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), including cerebral palsy, autism, neurological impairment, Prader-Willi Syndrome and other developmental disabilities.

It provides services directly and through a network of not-for profit provider agencies.

What does The New York State Office for People With **Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)** do?

OPWDD Oversees and monitors supports and services and assesses and connects eligible people to support that may assist them to live in their family home, live on their own in the community of their choice, work, take part in volunteer opportunities or other types of community involvement.

OPWDD also connects people to clinical or therapeutic supports.

Individuals and their families can also choose to manage their own services and manage their own staff by self directing any or all of their services.

Front Door – How do I Begin?

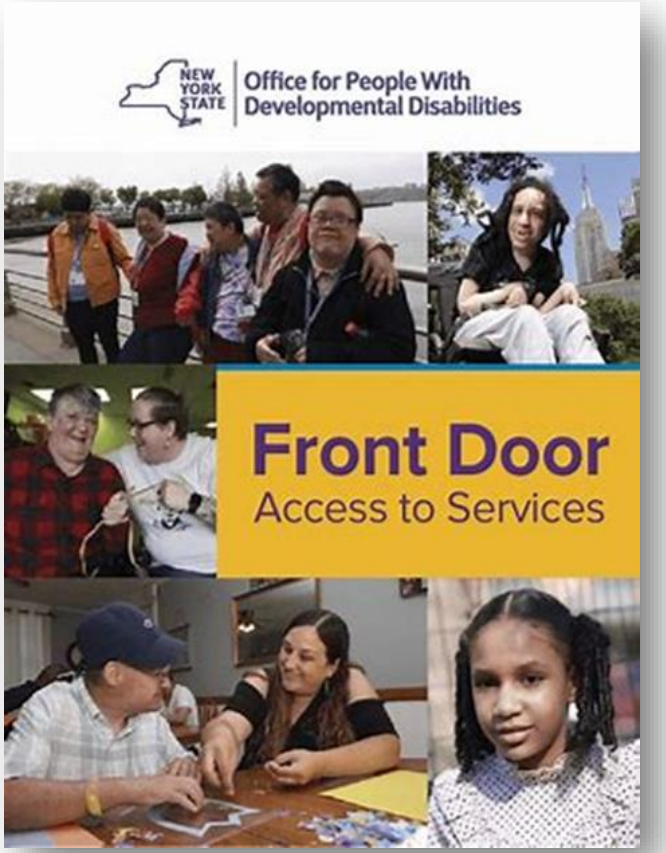
Front Door Video Series

https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started

Statewide Information Line

1-866-946-9733

Offered in a variety of languages



https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started/access-services-guide

Who is Eligible for OPWDD Services?

Qualifying Condition:
Include Intellectual Disability; Autism Spectrum Disorder; Cerebral Palsy; Epilepsy; or Neurological Impairments
(with injury, malformation, or disease in the central nervous system), or other developmental disability.

Age of Onset
Individual must have a documented diagnosis of disability before age 22.

Substantial Handicap
The disability must cause significant limitations and affect one's ability to live everyday life independently.

Indefinite Duration
The disability must be expected to continue indefinitely or permanently.

What is Needed to Apply?

- A ***psychological evaluation report*** that is within ***3 years of date*** of application. It should include a full-scale IQ score and Adaptive Behavior Scales.
- A ***psychosocial or social history evaluation report*** that is within ***1 year of date*** of application.
  - These might be included in the psychological report listed above or done with your child's school evaluations as part of the IEP process
- A ***medical report***, such as the one from the annual physical conducted for school, that is not older than 1 year.
  - For conditions other than Intellectual Disability, a medical or specialty report that includes health status and diagnostic findings to support the diagnosis.

OPWDD may also ask you for other documents or evaluations, including an IEP or an Autism specific evaluation.



ACANY
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CAREdesign
NEW YORK

A Care Coordination Organization (CCO):

- Employs Care Mangers responsible to coordinates care, combining developmental disability services and supports with health and wellness services, to ensure individuals receive comprehensive, person-centered care.

- CCOs, like those listed above, work with individuals with (I/DD) and their families to develop and implement a "Life Plan" that outlines their goals, support needs, strengths, preferences, services, providers, and safeguards.

