

## Executive Office

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I am pleased to let you know of another reform recently implemented by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) that will ensure consistency and transparency in the application process for individuals/organizations seeking approval to become OPWDD funded non-profit providers. Similar to the revamped Early Alert process, OPWDD recognizes that consistent expectations translate into stronger partners amongst its great network of providers.

OPWDD has developed a statewide objective process for those interested in becoming first time OPWDD funded non-profit providers. In the past, each local Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO) adopted its own process, which resulted in inconsistent practices statewide. Under the new process, a potential provider will complete a standardized application and will submit information on its program, governance, and fiscal capabilities. The application will be reviewed and scored based on established criteria. Only those who receive a passing score based on these criteria will be considered for OPWDD funding opportunities.

The new process will help ensure that a non-profit agency that is approved to provide services under OPWDD auspices will have:

- a) a well thought out plan for providing quality services to unserved or underserved individuals,
- b) an understanding of regulatory and program requirements,
- c) solid governance practices as demonstrated by a diverse Board of Directors that actively provides agency oversight, and
- d) a sound fiscal plan that includes a well thought out budget, an understanding of good business practices and a staff/board member with fiscal expertise.

A PDF copy of the New Agency Interest Application, the scoring criteria, and related information can be found on the OPWDD website at [Become a Service Provider](#). An individual/organization interested in becoming an OPWDD funded non-profit agency should not use the PDF New Agency Interest Application but should contact the local DDSO for an application.

OPWDD strongly believes that its non-profit partner agencies must be programmatically and fiscally sound in order to provide consistently high quality services. The new process, which tightens standards for approving new agencies, ensures that only those providers that are both programmatically and fiscally competent and whose missions are consistent with OPWDD's are considered for OPWDD funding.

OPWDD will continue to implement reforms that help ensure the safety and health of individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as ensure the provision of high quality services to these individuals.

Sincerely,



James F. Moran  
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner