



NYS Office of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities

Putting People First

OMRDD Budget Briefing Booklet

Fiscal Year 2008-09

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During the past year, the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) advanced Governor Spitzer's vision of One New York by moving forward on creating new opportunities to support people with developmental disabilities that truly ***"put people first."***

As an important first step, OMRDD's mission was redefined simply and powerfully as ***helping people with developmental disabilities lead richer lives*** by focusing on four basic person-centered outcomes:

- Living in the home of their choice and participating fully in their communities;
- Working or engaging in activities that contribute to their personal growth and to their communities;
- Having meaningful relationships with friends, family and others in their lives; and
- Having good health.

To support these outcomes, the 2008-09 Executive Budget Recommendation:

- Puts people first, providing opportunities through individualized services while creating an environment of fiscal prudence and accountability.
- Promotes cross-agency collaboration that creates integrated solutions to help build One New York.
- Initiates Medicaid rationalization and restructuring which result in efficiencies through both internal and collaborative efforts.
- Enhances the capacity of the internal workforce and organization as well as our partnerships with various stakeholders, including individuals with developmental disabilities, families, and nonprofit providers and their workforces.

OMRDD relies on strong partnerships with self-advocates and nonprofit providers, as well as with parents and family members who are dedicated to bringing the best possible supports and services to their loved ones. The strength and commitment of these partnerships, paired with a new vision and leadership at OMRDD, will result in moving the system towards more high quality person-centered services that focus on outcomes that meet each person's individual needs.

Key Executive Budget Recommendations include:

Downsizing and Redefining Institutional Capacity

The 2008-09 Executive Budget Recommendation provides broader support and service options for individuals and families seeking greater independence and choice focused on the four major outcomes. The heart of OMRDD's mission is to provide individuals access to supports and services, including a home in the community. This will be accomplished for people now living in institutional settings through downsizing and redefining institutional capacity. OMRDD's institutional capacity is comprised of both developmental centers and a number of specialized units.

As the first step in a multi-year plan to downsize and potentially close developmental centers, OMRDD has initiated the transition of the majority of individuals residing in the Western NY Developmental Center to community living. This transition will occur over several years; will allow nearly 80 people to live in a more integrated setting in the community; and will result in closure of this campus. The rundown and potential closure of the remaining developmental centers, where over 400 individuals currently live, will also begin in 2008-09, using homes operated by both the state and by nonprofit providers.

In addition, the 2008-09 Executive Budget Recommendation supports the development of residential opportunities in the community for people living in other institutional settings, such as nursing homes and OMRDD specialized behavioral units, and those who are dually diagnosed with mental illness and have a developmental disability. These resources will help individuals with developmental disabilities who also have high medical needs or challenging behaviors, achieve the greater independence and choice that comes with living in the community.

In redefining institutional capacity and transitioning individuals into community settings, OMRDD will also remain committed to the staff who provide services to them. This not only assures continuity of the relationships that have been developed, which is so important for individuals who have developmental disabilities, but also assures continuity of employment for our valuable workforce. This is covered in more detail in the STATE OPERATIONS section of the Briefing Book.

Rebalancing the Base Service Portfolio to Increase Options

The 2008-09 Executive Budget Recommendation begins a multiyear process of rebalancing base resources to rely more on options that promote independence and more person-centered choice and less on traditional capital and staff-intensive residential and day services. This rebalancing, while not diminishing OMRDD's commitment to offering appropriate numbers of traditional residences and programs, is the leading edge of a transformation that will provide enhanced support of service options for individuals and families seeking greater independence and greater choice. Greater reliance on the use of natural supports is a critical aspect of this transformation. The rebalancing will also support reinvestments into more person-centered, innovative and efficient service initiatives. These include addressing urgent needs like additional

family supports, including crisis intervention, respite services, and services to address challenging behaviors, including those related to autism and autism spectrum disorders.

In the forefront of efforts to rebalance the service portfolio is New York State – Creating Alternatives in Residential Environments and Services (NYS-CARES). The NYS-CARES initiative is a bold, comprehensive, multiyear plan to address the needs of people with developmental disabilities who are seeking out-of-home residential services. NYS-CARES responds to the concerns of parents, advocates and other caregivers, many of them elderly, who fear their loved ones will not have a safe and appropriate place to live when they can no longer care for them. NYS-CARES, as a far-sighted solution to the need for out-of-home residential supports and services, is nationally recognized in the developmental disabilities field and remains unrivaled among state plans in scope and comprehensiveness.

