



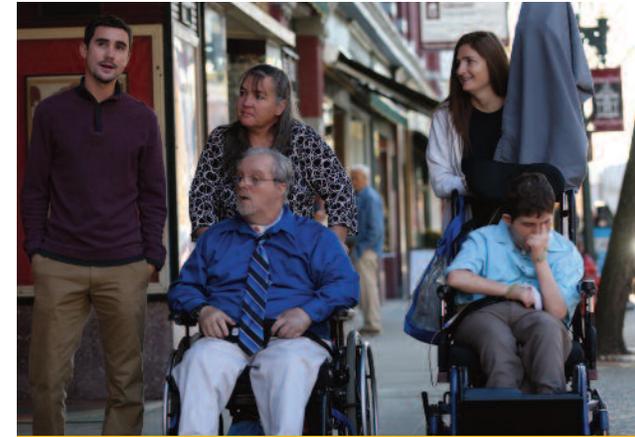
“The New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is committed to supporting people in the most personalized, community-based way possible, providing the supports each person needs to grow and become a part of their community.”



44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities



Get into Community!



(866) 946-9733 | www.opwdd.ny.gov

It Takes Everyone to Make a Community

Over the next few years, people living in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) will be offered the opportunity to enjoy more homelike settings which offer more personal attention, quieter surroundings, and more chances to enjoy the community. OPWDD has already helped many people move from Developmental Centers to smaller settings, where their lives have improved, and now, OPWDD is working to make this possible for people living in ICFs. People will be able to choose their daily activities, be closer to their families, have more space, and live with whom and where they choose.



For some people, this change in how services are planned and provided will mean moving into a smaller community-based setting and for others, it will mean staying in their current home but being supported differently.

Will my needs still be met in a community setting?

Each person will still have the support and help they need each day and will be helped by his or her family, friends and advocates to choose where and how they will live.

Does everyone have to move?

Some people will move to new locations while others will select and receive supports and services in a more personalized way as their ICF changes how it supports people. Whether someone moves to a new location or not, each person will experience greater access to the community and greater personal choice and control.

How will these changes happen?

The staff closest to you (or your loved one) will talk to you about these changes when the time is right. Staff will listen carefully as you explain your needs, hopes and concerns.

What if a person isn't ready to move into the community?

OPWDD will still offer intensive treatment in campus-like settings when it is needed to help someone prepare for community living.

Why is it important for people to live in smaller community based settings?

OPWDD's commitment to offering community-based services to each person is supported by the federal Supreme Court case known as the Olmstead Ruling. In 1999, the United States Supreme Court ruled that people with disabilities must be integrated into the community in a way that meets their wants and needs.

Accessing supports and services in community settings rather than institutional settings provides people with the opportunity to live the life they want to live.

We know that this can be a big change for many people, but we are committed to continuing to provide quality supports and services to you and your family.



We promise to:

- Keep supporting each individual as a person first.
- Put every effort into providing a positive outcome for each person affected.
- Seek the best option for each person, knowing the people we serve may require a wide variety of options to meet their wants and needs over a lifetime.
- Continue working to improve our system of supports.

For more information, please contact:

(866) 946-9733 or www.opwdd.ny.gov

"Living in the community makes me feel really good, really happy. It is wide open and just trees. The people in my group home are like my family and I do things with them like a family, like go shopping, go for walks, and go to movies."

- Mark