

## Overview

The New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) published the People First Waiver Request for Information (RFI) to allow for broader input into the planning for the People First Waiver from the varied perspectives of people who are affected by the OPWDD system of supports and services.

Informational Copy of the RFI Document Available for Download	November 15, 2011
RFI Question Submission via Online Survey Form	November 15, 2011 – November 30, 2011
Online Instructions and Submission Form Available for Input and Formal Submission of RFI Responses	December 1, 2011 – December 30, 2011
Confirmation of RFI Submitted Responses	December 30, 2011 – January 3, 2012
Responses to RFI Specific Questions Posted on Web	December 14, 2011
Analysis of RFI Responses	January –June 2012

The RFI was a public document announced through the Contract Reporter, on the OPWDD public Web page and by mass e-mail notification. There were no limitations on who could complete the document, and the RFI was available to anyone to complete part or the entire document. It allowed for anyone to provide their opinion on a broad range of topics specific to the provision of supports and services to individuals within New York state with developmental disabilities and their families based on their own research, life experience, or work. These topics included Assessment, Care Coordination, Effective Supports and Services, Fiscal and Organizational Structure, Quality and Focused Study Opportunities.

The process was supported by technology to allow for information gathering through an online process. This included the ability to download the formal RFI, an online survey that allowed respondents to ask clarifying questions on specific RFI questions, and an online input form for submitting official RFI responses. The applicable timeframe specific to the RFI is indicated in Table A.

## Quantitative Analysis of RFI Responses –

### **When we say “responses”, what does that mean?**

*A “response” is a single on—line submission to the Request for Information. Some responses were submitted by individuals. Other responses were submitted by groups of stakeholders and the opinions reported represented the consensus of the group. Responses were submitted by individuals, providers, parents, advocates, self-advocate, associations, and others that wished to respond to the RFI. Therefore, when we refer to “responses” each “response” could represent the opinion of one individual or hundreds of individuals.*

*OPWDD received 251 separate responses to the RFI.*

Table B reflects how the different sections of the RFI were completed by RFI respondents. There were a relatively consistent number of RFI responses to each section of the RFI, ranging from 189 to 213 responses out of the 251 total RFI responses.

RFI Section	Number of RFI Questions Answered by Respondents		
	Zero	One or More	Entire Section (a)
Care Coordination	38	213	113
Assessment	47	204	135
Effective Provision of Supports, Choice, and Network Capacity	60	191	69
Quality	59	192	83
Fiscal Administrative & Organizational Structure	55	196	60
Focused Studies Opportunities	62	189	175

(a) The number of responses reflected is also included in the “one or more” column

**Respondents Current Organizational Description:**

The majority of the RFI responses (77.6%) were provided by family members or advocates of individuals receiving services and current providers of OPWDD services. Table C includes a count of the itemized RFI responses.

Clinical or Medical Provider	8	Information Technology	3
Current Provider of OPWDD Services	134	Intentionally Left Blank	6
Developmental Disabilities Council	4	Managed Care Organization	2
Educational Services	1	Out of State Developmental Disabilities Provider	1
Family Member or Advocate of an Individual Receiving Supports and Services	60	Provider Association	10
Governmental	6	Quality Improvement Organization	3
Individual Receiving Supports and Services	2	Self Advocacy or Parent Organization	11

**Respondents Desired Future Role in the Waiver:**

Respondents to the RFI identified the capacities (personal roles such as individual receiving services, member of a Developmental Disabilities Individual Support and Care Coordination Organization (DISCO) provider network, etc.) in which they felt they would be participating in the People First Waiver. The majority of responses (54.40%) indicated only one (1) capacity, while 25.60% indicated two (2) capacities, and 20% indicated three (3) or more capacities. A summary of the capacity categories and the corresponding percentage of responses in each capacity are indicated in Table D.

<b>TABLE D - Capacity Envisioned for Participation in the People First Waiver</b>	
Operator of a DISCO Pilot	19.60%
Member of a DISCO Provider Network	30.08%
Member of an Association of Persons Receiving Supports and Services	11.80%
Member of an Association Representing Family Members or Persons Receiving Supports and Services	12.03%
Individual Receiving Supports and Services	1.34%
Family Member or Advocate of an Individual Receiving Supports and Services	17.82%
Other	5.77%
Intentionally not Answered	2.00%

Of the RFI responses that were received from OPWDD current providers or groups of providers, 25.37% identified they would participate in the 1115 waiver as an operator of a DISCO pilot.