NYS-CARES is also a true partnership among government, citizens and nonprofit agencies. Individuals with developmental disabilities and parents are involved in advisory committees at the state and local levels to ensure that the services provided are the ones that Self-Advocates and their families want. The 2007-08 Budget supported a third phase expansion, called NYS-CARES III, by adding 1,000 new residential, 200 new day and 2,500 new at-home residential habilitation opportunities over a five year period. By the end of the 2008-09 fiscal year, approximately 16,500 individuals will have received out-of-home residential supports and services through NYS-CARES.

In allocating the new resources associated with NYS-CARES III and with the expectation that families and individuals with developmental disabilities are at the center or core of development, OMRDD will be encouraging the growth of supportive and other less than 24-hour residential options for individuals who are interested in living as independently as possible. While this is clearly not an option for everyone and traditional supervised residential supports and services will continue to be available for those who need it, OMRDD and its nonprofit service providers must champion individual choice and self-determination as life choices when developing and implementing residential supports and services.

Transforming the system and rebalancing the portfolio of supports and services is also being accomplished through funds awarded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a “Real Choice Systems Change Grant for Community Living.” The five-year funding of nearly \$3 million has helped OMRDD develop a strategic plan to transform the long-term care system for individuals with developmental disabilities into a system that centers supports around an individual’s distinct vision for his or her life rather than around a particular program, service or funding stream. Implementing this plan will enhance person-centered values, equity of access, and cultural diversity. The expected outcome will be more person-centered and individualized supports and services that, in the words of one self-advocate, will feel more “like a life,” and less like “a program.”

Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Living with their Families

Families often do not know where to turn in a time of crisis or when faced with the challenging behaviors of loved ones with developmental disabilities. Sometimes the only option in a crisis situation is a costly out-of-home residential opportunity, a solution that does not serve the family well and may be fiscally imprudent. With appropriate

community supports and services, most individuals with developmental disabilities and their families can work through a crisis, maintaining the family unit and averting an out-of-home residential opportunity.

Currently the Family Support Services program assists more than 42,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families, enabling individuals to remain at home through the provision of nearly 66,000 individualized supports and services. These include respite, crisis intervention, case management, recreation and home care. Responding to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, the 2008-09 Executive Budget Recommendation provides \$5 million (full annual) in new resources to expand respite and crisis services to 3,000 families. In addition, the demand for supports and services for individuals with autism continues to increase. In addition, there is new funding to support the expansion of services for individuals with autism. This is discussed below.

In an effort to meet the growing demand for respite, an additional \$10 million (gross, full annual value) is recommended for Home and Community Based Services Waiver respite services. It is anticipated that more than 1,600 individuals will be served with this additional funding.

Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders

The Executive Budget continues to fund both research and services for individuals within the autism spectrum. The appropriate treatment and care of individuals diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are critical issues for OMRDD, and the agency is responding with a comprehensive platform of research, service development and informational initiatives. Building on \$5 million available in Family Support Services (FSS) funding targeted to the needs of people with autism and autism spectrum disorders, the 2008-09 Executive Budget Recommendation supports an additional \$2 million (full annual) to continue to expand the focus on family supports for individuals with autism and other challenging behaviors.

The Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR), OMRDD's research arm, has launched a new Autism Treatment Research Laboratory staffed with national experts in autism research and treatment and continues to pursue a wide range of scientific research into the causes, manifestations and treatment of ASD. IBR is also collaborating with universities and service providers in the development of more than 20 new state and voluntary operated residential opportunities across the state for individuals with autism. IBR research will directly enhance services provided in the new homes being developed as well as future treatment and service practices for both children and adults.

OMRDD is also working with its sister agencies to develop coordinated systems of care to support those with ASD across their entire lives. OMRDD will work closely with other state agencies toward this end. Finally, to ensure that the best knowledge and practices developed through its research and partnerships reach the New Yorkers who need it, OMRDD has committed to undertake a statewide informational campaign. This initiative will carry the most current and most useful information to families, providers, schools, and advocates across the state.

