



**Front Door**

welcome

# ACCESS TO SERVICES

*Information Session  
for Individuals &  
Families*





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# INFORMATION SESSION OBJECTIVES

At the end of the information session, you will walk away with an understanding of:

- The mission and purpose of OPWDD
- The process to become eligible for supports and services
- What types of supports and services are available
- Where you can go to get assistance



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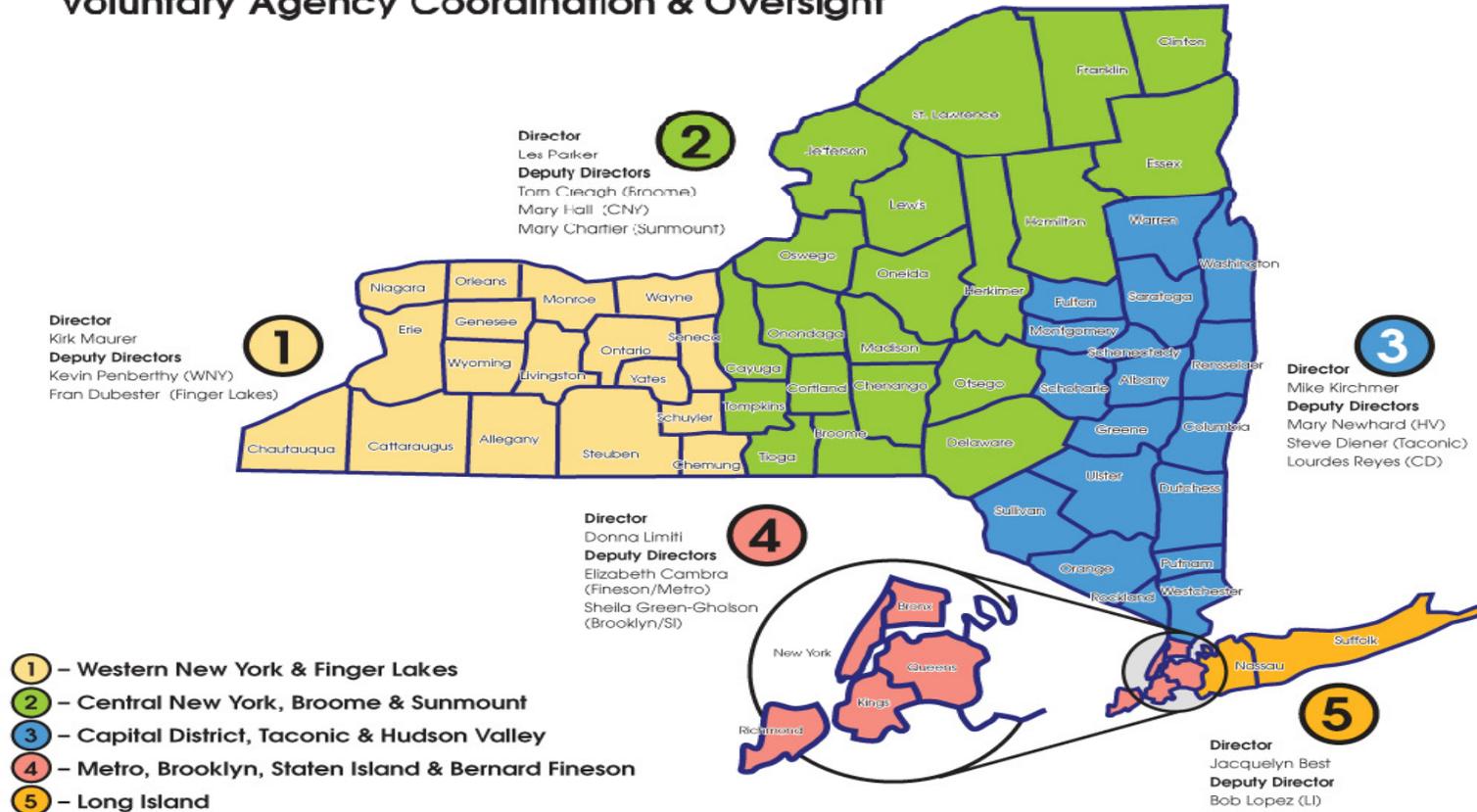
## OPWDD - Who Are We?

- ❑ The NYS agency responsible for *coordinating services* to 126,000+ New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- ❑ The NYS agency responsible for *certifying and overseeing* **approximately** 800 voluntary agency providers.
- ❑ A *provider* of residential/day services for a small percentage of people served.



