

44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities



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Developmental Disabilities



Family Care



(866) 946-9733 | NY Relay System 711

www.opwdd.ny.gov

At OPWDD, our motto is “putting people first.” With that in mind, we are committed to providing a variety of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities. Our services are designed to provide high quality, individualized supports. As always, our goal at OPWDD is to help people with developmental disabilities live richer lives within their communities!

What is Family Care?

Begun in 1931, OPWDD’s Family Care program provides community-based residential housing in certified private homes for individuals with developmental disabilities.

By providing the support, guidance and companionship of a family, the Family Care program fosters a caring and stable home environment for children, adolescents and adults.

Who is served in Family Care?

Family Care uses certified private homes to provide residential services to individuals of all ages who are developmentally disabled and unable to live independently in the community. Family care residents come from all social, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Who are Family Care Providers?

Anyone who is at least 21 years of age, and holds an OPWDD-issued operating certificate, can be a Family Care provider. Operating certificates are issued through OPWDD’s statewide network of 13 Developmental Disabilities Services Offices (DDSOs).

Family care providers can be married or single; men or women; owners or renters of a house, apartment or mobile home.

Prior experience with individuals with developmental disabilities is not necessary. The most important requirement is the family’s willingness to provide the caring, understanding and security that an individual living in Family Care needs. A Family Care home provides an extended, supportive family for participants, helping them become productive and active members of their community and develop meaningful relationships.



What are the benefits?

Perhaps the most important benefit that Family Care providers experience is the knowledge that they are making a difference in the life of an individual with developmental disabilities. Providers not only share their lives with the individuals placed in their homes, but their lives are enriched as well as they share in the individuals' successes, challenges and experiences. Family Care providers are respected members of a team of professionals. Providers receive regular training and gain new skills and abilities. Providers also receive reimbursement for each individual who lives in their home, including room and board; payment for providing residential habilitation services; and reimbursement for mileage for medical appointments. Emergency respite is also available if needed.



How do I become a certified Family Care provider?

The first step is an initial site visit and home study. Components include a home safety inspection to ensure the home meets safety requirements; family member interviews; and an open discussion during which family members can have additional program questions answered.

After the initial visit, applicants must complete an LS-22 Application for Certification. Additionally, both applicants and their household members age 18 and over must be cleared through the New York State Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment and submit to a criminal history record check.

Additionally, all drivers must enroll in the Critical Drivers' Program, which notifies the local DDSO of any suspension, revocation, conviction or limitation on a driver's license. All information is kept confidential.

Other requirements include: both employer and personal reference checks; proof of adequate household income; physician approval; and 30 hours of initial training. Approved homes will be provided with smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

For more information about the Family Care program, call the toll-free OPWDD Information Line at (866) 946-9733 voice, or NY Relay System 711; visit OPWDD's Web Site, www.opwdd.ny.gov; or call your local OPWDD regional DDSO. A listing of regional DDSOs is included on the back of this brochure.

This brochure is published by the OPWDD Communications Office, located at 44 Holland Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12229.



To learn more about OPWDD services, contact the Regional Office nearest you:

Region 1, Western NY

Rochester585-241-5700
West Seneca800-487-6310

Region 2, Central NY

Syracuse315-473-6978

Region 3, Capital District & Hudson Valley

Capital District.....518-388-0431
Poughkeepsie (Taconic Office).....845-473-5050
Thiells (Hudson Valley Office).....845-947-6060

Region 4, NYC and Metropolitan Area

Brooklyn.....718-642-6112
Bronx718-430-0885
Manhattan646-766-3222
Queens718-217-5890
Staten Island718-983-5233

Region 5, Long Island

Long Island631-434-6100