Enhancements to At-Home Residential Habilitation and Supported Employment

A crucial element in rebalancing the service system is focusing on options that allow individuals with developmental disabilities to stay at home and become more integrated into their communities. This will be a top priority of OMRDD over the next several years. The Executive Budget Recommendation provides the funding and the mechanisms designed to achieve those goals. Enhancing the reimbursement of At-Home Residential Habilitation supports and services and offering a self-directed option will promote greater use of this service. At-Home Residential Habilitation provides supports and services needed to keep people living in their own home, thus preserving the family unit and avoiding an undesired and more costly out-of-home residential opportunity.

Of the more than 70,000 OMRDD day services provided for individuals with developmental disabilities who receive OMRDD day services, only 12 percent are for competitive employment. Enhancing supported employment funding and creatively reinvesting existing resources will enable nonprofit providers to make additional supports available and provide an incentive for starting or expanding supported employment. The end result will be increased employment and personal growth for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Executive Budget Recommendation supports an initiative to increase Supported Employment payments to encourage expansion of this program. This will allow individuals with developmental disabilities -- currently receiving supports and services in sheltered workshops, prevocational or day habilitation -- to have the additional supports needed to succeed in an integrated work environment. Helping individuals with developmental disabilities achieve the goal of earning a paycheck and feeling valued as a contributing member of the community, is central to OMRDD's mission.

OMRDD has also created a series of paid internships with various employers to allow people with developmental disabilities to gain valuable work training and experience that hopefully will eventually lead to a competitive employment position. Each intern is matched to an employment opportunity that makes maximum use of the individual's abilities. By 3/31/08, approximately 120 self-advocates will be working in the program. In 2008-09, OMRDD plans to add 128 new internships.

Recognizing and Supporting the Direct Support Professional Workforce

Recognizing that a stable and well-trained direct support professional workforce is essential to providing high quality person centered supports and services, OMRDD will continue and expand its efforts to professionalize this workforce of more than 60,000 through enhanced and more standardized training and educational opportunities.

In 2006, the CMS awarded OMRDD a grant of technical assistance to research the best ways to further support the direct support professional workforce. The National Direct Service Workforce Resource Center is providing technical assistance to OMRDD focusing on best practices in training and curricula, recruitment and retention, and job design, training and supervision for workers employed by self-directing individuals. Provider associations, self-advocates, family members, and agency staff are working together to review the development and implementation of the grant activities.

Research reinforces the availability of professional growth, career ladders and certification programs as mechanisms to increase the retention of this valuable

workforce. To that end OMRDD is evaluating use of the National College of Direct Support online training as a supplement to traditional training venues. Certification programs offered by several downstate universities have been successful in providing professional growth opportunities for the direct support professional. Also, the Executive Budget Recommendation continues support of the \$2.5 million funded in the current year for a demonstration program, with a dozen or so grants to be awarded that are aimed at enhancing the quality of care through improved direct support professional recruitment and retention.

The Executive Budget Recommendation also includes resources that, in addition to covering inflationary cost increases, can be used to support enhancements to the salaries and benefits of the direct support professionals to assist in recruitment and retention efforts. A 3.52 percent trend factor will be provided in the Intermediate Care Facility (ICF/MR), Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver, Supported Employment, and Family Care programs. Additional funding for this trend factor is also recognized for Medicaid-funded services developed through the NYS-CARES and NYS-OPTS initiatives. For non-trended programs, a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of about 3.2% will be provided. Programs to receive a COLA include Family Support Services, Sheltered Workshops, Community Residences, Article 16 Clinics, Day Treatment and Day Training.

Finally, to bolster OMRDD's focus on the Workforce, a new Division of Workforce and Talent Management has been established and will become operational in early 2008. An Advisory Committee on OMRDD Talent Management will also be established to garner expertise from the field, research institutes, universities and other centers of excellence. This Committee will partner with self-advocate and parent representatives to chart a future course to achieve a high quality, stable and valued workforce.

Collaboration is Key

Effective collaboration among government agencies is essential to ensuring that people get the services they need, and that they receive those services in a coordinated and cost-effective manner. For example, individuals with developmental disabilities are entitled to receive services from the educational, health, mental health, and social service agencies at the local, state and federal level.

OMRDD has established strong partnerships with its sister agencies in several critical areas. Working jointly with the Department of Health (DOH), OMRDD is identifying areas for potential reform, restructuring, and reinvestment of its services and payments. OMRDD's focus in this effort is to support the right services for the right people and exact efficiencies that are consistent with good business practice, good public policy, managed growth, and fiscal accountability. OMRDD is further supporting DOH by encouraging and fostering the enrollment of eligible children in the Child Health Plus Program.