- CCOs prioritize person-centered care, ensure integrated care.
  maintaining services such as Medicaid, SSI, SNAP and other social services, assisting with healthcare and medical appointments, self-direction, and any services identified in your Life Plan.

Home and Community-Based Services Waiver (HCBS)

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The HCBS Waiver

Home and Community-Based Services waivers or Section 1915(c)

This program allows Medicaid to cover certain services that are not typically provided under standard Medicaid and offer more flexible income requirements.

These services include:

- Community Habilitation: Skills training program
- Respite: Break for the caregiver
- Day Habilitation: Skill building, community inclusion, socialization for adults
- Supported Employment: Job acquisition and skills training

Home and Community Based Waiver Services

- Day Habilitation
- Community Habilitation
- Respite- Overnight or in-home
- Pre-vocational
- Supported Employment
- Self-Direction

- Environmental modifications
- Adaptive/Assistive technology
- Certified Residential Opportunities
- Intensive behavioral services

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Supported Employment



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Supported Employment

Employment opportunities tailored to the individual's interests, abilities, and strengths.

- Job coaching
- Job development
- Pre- employment services
- Adaptive technology
- Ongoing counseling
- Professional development



Day Habilitation



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Day Habilitation

This program is designed to empower individuals 18+ to:

Develop essential life skills

Engage in community activities

Build social connections and friendships

Develop and achieve personal goals

Foster independence.

Day Habilitation

Site Based:

Takes place at a licensed program site. Includes opportunities for community inclusion and engagement.

Without Walls (WOW):

Entirely Community-based. There may be a hub site the participants arrive and depart from.

Supplemental:

Offers extended opportunities for socialization, skill-building, and community participation. Takes place after regular day hab hours or on weekends.

Community Habilitation



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Community Habilitation Services,

This 1:1 service is designed to support children and adults to:

Develop essential life skills

Engage in community activities

Develop and achieve person goals

Foster independence.

Community Habilitation

- Com Hab is inclusive of all ages
- Takes place in person's home or in a community location
- Individualized, flexible hours, based on family's needs
- Can be utilized instead of, or in addition to day hab, employment, or school
- Family and individual have a say in hiring workers

Community Habilitation Supports Include:

-Executive Functioning Skills: plan, focus and memory

-Community Integration & Relationship Building: Enhancing connections and participation in the community.

-Communication & Social Skills Development: Building effective communication skills and making friends.

-Travel Safety & Navigation: Skills for safely traveling and navigating the community.

-Money Management & Budgeting: Learning financial skills and managing personal budgets.

-Relaxation & Coping Skills: Techniques for relaxation and managing stress. Gardening, crocheting, baking, and other personal interests.

-Technology Skills: Gaining proficiency with various technology tools.

These are just a few examples of the supports available.

Self-Direction

Self-Direction is a way for individuals and families to design and manage their own supports, instead of relying on traditional agency programs.

Increased flexibility to:

- ✓ choose the right supports
- ✓ staff you want to work with
- ✓ a schedule that works best for you.

SELF-DIRECTION

Three ways to shape your plan

Choose support at home, in the community, or across both.

Residential	**SUPPORT WITHIN THE HOME** Assistance within the home. May include services such as learning to cook, maintaining the cleanliness of an apartment, improving personal hygiene, and budgeting.
Other Than Residential (OTR)	**SUPPORT BEYOND THE HOME** Volunteer or work in the community, take college or continuing-education classes, build relationships, and join community activities.
Both	**ONE PLAN ACROSS BOTH SETTINGS** Combine Residential and OTR supports in one plan.

SELF-DIRECTION

Three partners who keep your plan moving

Each partner owns a distinct part of planning, support, and administration.

01	**Start-Up Broker**	**BUILD THE PLAN** Develops your service plan and creates the budget with you and your circle of support.
02	**Support Broker**	**KEEP THE PLAN ON TRACK** Helps maintain the plan, recruit and train staff, monitor the budget, and complete required paperwork on time.
03	**Fiscal Intermediary (FI)**	**HANDLE EMPLOYER & FISCAL DUTIES** Serves as employer of record and manages paperwork, payroll, background checks, training, accounting, and reporting.