# DDRO MAP

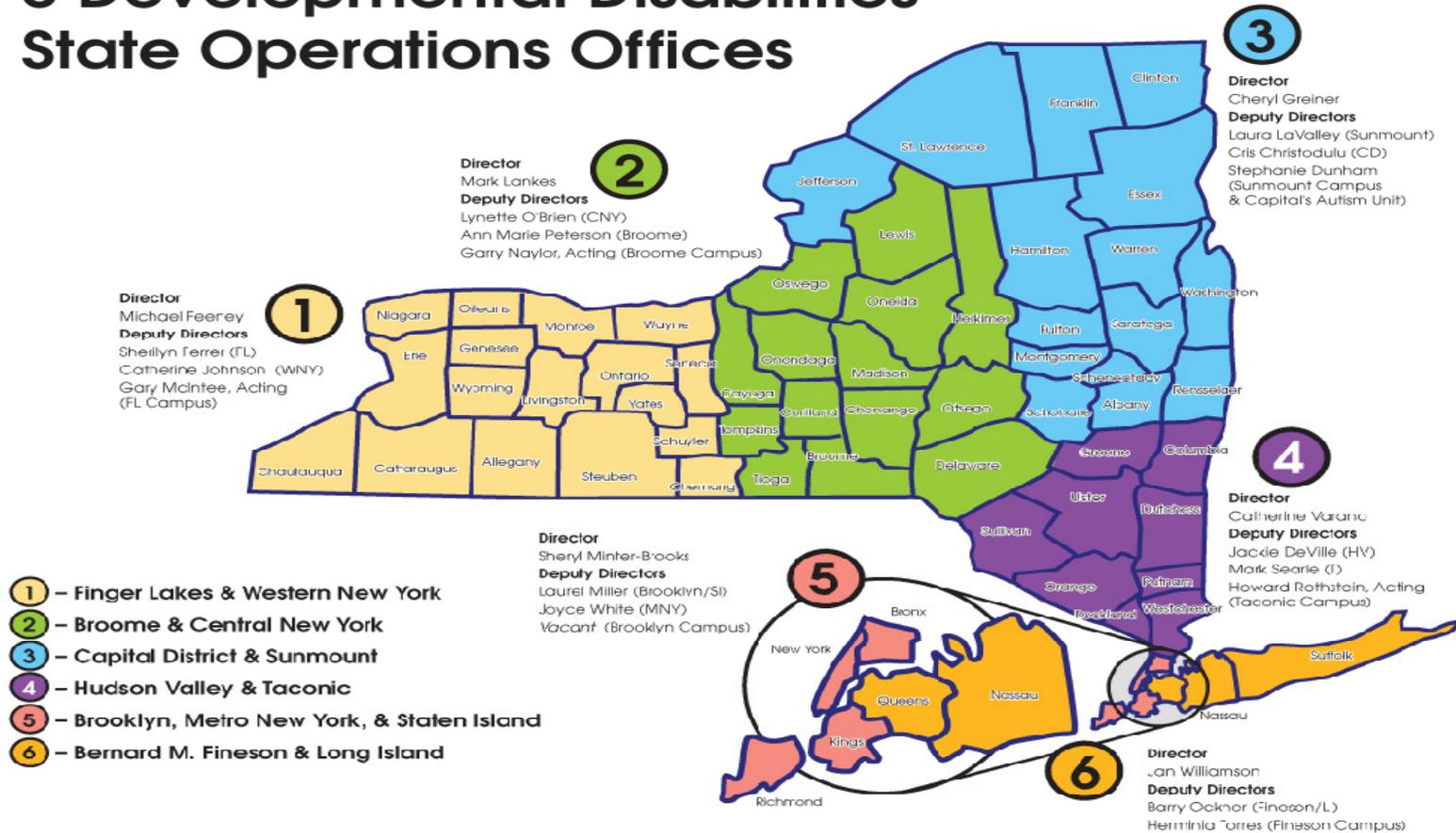
## 5 Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices Voluntary Agency Coordination & Oversight





# DDSOO MAP

## 6 Developmental Disabilities State Operations Offices





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# OUR MISSION

OPWDD helps people  
with developmental  
disabilities live richer lives.



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# OUR VISION

**People with developmental disabilities  
have a chance to...**

- enjoy meaningful relationships with friends, family and others in their lives**
- experience personal health and growth**
- live in the home of their choice**
- fully participate in their communities**



# OUR PRINCIPLES



**Put the person first**



**Maximize opportunities**



**Promote and reward excellence**



**Provide equity of access**



**Nurture partnerships and collaborations**



**Require accountability and responsibility**

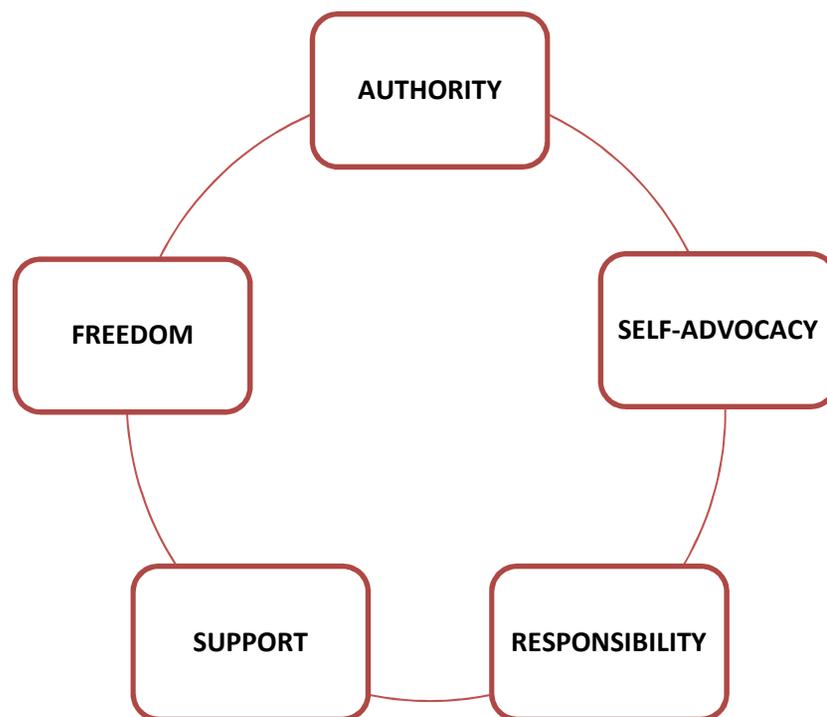


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# OPWDD MISSION & SELF-DETERMINATION

**Self-Determination is a philosophy that is based on:**





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## **OPWDD' s CHALLENGE AND COMMITMENT:**

To provide appropriate supports and services to individuals during a difficult national fiscal crisis.