OMRDD has long been concerned about the appropriateness and cost of children with developmental disabilities living in out-of-state residential schools. In 2008-09, OMRDD is continuing a joint effort with the State Education Department (SED) to develop in-state residential and educational opportunities for those children living out-of-state, or who are at risk of being placed in an out-of-state school.

OMRDD has a long history of working closely with the Office of Mental Health (OMH) -- especially in transitioning individuals living in OMH facilities who are dually diagnosed with mental illness and developmental disabilities, to OMRDD residential settings. In a major cross-agency initiative, OMRDD and OMH began joint problem-solving efforts to identify and offer supports and services in the community that minimized the need for hospitalization or other institutionalization.

In addition, OMRDD supports the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASAS) in its efforts to combat Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and collaborates with the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to create cross-systems solutions for children and youth in foster care who have developmental disabilities.

Ensuring that the Highest Quality Supports and Services are being provided

Nearly 140,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities now receive some level of supports and services through OMRDD's network of nonprofit providers and its state operated programs. Each of those services must be distinguished by high quality, "rightness for the individual," and enhancement of their everyday life.

The quality of the services are ensured by OMRDD's Division of Quality Management, which is comprised of professional staff with specialized training and expertise who visit each and every certified site annually to observe program quality and assess individual satisfaction. Any problems identified are immediately addressed; meeting the needs of the people served is the primary goal. While OMRDD's Division of Quality Management has been considered one of the best in the country, we will continue to seek ways to further our goal of ensuring the delivery of the highest quality of person-centered supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities. As part of OMRDD's organizational restructuring, a stronger emphasis will be placed on supporting outcomes for the individual, quality improvement, and providing new training and technical assistance to service providers.

As large as the service system is, there is no room for a cookie cutter approach to meeting individual needs and desires. Although services are person-centered, they have a common denominator -- a standard of excellence that assures they are of consistent high quality.

Responsibility and Accountability

OMRDD recognizes that providing high quality supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities demands an appropriate level of personal responsibility and fiscal accountability, especially given the number of people receiving or in need of OMRDD services.

Regarding personal responsibility, OMRDD recognizes the need to insure that nonprofit providers, parents, families, advocates and the individual with developmental disabilities receiving or seeking supports and services funded by Medicaid or Medicare, fully understand that individual responsibility cannot be lost or dismissed in the process. All who participate in the process, not just State government and the nonprofit provider, are responsible for the outcomes. Beginning in the current fiscal year and carrying over into 2008-09, OMRDD and its partnering nonprofit provider associations and their members,

have set in motion plans that will not only require families and individuals with developmental disabilities to apply for benefits (Medicaid, Medicare, etc.), but will educate and assist them to do so when seeking supports and services funded by Medicaid and/or Medicare. This action has begun to generate savings in the current fiscal year and will produce significant on-going savings over the next several years.

OMRDD recognizes the need for a strong focus on fiscal accountability, given the significant level of resources under OMRDD's stewardship -- funding supports and services to nearly 140,000 individuals with developmental disabilities delivered by OMRDD and over 700 nonprofit providers. To this end, OMRDD has worked with the provider community to ensure that clear billing and documentation standards are established and that appropriate training is provided on these standards. In addition, OMRDD, working closely with the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General, conducts on-site billing and claiming reviews and manages a calendar of 70 desk reviews to ensure appropriate billing.

Rationalizing/Reforming/Restructuring Medicaid Funding of Services

In support of the Governor's Health Care Reform efforts, and in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) and its various stakeholders, OMRDD will expand its focus on rationalizing, reforming and restructuring Medicaid funding of services. The Executive Budget Recommendation calls for a multiyear effort for OMRDD to rationalize and reform its financial platform through a series of rate/price setting restructurings beginning with under-31-bed Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) services, HCBS Waiver day habilitation services and Article 16 clinic services. In addition, OMRDD will be evaluating and modifying, where appropriate, the levels of administrative reimbursement in all rate/price/fee based programs. It is anticipated that these restructuring efforts will produce significant savings and efficiencies while supporting the program direction of OMRDD.

Lastly, OMRDD is also collaborating with DOH and its sister agencies, OMH and OASAS, on rationalizing the licensure and utilization of clinics. The Executive Budget Recommendation provides the funding for OMRDD to implement the necessary actions resulting from this interagency collaboration.