Housing Options



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Certified Residential Opportunites

- Intermediate Care Facility: Medical Model for those with higher medical/clinical/behavioral needs
- Supervised Independent Residential Alternative (IRA): 24 hour staffing
- Supported IRA: Several hours per week of staffing

Certified Residential Opportunites

Must demonstrate need to get on waiting list

- Emergency Need (homeless, incapacitated caregiver, health/safety dangers)
- Substantial Need (facing risk of circumstances above)
- Current Need: want placement but not an immediate need or risk

OPWDD Housing Subsidy Program

(formerly known as ISS)

The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) supports people to live independently in the community by subsidizing a portion of the rent.

Individuals can choose to live alone, with roommates and/or live-in care giver.

Recipients contribute 30% of their countable income.



Eligibility



- Established Eligibility for OPWDD Services and are 18+

- Have appropriate supports services and safeguards to meet their needs and can live independently.

- Have applied for all other benefits (SSI/SSD,SNAP, HEAP etc.)
- Have applied for all city vouchers, section 8, lotteries etc. (proof required)
- Cannot be receiving any other housing subsidies.
- Have resources to cover all essentials after housing costs are paid
- Listed on a fully executed lease

Family Support Services

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What are Family Support Services

OPWDD provides a wide variety of services that help New Yorkers with developmental disabilities live richer lives within their communities. Services are provided directly by OPWDD and through a network of nonprofit agencies across the state.

OPWDD's Family Support Services (FSS) provide programs and supports to help families keep their loved ones with developmental disabilities safe and living at home.

Who is Eligible for Family Support Services

To be eligible for FSS, a person must:

1. Have established eligibility for OPWDD services; and

2. Reside at home full-time with one or more non-paid family member(s) or non-paid caregiver(s)

3. A person does not need to be enrolled in Medicaid to receive FSS

Let's review at what types of family support services (FSS) are offered through OPWDD after eligibility is established.

What services are available after eligibility is established?

Advocacy	After-School Programs	Behavioral Support	Crisis Services	Family Reimbursement
Family Counseling and Training	Information and Referral	Parent and Sibling Support Groups	Recreation/Camp	Respite
Service Access	Social Skills Training	Specialized Equipment	Home Modifications	Transportation

Family Reimbursement

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What is Family Reimbursement (FR)

Family Reimbursement, is available to families to enhance family unity and ability to provide in-home care to their family members with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Funding may only be provided after families have sought assistance through all other funding sources. This is a program of last resort.

Families can apply several times per fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th), for up to $3000 total per fiscal year. Receipts must be dated within the current fiscal year to be eligible for reimbursement.

Safety Net Service



Eligibility

- Established eligibility for OPWDD services; and
- Reside with one or more nonpaid care givers/ family members (i.e., biological, adoptive, or extended family or caregiver in the absence of biological, adoptive or extended family).
- Eligible individual may be head of household and reside with their children.
- Reside within the 5 boroughs



- Effective Date 3/13/2025: If you have CDPAP you are now eligible for reimbursement for any allowable goods or services after 3/13/2025.

FSS Spending Cap

Families may apply for up to **$3,000** of FSS reimbursement funds per contract year (Cap Varies for individual has Self-Direction)

Contract years run from:

- **July 1st – June 30th for New York City (Region 4)**



Requirements for the FSS Reimbursement Program:

- ✓ **Completed Brief Application**

- ✓ **Verification of OPWDD eligibility**
  Submit a LP if you have CM and one of the following:
  LOC, NOD or Psychological

- ✓ **Current Self Direction Budget if applicable**

- ✓ **Verification that the individual resides with family/ caregiver.**

Requirements for the FSS Reimbursement Program cont.:

- ✓ **Receipts for the items/services to be reimbursed (Dated w/in Fiscal Year) Proof of Payment for online purchases are required. (bank/credit card statements)**
- ✓ **Medicaid denial letters (for items that can be funded by Medicaid or any insurance)**
- ✓ **Medical justification letter by a licensed medical practitioner – Must substantiate the need for the item or service that is being requested.**
- ✓ **Explanation of need**

Reimbursable Goods and Services

Camp

-NYS camps ONLY, request requires camp operating permit issued by the New York State Department of Health and/or Local Department of Health pursuant to Subpart 7 of the New York State Sanitary Code (see 10 NYCRR Subpart 7).
-Overnight Camp Limited to 14 days, **Excludes all HCBS Waiver Camps**
-Self Directed Families are **not eligible** for camp