To ensure that our current supports and services meet the needs of individuals and families coming into our service system.



To comply with recent federal decisions involving Olmstead and the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure that the services are provided in the most integrated, community settings possible.



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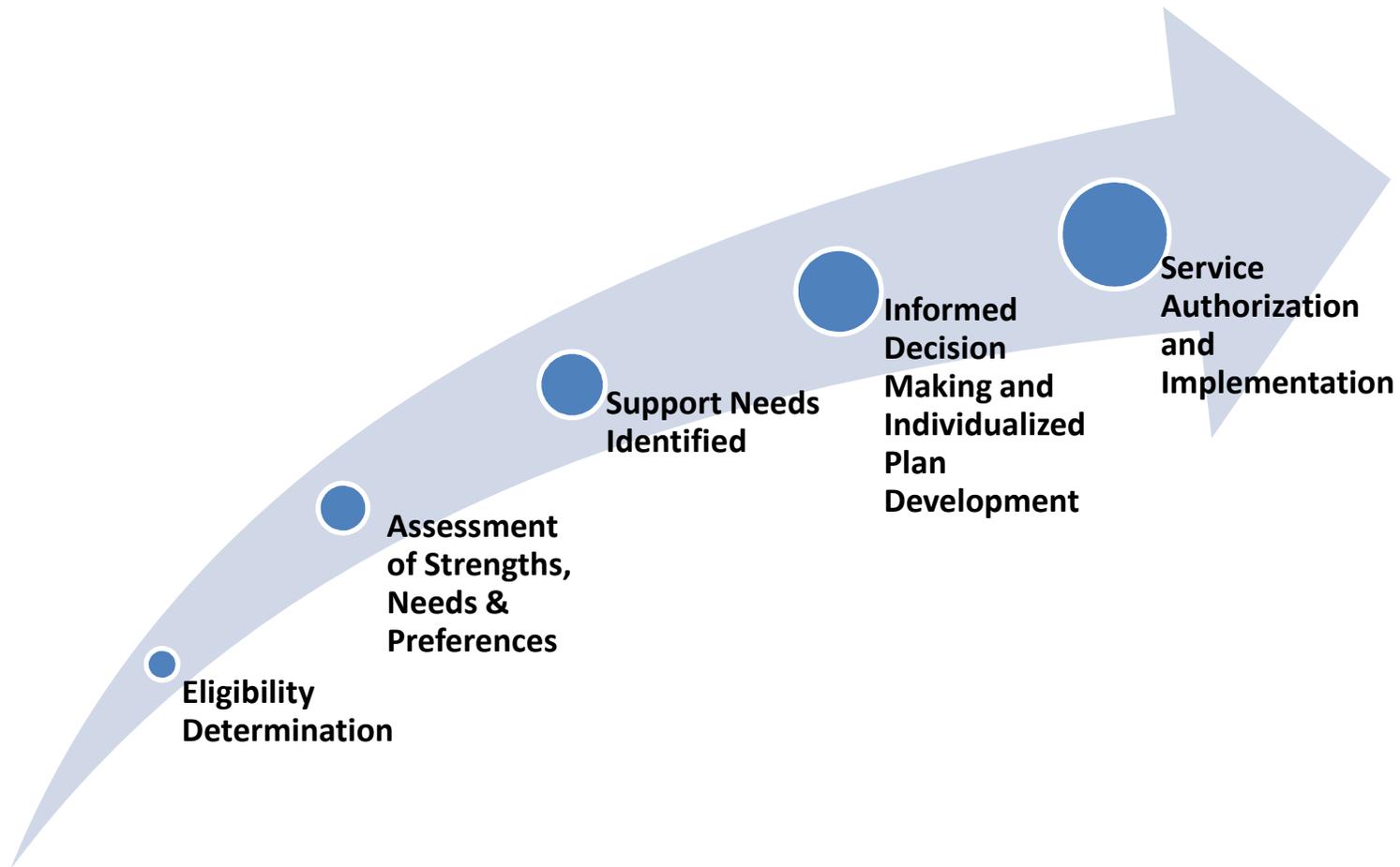
## OUR RESPONSE

OPWDD has developed a process for accessing **Individual and Community Supports (ICS)** that is designed to provide more flexibility and authority for individuals and families in choosing the supports and services that best meet their needs.