State Operation Efficiencies

OMRDD has initiated a review of its workforce deployment and the level of overtime being utilized at each district office. The agency will seek to develop alternate deployment strategies utilizing best practices learned from the review. Accordingly, the Executive Budget Recommendation anticipates savings in State Operations related to a reduction in overtime hours in the coming fiscal year.

Non-personal service savings are also expected to be achieved through enhanced expenditure controls and from the conversion of contract resources to less costly State staff.

Changing the Organization to Support Achievement of Goals

OMRDD has embarked on an ambitious agenda. This agenda is moving forward as the process of reenergizing and refocusing the agency's leadership and high performance

management capacity is being restructured to support it. Business process analyses and reengineering activities are being used to reduce inefficiencies and increase performance. This includes a stronger emphasis on workforce training and talent management, strengthening and expanding quality management functions to enhance service quality and delivery, and expanding the use of Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises. The process also addresses emerging priorities for OMRDD which include: performance measurement, enhanced workforce diversity, development and training for both state and voluntary workforces, reimbursement reform, improved interagency collaboration, and true program reform. The outcome of these actions will be realized in more individualized and integrated services for people with developmental disabilities, in better opportunities for the workforce, and in improved processes for service providers.

2008-09 Operating Budget

OMRDD's all funds 2008-09 Fiscal Year operating Budget is more than \$4.2 billion

Operating Budget	Available 2007-08	Available 2008-09	Difference
Aid to Localities	\$2,072,258,500	\$2,261,268,000	\$189,009,500
State Operations	1,465,083,000	1,976,645,000*	511,562,000*
Totals	\$3,537,341,500	\$4,237,913,000	\$700,571,500

*The State Operations total includes the addition of approximately \$500 million in fringe benefits, to more appropriately recognize the costs while increasing budget transparency. It does not include any salary adjustments related to collective bargaining agreements.

Specifics of the Executive Budget Recommendation

AID TO LOCALITIES

This Executive Budget Recommendation translates to opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to receive nearly 5,200 new voluntary operated residential and day supports and services in the coming fiscal year. Supports and services to be provided through NYS-OPTS will further increase this total by as many as 1,000.

Developmental Center Reduction and Closure

The Executive Budget Recommendation recognizes the role of nonprofits in developmental center downsizing by supporting the development of 75 new community

residential opportunities each year, for a total of 225 opportunities over a three-year period, beginning in 2008-09.

NYS-OPTS

During early 2007, New York State – Options for People through Services (NYS-OPTS) served as the basis for advancing new and creative opportunities and supports for people with developmental disabilities. In response to comments from individuals with developmental disabilities, families and nonprofit service providers, OMRDD used the knowledge gained through OPTS to develop a new, district-based process to advance the goals sought by stakeholders:

- to reestablish local priorities as a factor in service design;
- to ensure a fair, equitable and inclusive process for identifying those local priorities, and;
- to determine an appropriate distribution of resources for local priorities.

To ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families would be able to continue many of the projects they had worked to develop, most OPTS applications that had not advanced too far through the process were returned to the districts for consideration, with a funding allocation to be distributed by the districts.

The “retirement” of OPTS signals a new beginning. The shift toward decentralization offers the opportunity to demonstrate a strengthened commitment to OMRDD’s core value of ***putting people first***. By involving stakeholders in open, equitable, and transparent processes designed to address statewide and local priorities, OMRDD will encourage the development of innovative, cost effective individualized supports and services that bring together the Agency’s guiding principles with the flexibility and responsiveness of decentralized decision-making.

NYS-CARES

This nationally recognized program began as a multiyear approach designed to meet the out-of-home residential needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are waiting to move into their own homes. Its tremendous success resulted in it being codified in law, thus assuring families and individuals with developmental disabilities that the supports and services they need will be there when they need them. A second phase of the NYS-CARES program extended the commitment to providing residential, day, at-home and family support services to those in need for another 10 years; OMRDD is currently entering the sixth year of this 10-year phase. Governor Spitzer’s support in 2007-08 of a third phase of the NYS-CARES initiative (NYS-CARES III) has provided 1,000 new residential, 200 new day and 2,500 new at-home residential opportunities over a five-year period. The NYS-CARES III initiative emphasizes the development of creative residential options, such as supportive residences and other settings that do not require 24-hour supervision. By March 31, 2009, NYS-CARES will have provided nearly 16,500 new out-of-home residential opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Community Services

Governor Spitzer continues to support new residential and day support and service opportunities to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are aging out of their State funded educational program. Funding of \$73 million (full annual, all shares) is available to support the development of 140 new residential, 890 new day service opportunities, 750 new supported employment opportunities, and funding to support as many as 186 new, in-state residential opportunities that will continue the commitment established under Billy's Law.

