

OPWDD

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

SERVICES THAT ARE OFFERED THROUGH OPWDD

Self-direction

Respite

Assistive Technologies

Environmental Modifications

Crisis Services

Employment

Day services

Housing

SELF DIRECTION

Self-Direction gives you the chance to choose your own services so you can live the life you want.

- ❑ By self-directing your services, you have more flexibility to choose the right supports for you, the staff you want to work with, and a schedule that works best for YOU.
- ❑ With help from your Care Manager and the people who support you, YOU choose the services you want and need.
- ❑ YOU choose the staff you want to work with.
- ❑ YOU hire and supervise your staff.
- ❑ Self-Direction gives YOU more control over how you structure your life.

If you are eligible for OPWDD services and enrolled in the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver, you can choose Self-Direction.

What are Home and Community Based Services?

Home and community based services (HCBS) provide opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive services in their own home or community rather than institutions or other isolated settings.

SUPPORT BROKER

What is a Support Broker?

If you want to control how the funds in your budget are spent, you can hire a Support Broker to help you. Your Broker will build a self-directed budget WITH YOU based on the services and supports you need. Your Broker can also help you develop a plan to work towards outcomes you want to achieve in life.

RESPIT

Caring for others, while rewarding, can also be exhausting.

Respite services provide temporary relief from the demands of caregiving, 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.

Respite is an “indirect” service that provides relief to people who are responsible for the primary care and support of a person with a developmental disability.

ASSISTED
TECHNOLOGY
ADAPTIVE DEVICES

Assistive technology -- adaptive devices -- are aids, controls, appliances or supplies of either a communication or adaptive type, which are necessary to enable you to increase or maintain your ability to live at home and in the community with independence and safety.

To eligible for Assistive Technology services through OPWDD, you must be enrolled in the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver or the Children's Waiver. For further information, please talk with your care manager.

[Children's Waiver](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL
MODIFICATION
E-MODS

Environmental modifications (E-Mods) are physical adaptations to the home that can increase or maintain your ability to live at home with independence. These improvements will address any safety issues you have. Environmental modifications include, but are not limited to: ramps, lifts, hand rails and bathroom modifications (such as roll-in showers).

To be eligible for E-Mod services through OPWDD, you must be enrolled in the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver or the Children's Waiver.

CRISIS SERVICES

Crisis Services for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (CSIDD) offers crisis prevention and response services to people who have both developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs, as well as to their families and those who provide supports.

Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to OPWDD eligible individuals age 6 and over who meet CSIDD eligibility.

CSIDD Teams provide the following services:

- Community partnerships and systems linkages
- Systemic and clinical consultation and training
- Community training and education
- Clinical Education Team training meetings
- Cross Systems Crisis Prevention and Intervention Planning
- Mobile crisis support and response for individuals enrolled in CSIDD services
- Outreach and follow up; and
- Comprehensive Service Evaluation

AS YOU GET OLDER THESE ARE
ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Employment, Day Services and Housing

EMPLOYMENT

Pathway to Employment

Identify the career:

This program is available to people who are interested in competitive employment or self-employment including people who receive Day Habilitation, Pre-Vocational and Supported Employment services, as well as students leaving high school and others.

Plan for paid employment:

Within 12 months, a participant will have a documented career goal; a detailed career plan used to guide their employment supports; and preparation for supported employment services. Participants will look for a job paying the state minimum wage or higher.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for Pathway to Employment, an individual needs to be enrolled in the Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBS). To enroll, discuss Pathway to Employment with your Care Manager.

DAY SERVICES

A range of day programs is available to individuals with developmental disabilities. Each is focused on giving participants the personal, social and vocational supports needed to live in their community. Programming varies depending upon each individual's needs and interests.

Community Habilitation:

This service helps you learn and keep the skills you need to live safely and more independently, meet people, make and keep friends, take part in community events and be part of your community. Community Habilitation is for people who do not live in an OPWDD certified or operated home.

Day Habilitation:

These programs are offered to people regardless of where they live. They take place outside your home, usually at a certified site in the community or even in the community, called Day Hab Without Walls.

HOUSING

OPWDD provides supports for you to live at home or in a home in your community so you can be as independent as possible.

Depending upon your needs, you could:

- Live with your family in your family home with the right supports, such as respite and community habilitation.
- Live independently with assistance, in your own apartment or house. You can also have a live-in caregiver. Housing subsidies are available to help you manage the costs of your home or apartment.
- Paid Neighbor provides help to you when you need it, for certain tasks or dealing with problems. They are "on-call" to help you.
- Family Care is living with another family, participating in all the things that families do.
- In some circumstances, depending upon your level of need, you may need to live in a group home with other people with developmental disabilities.

HOW TO ENROLL IN OPWDD

To apply, GATHER YOUR DOCUMENTS. The documents needed are listed below

1. OPWDD Eligibility form, which is online at: [eligibility form](#)
2. A psychological assessment that shows your child has one of the disabilities listed on page 1. This evaluation must be less than 3 years old. It should include:
 - Adaptive Behavior Scales (such as the Vineland II or ABAS)
 - I.Q. testing (such as the WISC-IV, WAIS-IV or Stanford Binet V)
 - A written summary explaining the results from the person who did the testing (called a “narrative”)
3. A Social History or a Psychosocial
 - These might be included in the psychological report listed above or done with your child’s school evaluations as part of the IEP process
 - Must be less than 1 year old
4. Medical Report
 - If your child has a diagnosis besides intellectual disability, you will also need a Medical or Specialty report that includes your child’s diagnosis
 - Must be less than 1 year old

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

CONTACTS

Contacts:

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Front Door Office Upper Hudson Valley

845-473-5050 ext. 167

Counties served: Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Ulster

Sasha Greenspan, LMSW

Beacon City School District

Forrestal Elementary School

845-838-6900 ext. 5642