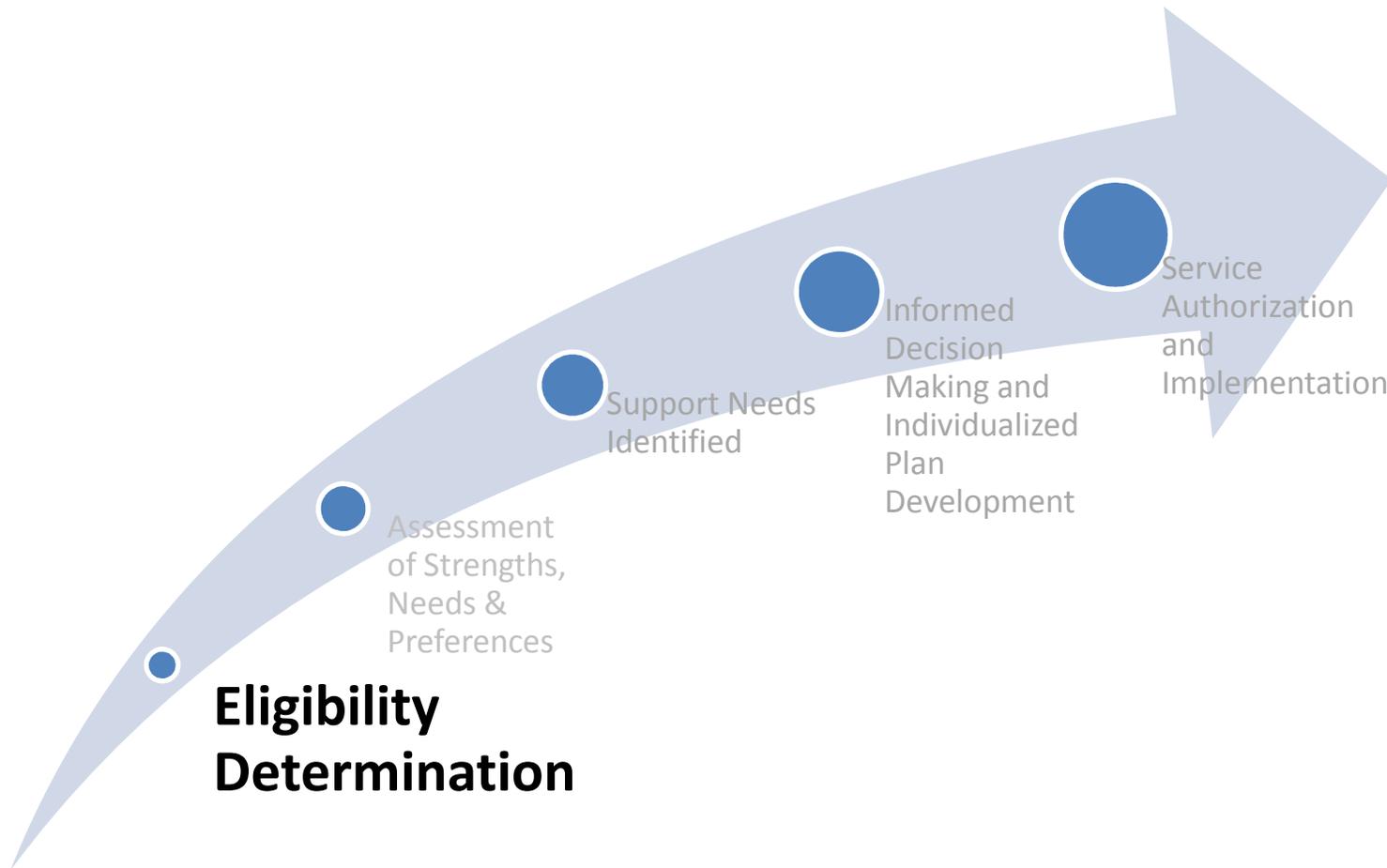
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# ACCESSING OPWDD SERVICES





# ELIGIBILITY





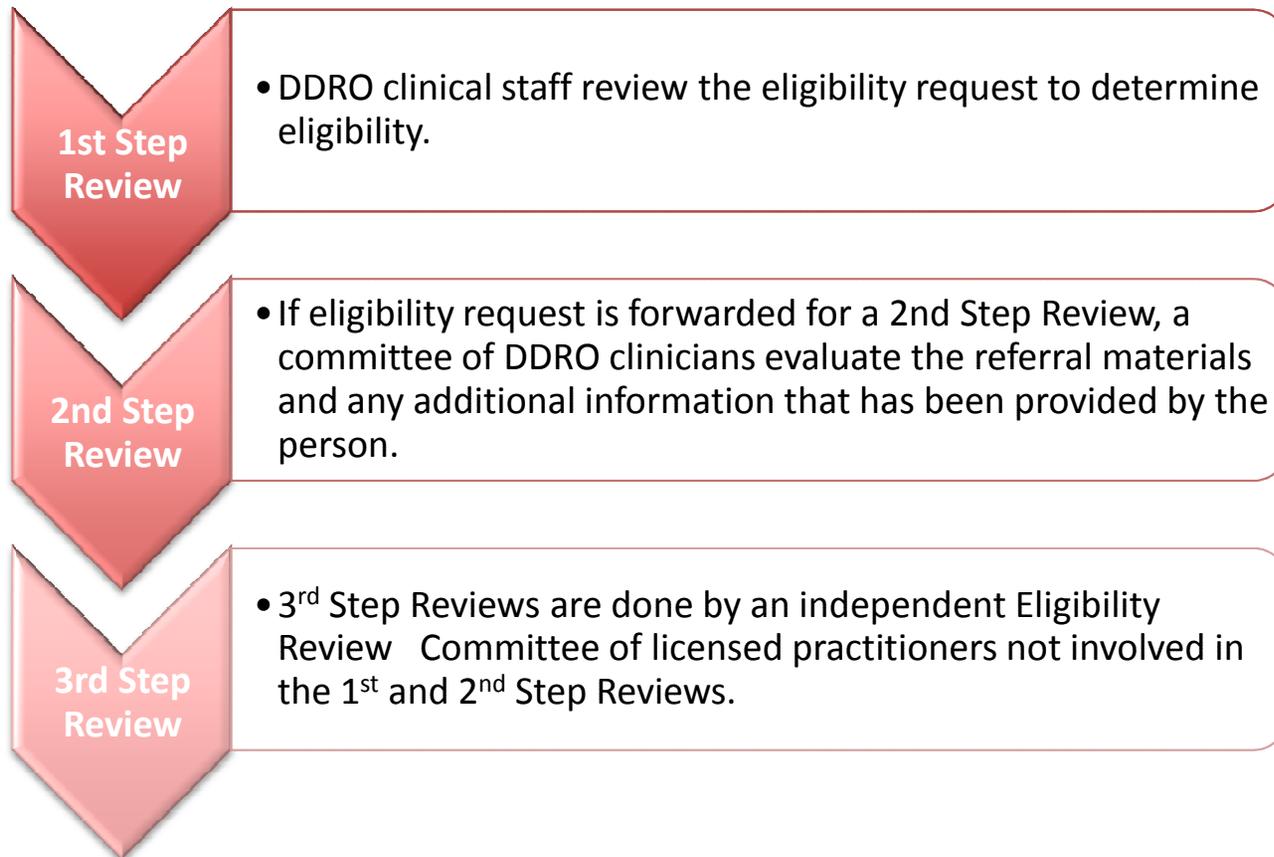
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# THE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Let's outline the 3-Step Eligibility Determination Process and describe the type of information OPWDD will need to determine that an individual is eligible for OPWDD services.