Services to Support Children with Special Needs

At forums and other public sessions held throughout the State, specialized children's services were highlighted as requiring expansion to meet existing and future need. OMRDD heard the voices of parents and family members who advocated on behalf of these children. This Budget supports the continued development of residential and other programs statewide to serve children with developmental disabilities who have intensive medical or behavioral needs, including those related to autism, and to address the needs of other young people who are eligible for OMRDD services, particularly those who are currently being served out-of-state.

OMRDD is working collaboratively with other state agencies to ensure the smooth transition of children aging out of school settings into adult services. In this vein, OMRDD assisted OCFS to develop its Bridges to Health waiver program for foster children with disabilities. OMRDD will continue to provide technical assistance as the program is implemented, and work with OCFS to transition children with developmental disabilities into OMRDD services as they leave foster care.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

More than 61,000 individuals with developmental disabilities are currently enrolled in the HCBS Waiver. This makes New York State's the largest HCBS Waiver program in the nation. Of the more than 61,000 individuals with developmental disabilities enrolled in the Waiver, more than half, or 32,000, live at home.

\$914.2 million (State share) in Aid to Localities funding is available for supports and services developed through the HCBS Waiver. These supports and services include, but are not limited to, Residential Habilitation, Day Habilitation, Pre-Vocational, Supported Employment, Consolidated Support Services (CSS), Respite, Family Education and Training, Environmental Modifications, and Adaptive Technologies.

In an effort to meet the growing demand for respite, an additional \$10 million (gross, full annual value) is recommended for Home and Community Based Services Waiver respite services. It is anticipated that more than 1,600 individuals will be served with this additional funding.

Individualized Support Services

Funding of \$8.4 million (State share) is available to continue supporting more than 1,900 individuals with developmental disabilities, enabling them to live as independently as possible in their own homes. This option allows the development of individualized and creative supports and services and is being encouraged as a residential opportunity that provides for greater independence and choice.

To assist those who live independently to enhance life skills and move toward personal goals, At-Home Residential Habilitation supports and services may be combined with ISS services to provide additional supports. OMRDD is seeking to significantly expand this residential option for as many people as possible.

At-Home Residential Habilitation

Funding provided through the HCBS Waiver is available to support approximately 8,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who live either with their families or independently. The goal of at-home residential supports and services is to help individuals with developmental disabilities attain their personal goals and to enhance their ability to develop certain life skills. In addition, funding through NYS-CARES III will support 2,500 new at-home residential opportunities over a five-year period, with the new opportunities being accessed using a decentralized, streamlined process. A strong emphasis on this service will help maintain natural family structures and avoid or delay undesired out-of-home placement.

To encourage use of these supports and services and thus prevent undesired out-of-home placements wherever possible, at-home residential habilitation reimbursement will be enhanced in 2008-09. In addition, this service will be strengthened by converting to unit of service pricing, providing fees for crisis intervention, and developing a self-directed supports and services option.

Voluntary Operated Intermediate Care Facilities (VOICF)

Funding of \$341.2 million (OMRDD share) is available to support approximately 5,700 individuals with developmental disabilities receiving services in Intermediate Care Facilities operated by nonprofit providers.

Voluntary Operated Community Residences (VOCR)

The number of individuals with developmental disabilities receiving supports and services funded through the community residence program continues to decline as a result of the conversion of many of these programs to the HCBS Waiver. A program that once served more than 7,700 individuals with developmental disabilities now serves fewer than 500 people in this setting. To support individuals with developmental disabilities who continue to live and receive supports and services from nonprofit providers in community residential settings, the Recommendation includes \$12 million (State share).

Family Care

Nearly 2,900 individuals with developmental disabilities receive services categorized as residential habilitation and other services while living in Family Care. This program offers individualized services in a natural home setting, helping individuals with developmental disabilities maximize their potential through the support of the family caretaker and other members of the household. Funding of \$27.7 million (State share) is available to support this residential service option. In order to encourage Family Care as a residential service option, funding also continues to be available to support individuals with developmental disabilities who are seeking a residential option with the opportunity for a trial stay in a

Family Care home to see if that works for them. Further enhancements will be considered during 2008-09 to encourage greater use and significant expansion of this program.

