

GETTING HELP THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

DECEMBER 17, 2019



OVERVIEW OF OPWDD

- THE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OPWDD) IS THE NEW YORK STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERSIGHT OF SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY
- OPWDD HAS REGIONAL OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE CALLED DDROs

OVERVIEW OF OPWDD (cont'd)

- MISSION: WE HELP PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LEAD RICHER LIVES

SUPPORTS & SERVICES

- SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY ARE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT NYS BY A WIDE VARIETY OF PUBLIC & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

- NYS OPWDD USES THE MENTAL HYGIENE LEGAL DEFINITION OF A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.
- THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA MUST ALL BE MET IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES.

1. DIAGNOSED DISABILITY

- THERE MUST BE A DIAGNOSIS OF A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY INCLUDING:
- INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY
- CEREBRAL PALSY
- EPILEPSY
- AUTISM
- NEUROLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT
- FAMILIAL DYSAUTONOMIA

2. AGE OF ONSET

- The diagnosis of one of the above disabilities needs to have occurred prior to age 22

3. LONG TERM DIAGNOSIS

- **THE DISABILITY HAS CONTINUED OR IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.**

4. SUBSTANTIAL DEFICIT IN FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES

- THE DISABILITY RESULTS IN SIGNIFICANT DEFICITS IN THE MAJORITY OF LIFE SKILL AREAS INCLUDING SELF CARE SKILLS, COMMUNICATION, MOBILITY, & SOCIALIZATION.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

- THE INITIAL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS IS COMPLETED BY THE LOCAL DDRO IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RESIDES
- IN ORDER TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED:
- COMPREHENSIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION INCLUDING A VALID IQ TEST AND ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR SCALE; PSYCHOSOCIAL EVALUATION & DOCUMENTATION OF AGE OF ONSET.

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

- CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DDRO FOR ASSISTANCE
- ELIGIBILITY PROCESS IS A 3 STEP PROCESS CONDUCTED BY THE LOCAL DDRO AND REGIONAL OFFICES.
- SOMETIMES ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION MAY BE NEEDED.
- ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES MAY BE RE-EVALUATED AT TIMES.

TYPES OF SERVICES

- CARE COORDINATION
- FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES
 - ADVOCACY
 - FAMILY REIMBURSEMENT
 - RESPITE/RECREATION
 - CRISIS INTERVENTION
 - INFORMATION & REFERRAL

WAIVER SERVICES

- MANY SUPPORTS & SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN NYS THROUGH A MEDICAID WAIVER, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SEVERAL WAIVER PROGRAMS, THE NYS HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVER IS THE LARGEST.
- FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 APPLYING FOR WAIVER SERVICES, PARENTAL INCOME IS WAIVED

HCBS WAIVER SERVICES

- COMMUNITY HABILITATION
- DAY HABILITATION
- RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
- SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT
- PRE-VOCATIONAL SERVICES
- RESPITE
- FAMILY EDUCATION & TRAINING
- PLAN OF CARE SUPPORTS SERVICES
- OTHER

How to Access Services

- OPWDD currently has a centralized process for accessing services called The Front Door.
- If you have a care manager speak with him/her to assist in accessing services
- If you do not have a care manager, contact the Front Door office in the borough of your residence.

Front Door Contact Numbers

- Bronx – 718 430-0757
- Brooklyn – 718 642-8576
- Manhattan – 646 766-3220
- Queens – 718 217 6485
- Staten Island – 718 982-1913

OTHER RESOURCES

- OPWDD : opwdd.ny.gov
- FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORIES
 - Manhattanddcouncil.org
 - Brooklynddcouncil.org
 - Bronxddcouncil.org
 - Qcddny.org
 - Siddc.org