# 3 STEPS IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION





# REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Psychological reports which include an assessment of intellectual functioning (“IQ test”)
- For conditions other than Intellectual Disability, a medical or specialty report that includes health status and diagnostic findings to support the qualifying diagnosis
- A recent general medical assessment report should be included in all eligibility requests
- A developmental/ psychosocial history report, or other report that shows that the person became disabled before age 22 (this is required for all eligibility requests)
- Adaptive behavior functioning assessment
- In some cases, the DDRO may require additional information to determine eligibility



# MEDICAID AND HCBS WAIVER ELIGIBILITY

- ❑ Many services are available from OPWDD and agencies in the OPWDD system.
- ❑ Most OPWDD services are provided through the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver, which requires Medicaid eligibility and enrollment.
- ❑ OPWDD **requires** individuals to enroll in the right type of Medicaid coverage for the services they need.
- ❑ Often, individuals need to enroll in **both** Medicaid (MA) and HCBS Waiver.
- ❑ Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) and/or OPWDD resources are available to help individuals and families work through these eligibility processes.



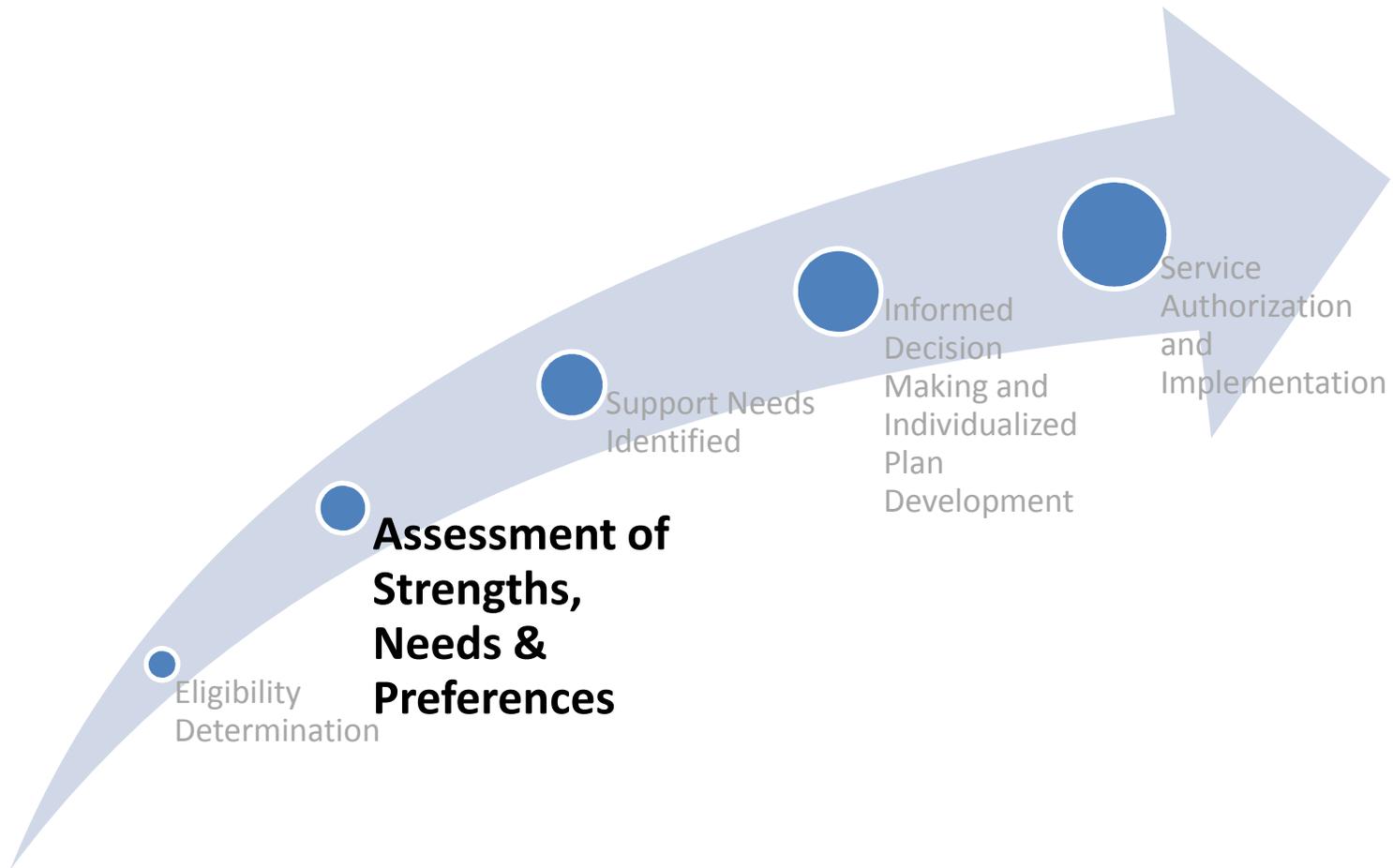
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## **NEXT STEPS...**

**Once eligibility has been determined, the DDRO will direct you to an Assessment Specialist to initiate the assessment process.**



# ASSESSMENT





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## Why Is Assessment Important?