Family Support Services (FSS)

The Family Support Services program, designed to foster the family's ability to care for their loved one with developmental disabilities at home for as long as desired, currently provides approximately 66,000 services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Services include but are not limited to respite, recreation, counseling, and crisis intervention.

This program operates in collaboration with the Statewide Committee on Family Support Services, local (DDSO) Consumer Councils, the DDSO, and nonprofit providers. Its tremendous success over the years is very much due to this collaboration, especially the involvement of parents and family members who continue to be actively involved in the planning, implementation, oversight, and evaluation of the services provided through this program.

Funding of approximately \$78 million (full annual State share), including resources provided through the NYS-CARES program, is available to support existing and new Family Support Services. This funding includes an increase of \$7 million (full annual) for new services to families in the areas of respite, services for individuals with complex medical needs or challenging behaviors, and transportation that was initiated in the 2007-08 Budget. The 2008-09 Executive Budget Recommendation also provides \$5 million (full annual) for new supports and services to families in the focus areas of respite and crisis intervention that will serve more than 3,000 individuals. In addition, \$2 million (full annual) is recommended for services for individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorders; approximately 1,300 individuals will receive services as a result. Funds will be allocated at the local level in partnership with the local Consumer Councils.

In addition, the Executive Budget Recommendation includes annual State savings of \$6 million to reflect the conversion of respite services currently funded under Family Support Services to the HCBS Waiver.

Care at Home Waiver Programs

Funding is available to provide services to approximately 600 children with developmental disabilities who have complex medical, or other unique needs, who live with their families. Three different Waiver programs are utilized to assure that these children can remain living in their natural environment supported by the loving care of parents and family members. Funding of \$1.85 million (State share) is available to support these children.

Medicaid Service Coordination

Nearly 61,000 individuals with developmental disabilities are enrolled in Medicaid Service Coordination through nonprofit providers. Through this program, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are in a better position to navigate a complex service system and are able to make better and more individualized service choices.

In 2007-08, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) provided feedback on the program that will result in revisions to the current process. Working with stakeholders, OMRDD will initiate program and rate changes, including amending the unit of service, to respond to CMS regulatory changes.

Day Habilitation

Nearly 35,000 individuals with developmental disabilities receive day habilitation supports and services provided by nonprofit providers. Supports and services are tailored to meet the individual needs and choices of those being served, and include activities such as volunteer work in integrated community settings and developing hobbies and areas of interest. These supports and services can bring satisfaction and rewards on many different levels.

In 2008-09, OMRDD will undertake price restructuring and reform to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this service.

Supported Employment (SEMP)

Funding to support this program is reflected in the HCBS Waiver. Nearly \$48.7 million (State share) is available to support this program, including the addition of 750 new employment opportunities. This funding supports integrated employment opportunities in the community for nearly 8,300 individuals with developmental disabilities.

OMRDD has undertaken a major initiative to encourage greater use of supported employment as a means of helping individuals with developmental disabilities find jobs that will better integrate them into the community. Of the more than 70,000 OMRDD day services provided for individuals with developmental disabilities who receive OMRDD day services, only 12 percent are for competitive employment. Through a combination of \$3 million funded in the 2007-08 Enacted Budget and an additional \$3 million (full annual) supported in the 2008-09 Executive Recommendation, a variety of strategies and incentives will be implemented. Enhancing supported employment funding and creatively reinvesting existing resources will enable non-profit providers to make additional supports available as well as generate an incentive for starting or expanding supported employment supports and services. The end result will be increased employment and personal growth for individuals with developmental disabilities

Sheltered Workshop/Prevocational Services/Day Training

The Executive Recommendation provides approximately \$135 million (State share) to support more than 21,000 individuals with developmental disabilities receiving services and supports in sheltered workshop, prevocational, day training and senior centers throughout the state. This funding is provided through the Local and Unified Services,

Chapter 620, Direct Sheltered Workshops, HCBS Waiver, Day Training and Long-Term Sheltered Employment Programs. This funding provides for the training and support necessary to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to move toward integrated employment opportunities.

Day Treatment

This Executive Budget Recommendation provides funding to support day treatment services for more than 3,500 individuals with developmental disabilities.