Respite – No Longer emergency only

Recreation Programs and Therapeutic Classes

-Horseback riding, swimming, art, dance & movement, music, karate, sports
-No Medical Justification Required
-Unattended or future scheduled classes are not eligible

Electronic Devices (Requires Medical Justification Letter)

- Requires clinical justification for electronic devices (e.g., tablet).
If the individual is in school a letter from the school is required to confirm their device is not for home use. Justification is required (ex. Telehealth, behavior management, education etc.)
- A tablet or iPad are only approved for augmentative and alternative communication devices.
-Eligibility for electronic devices is every three years.

Mattresses and Mattress Covers



-Eligible every 3 years, must be medically justified
-Allowable sizes twin or full

Legal Fees Related to Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts

-Process must be completed within the fiscal year.

Reimbursable Goods and Services Cont.

Clothing

Eligible expense only if related to the intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) (e.g., excessive chewing, destruction due to behavior or urination) as clinically indicated in a medical justification letter.
Ex. Prader-Willi (PRAH-dur VIL-e) syndrome, Pica, Sensory Sensitivity

Durable Medical - Covers durable medical equipment that is not covered by insurance and only considered after all other funding sources and programs have been exhausted.

Housing Assistance Services (HAS)



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Housing Assistance Services (HAS)



Housing Assistance Services (HAS) program offers case management through advocacy, information and referral services for a wide range of housing needs. Services are provided to eligible families living in any of the ***five boroughs*** who ***have a member of the household or head of household who is OPWDD eligible***

The most common requests are for:

- Assistance finding low income, affordable, or accessible housing.
- Referrals for rent arrears and pest control assistance.
- Information on eviction process and housing court.
- Learn your rights under the ADA

Program Services



Housing Advocates: Each family is assigned a Housing Advocate who works with the family to meet their housing needs. Housing Advocates provide information, advocacy, resources and act as liaisons to outside agencies.



Housing Webinars: Free webinars covering a multitude of housing related topics offered to the public on a quarterly basis.

Housing Newsletter: Free newsletter featuring articles discussing housing resources and featuring a HAS family story.

Bilingual Staff: We have Spanish-speaking staff available and use Language Line for additional translation services.

Doorways to Independence (Home Modifications)



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Doorways to Independence (Home Modification)

Provides home modification and home repair services to persons with developmental disability disabilities, OPWDD services and Seniors (62+)

Homeowners, co-op owners, and renters may qualify for assistance.

ADAPT oversee OPWDD grant that administer home modifications and home repairs.

Please note that we **do not** provide financial assistance to cover the cost of modifications or repairs within the home.

OPWDD Grant Family Support Services

➢**OPWDD Family Support Services Grant**

Family Supports and Services contract for individuals diagnosed with a developmental disability who live at home and seniors

- Services are available in Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, Manhattan, and SI
- Applicant must reside with his/her family
- Homeowners & Renters may qualify for assistance
- Must be diagnosed with developmental disability and be eligible for services through OPWDD
- Have a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income
- Applicant with self-direction must have funds in Home Modification and Repairs/ADAPT in his/her budget
- Allocation of funds may vary by borough

Type of Modifications



Home Modifications







Home enabling supports
service summary

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Home Enabling Supports

ADAPT Community Network (ADAPT) is one of eight providers across New York State that has been selected by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to offer a new Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Waiver service called Home Enabling Supports (HES).

This service provides access to assistive and enabling technologies to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) living at home or in the community in order to foster independence, increase safety, improve health outcomes, support community participation, and minimize reliance on staff.

- ADAPT's service geography includes the five boroughs on New York City: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

Respite



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Respite

Respite services provide temporary relief from the demands of care giving, which can help reduce overall family stress.

Respite can be provided in the home or out of the home, during the day, evenings or overnight.

Project Connect

Project Connect is your information and referral resource for assistance and support accessing services at ADAPT Community Network. Our experts also provide information and referral services to organizations outside of ADAPT that serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the five boroughs.

Project Connect Information Line:
877-827-2666

Projectconnect@adaptcommunitynetwork



Agency Main Site:

https://www.adaptcommunitynetwork.org



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