**The purpose of doing an assessment is to determine a person's current strengths, needs and the natural/community supports available to that individual. This information will then be used to identify additional service needs and develop a person-centered plan.**



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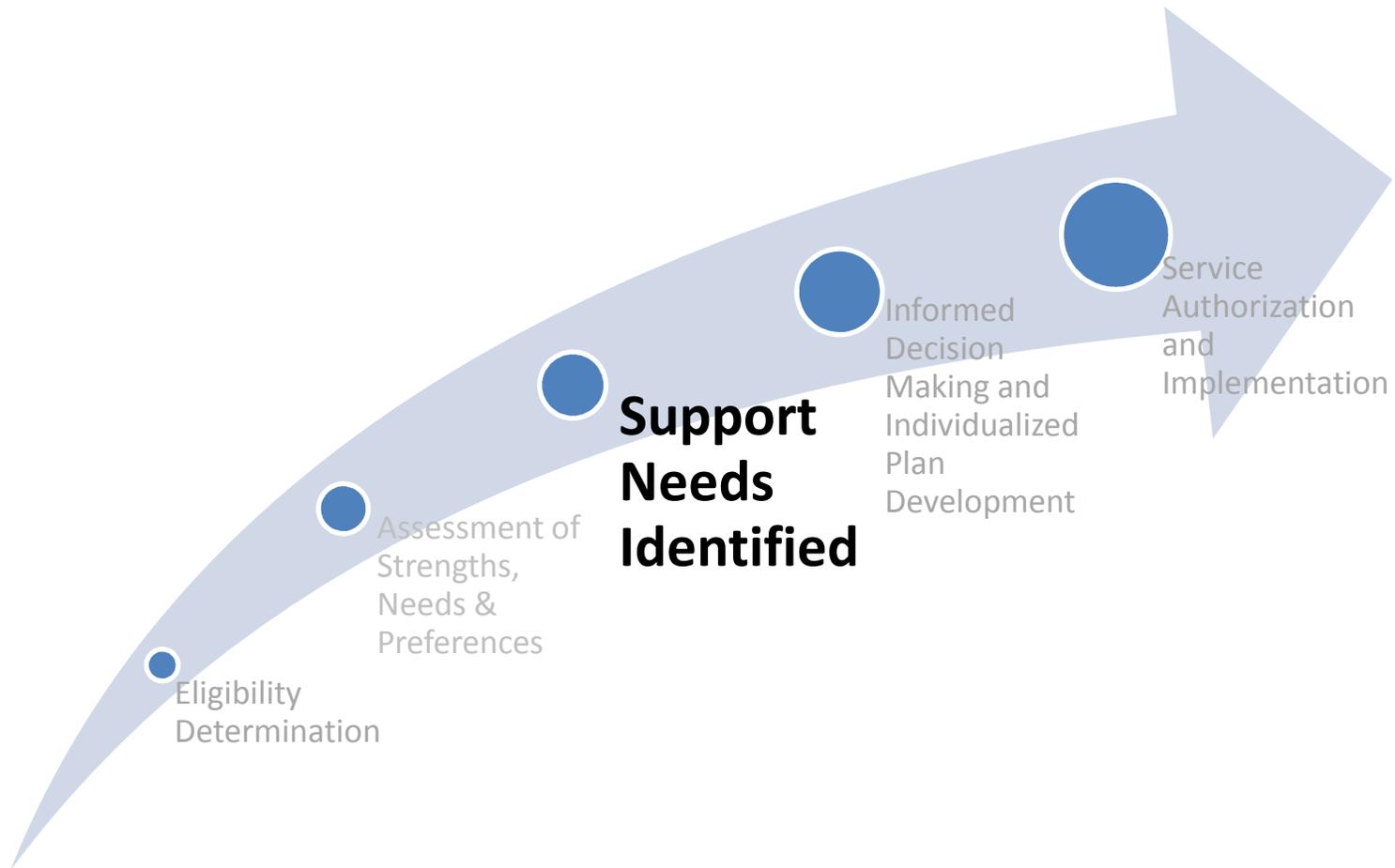
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## **Preparing for the assessment can be helpful. Start thinking about or have the following information available:**

- Your strengths**
- Goals you want to achieve**
- Changes you would like to make in your life**
- Areas where you need help or assistance to complete everyday activities**
- Cognitive, sensory , motor and communication needs**
- Medical history**
- How often you see medical/behavioral professionals (e.g. doctor, psychologist, speech therapist)**
- Supports you have now (e.g. family, friends)**



# IDENTIFYING NEED





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# MEDICAID SERVICE COORDINATION

- Assists with the arrangement, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of supports and services to meet an individual's needs.**
- Service Coordination is about helping people with developmental disabilities live successful lives in the community according to their own dreams and desires.**



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## **SERVICE CATEGORIES**

**OPWDD services fill the gap between existing natural and community supports.**

The services an individual can receive are split into two categories:

- 1. SUPPORTS RELATED TO WHERE YOU LIVE**
- 2. SUPPORTS RELATED TO SERVICES YOU RECEIVE**



# GENERAL SUPPORTS MAY INCLUDE

- Adult Education

- Assistance with housing/rent

- Acquiring and/or training for the use of adaptive equipment

- Assistance in building natural and community relationships.