Clinic Services

The Executive Budget Recommendation includes \$25 million (State share) to support certain Article 16 clinics. OMRDD is collaborating with DOH in reforming the certification logic for clinic service delivery. This licensure reform will assist in the rationalization of reimbursement for clinic services.

Transportation

\$20.2 million (State share) is recommended to fund vendor transportation of individuals with developmental disabilities to State delivered supports and services for day activities.

STATE OPERATIONS

OMRDD is committed to meeting the needs of the people it supports through efficient and effective methods. Therefore, OMRDD will:

Continue its Commitment to the State Workforce

OMRDD's overall authorized staffing level will increase by a net of 183 FTEs from a total of 23,795 on March 31, 2008 to 23,978 on March 31, 2009.

Provide Individuals with Developmental Disabilities with Opportunities for Community-Based Services

OMRDD has renewed and expanded its commitment to afford individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to live in community-based settings where they can receive supports and services to meet their needs at the appropriate time. A plan will be initiated to close the Western NY Developmental Center over the next several years.

In addition, the Executive Budget Recommendation provides preliminary capital support for the:

- Development, over a three-year period, of a total of 141 state operated community residential opportunities for development center rundown. These opportunities, combined with the 225 voluntary operated opportunities funded, will allow OMRDD to achieve closure of all developmental centers – a transition of 500 people to integrated community living over the next several years.
- Development of a total of 24 state operated community residential opportunities for special unit individuals each year, for a total of 72 over three years. As these

individuals become ready, OMRDD will afford them opportunities to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

- Development of a total of 12 state operated community residential opportunities for nursing home rundown each year, for a total of 36 beds over three years. OMRDD seeks to transition skilled nursing home residents with developmental disabilities whose needs can be met in the community to a more integrated setting.

Specialized Institutional Units

OMRDD recognizes that individuals with developmental disabilities have varying levels of need, and as such, supports and services have been developed to meet their particular and more intensive treatment requirements. Some individuals with developmental disabilities, who also have severe behavioral challenges, as well as autism, mental illness, and other complicating issues, are now receiving intensive treatment services in specialized institutional units designed to meet their specific needs. In the 2008-09 Fiscal Year, these specialized institutional units will serve nearly 1,100 people.

Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR)

The Executive Budget Recommendation provides funding of \$17.5 million to support the continued operation of IBR by OMRDD, to accomplish its stated mission of conducting research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. The funding provided includes personal service and non-personal resources to support 186 State funded positions. In order to assure that operations at IBR are efficient and effective during the 2008-09 Fiscal Year, OMRDD will continue to implement the recommendations included in the final report issued by the Task Force on the Institute for Basic Research and continue to incorporate into IBR operations input from the IBR Advisory Board, which was established based on a Task Force recommendation.

Also being implemented based on those recommendations are improved oversight of research activities and the maximization of grants and other non-state revenue to support the work of IBR's scientists as they pursue the causes and effective treatments and interventions for the range of developmental disabilities served under the auspices of OMRDD. In 2008-09 IBR will continue to conduct research in the area of autism that will assist in the development of more than 20 new state and nonprofit residential opportunities for individuals with autism. IBR will also, while continuing its independent research activities, pursue a variety of initiatives in collaboration with other research centers and state agencies. This will further the early diagnosis of developmental disabilities and the development and dissemination of effective intervention strategies for individuals with special needs, with a particular focus on those with challenging behaviors and autism spectrum disorders.

CAPITAL

OMRDD will receive more than \$192.4 million in new capital appropriations that will support maintaining the State's capital infrastructure and assuring the safety and welfare

of individuals with developmental disabilities in a quality physical environment. The capital program appropriations include:

- Approximately \$14.5 million to support the development of new, and relocation of existing, State-operated community residential and day opportunities.
- \$15.6 million to support the development of new community residential opportunities; this will facilitate downsizing of large-scale developmental centers and allow specialized unit and nursing home residents to transition to community living.
- A total of \$18.5 million to maintain OMRDD's State-operated community programs.
- \$19.4 million to support nonprofit providers in maintaining their capital infrastructure and assure program certification. In addition, approximately \$6.4 million is available for the acquisition, rehabilitation or construction of new community homes and day programs for nonprofit providers where private financing is not a viable option. \$4 million in new funding is also available for environmental modifications for individuals with developmental disabilities who live at home with their families or who live independently.