- Building skills related to household management

- Developing natural or alternative communication skills

- Developing/Managing social and/or behavioral skills

- Developing and/or strengthening independent living skills

- Modifying/adapting a home to make it accessible

- Personal Care Assistance

- Home safety & accident prevention (Evacuation)

- Short-term relief from care-giving (Respite)

- Supports to participate in activities that promote health and wellness

- Supports needed to work or to volunteer in the community

- Supports to find a job

- Supports to engage in meaningful community/recreational activities



## **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

- Our vision includes supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to fully participate in their communities through employment.**
- Our supported employment services include: Supported Employment (SEMP); Prevocational Services; and the Employment Training Program (ETP).**



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# CONTINUUM OF HOUSING SUPPORTS

- We are committed to maintaining a full array of residential support options to meet the needs of individuals, their families and advocates.
- Supports and services include those available from natural and community sources; traditional agency services and individualized and self-directed service options.



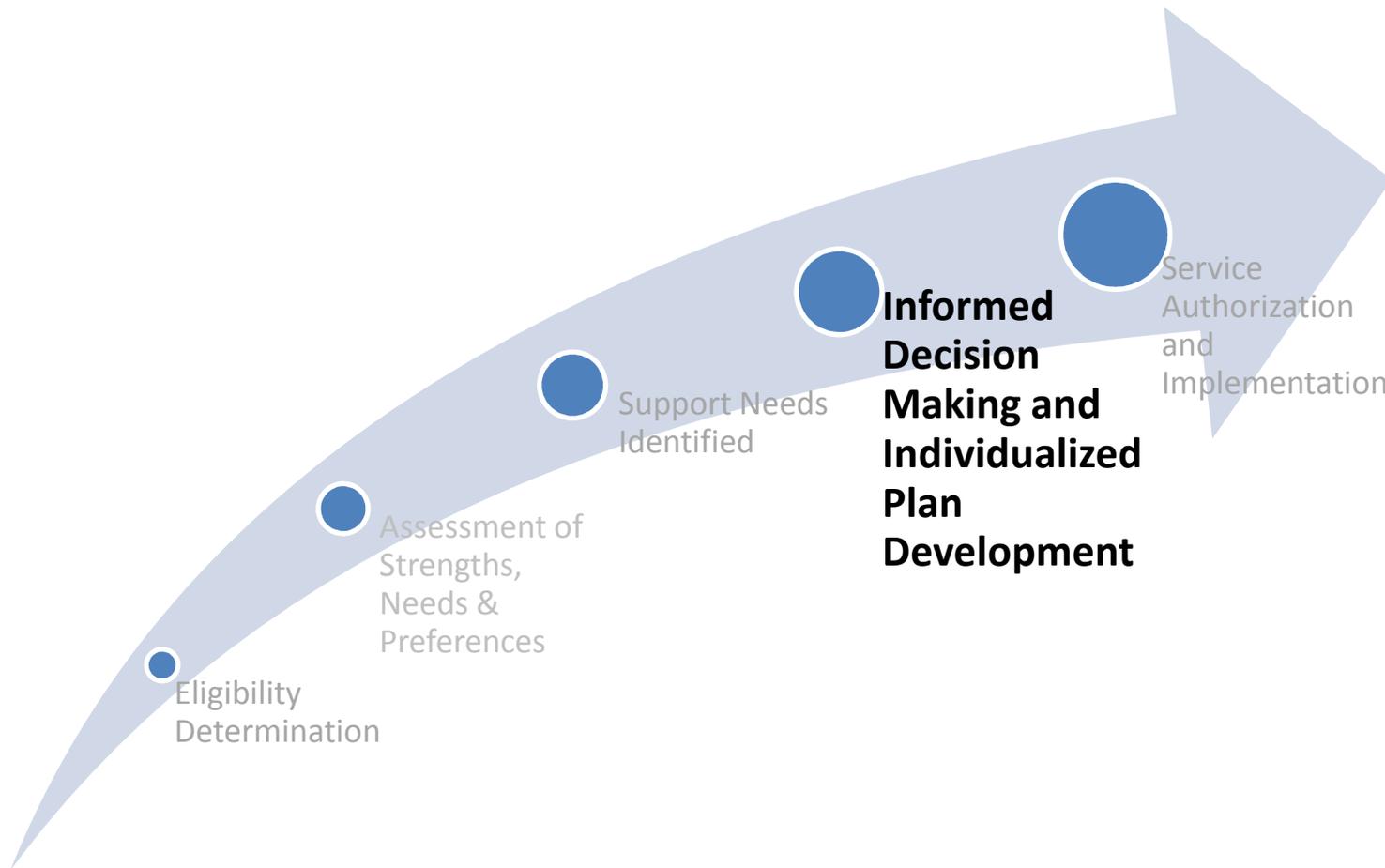
# SELF-DIRECTION

- Self-Direction is a service model that empowers individuals with developmental disabilities to determine a mix of supports and services that work best for them.**
- Self-Directed services offer the individual more control, flexibility and independence.**
- OPWDD's HCBS Waiver offers self-directed options with varying degrees of both employer authority and/or budget authority.**



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# SUPPORT SERVICES AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT





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# Individual and Community Supports **CHOICES**

Individuals accessing services through ICS may choose to:

Self-direct and manage all services

Purchase all OPWDD agency-managed services

Combination of self-directed and agency-managed services



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# Choosing Self-Direction



Enables the individual to co-manage their supports and services with the assistance of Financial Management Service Agency (FMS)



The individual and family has the most flexibility and may choose to assume more responsibility



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## Choosing To Purchase Agency-Managed Services



The agency works closely with the individual to meet their identified needs



The individual and family has less flexibility and may choose to assume less responsibility



# Choosing A Combination Of Self-Direction and Agency-Managed Services



The individual and the agency work together to determine the services that meet their needs



The individual and family has a choice in the level of flexibility and responsibility



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# ROLE OF SERVICE COORDINATORS

Service Coordinators help people explore what they want and need in life, and then assist them with getting it.

Service Coordinators will have a minimum of at least 3 face-to-face meetings a year with the individual.

Service Coordinators work in partnership with the person or family to develop, implement, and maintain the person's life plan (Individualized Service Plan).



# INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICE PLAN

**Describes who the person is by depicting the person's strengths, capacities, needs, and desires.**



**Lists the supports and services needed by the person to achieve these outcomes.**

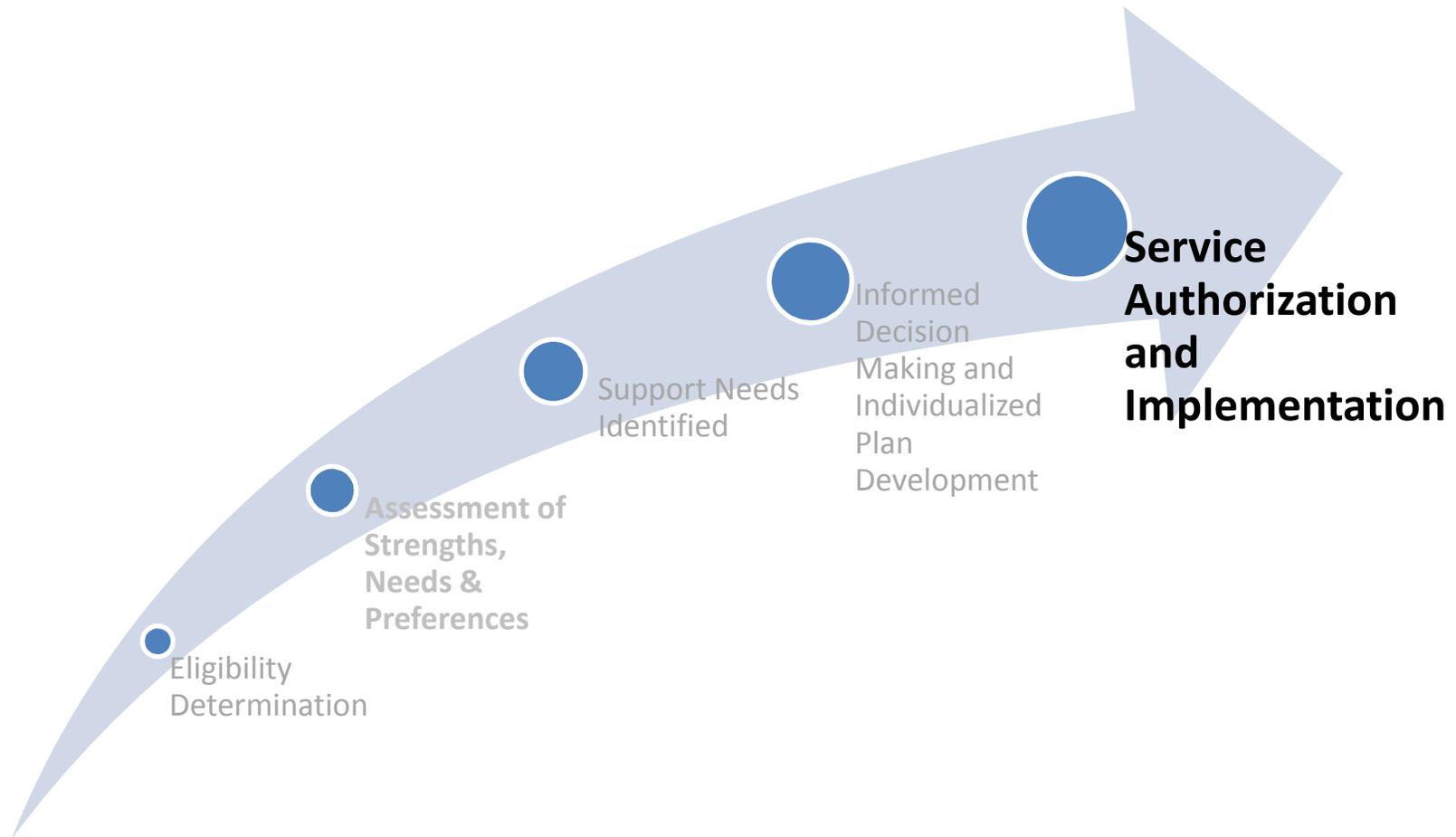


**Identifies their goals and helps secure the needed services and supports, including natural supports and community resources, to attain those goals.**



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# AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION





# SERVICE AUTHORIZATION

- ❑ **Before services can begin, they must be reviewed and authorized by the appropriate OPWDD Regional Office staff**
- ❑ **Regional Office has criteria for authorizing specific services with the goal of:**
  - **Meeting identified needs at the time of assessment**
  - **Person centered planning**
  - **Reflecting most integrated, community settings**
  - **Not duplicating existing supports**
  - **Aligning with OPWDD mission and vision**



# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Your implementation plan will reflect one of the following tracks:

- ❑ **Self-Directed Services** → individual selects a broker and Financial Management Services (FMS) agency to develop and manage a self-directed plan
- ❑ **Agency Purchased Services** → individual selects an agency or agencies to develop and manage their services
- ❑ **Combination of Self-Directed and Agency Purchased Services** → individual selects a broker and Financial Management Services (FMS) agency to help develop and co-manage portions of a self-directed plan. This plan can also include a service(s) that an agency manages.



NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities

**Putting People First**

**OPEN OPWDD's FRONT DOOR  
AND STEP INTO YOUR FUTURE...**



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