

2020

NYS Disability Resource Navigator for Preparing Adult Life



Focusing on the Needs of Young
Adults with Developmental
Disabilities in NYS

Service Guide for
Parents & Guardians
Version 1.0

Young Seh Bae

Community Inclusion &
Development Alliance

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Community Inclusion & Development Alliance (CIDA) is pleased to introduce Disability Resource Navigator for Preparing Adult Life. The purpose of developing this guide is to provide the essential service resources to young people with developmental disabilities and their families in New York. The information included in this guide will help the families understand the disability service systems and navigate support in the early stage of adulthood.

CIDA's primary missions are to strengthen the capacity and to increase the inclusion opportunities of individuals with disabilities. We wish that this guide help individuals make progress towards post-secondary goals related to education, employment, and independent community living as they make smooth transition to adult life.

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CIDA is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization that serves individuals with disabilities and their families.

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**Disability Resource Navigator for Preparing Adult Life:
Focusing on the Needs of Persons with Developmental Disabilities
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Disability Resource Navigator for Preparing Adult Life

Focusing on the Needs of Persons with Developmental Disabilities

1 INTRODUCTION

Transition into the adulthood after high school is a challenging and overwhelming process for many individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Students with developmental disabilities have unique cognitive and social characteristics that may require a wide range of services and support.

New York State has a complex service system that supports community living of people with developmental disabilities. Some of the services may take multiple processes, contacts, and communications to achieve eligibility. Therefore, families should start early so that they can navigate the services that match their child's vision, strengths, preferences and needs.

This guide includes the following nine key areas that are important for preparing adult life after high school:

- Important Federal Laws
- Preparing Adult Life Check List
- Education option
- Employment
- OPWDD Service Process
- Health Care Insurance
- Financial Safety Net
- Housing
- Transportation
- Other important Items

Families can create a To-Do-List based on these items for a person with a developmental disability.

2 IMPORTANT LAWS FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2.1 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITY EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes a free appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children. The IDEA recognizes the importance of preparing youths for success after high school and states that transition planning for students who receive special education services and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) must begin by age 16 (by age 15 in New York). Transition planning means evaluating needs, strengths, and skills required for a student to move on from high school to postsecondary life. IDEA (34 CFR§300) regulations provide language in six sections that specifically refer to transition. These include important transition topics such as when to begin including transition goals and objectives in the IEP, transition services, IEP team composition, transfer of rights at age of majority, and requirements for exiting high school programs.

According to IDEA, beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team, and updated annually, thereafter, the IEP must include:

- (1) Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and
- (2) The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.

2.2 AMERICAN DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

In 2008, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) was signed into law and became effective on January 1, 2009. The ADAAA made a number of significant changes to the definition of “disability.” The changes in the definition of disability in the ADAAA apply to all titles of the ADA, including Title I (employment practices of private employers with 15 or more employees, state and local governments, employment agencies, labor unions, agents of the employer and joint management labor committees); Title II (programs and activities of state and local government entities); and Title III (private entities that are considered places of public accommodation).

See more information on [ADA National Network](#).

2.3 REHABILITATION ACT SECTION 504

Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits discrimination based upon disability. Section 504 is an anti-discrimination, civil rights statute that requires the needs of students with disabilities to be met as adequately as the needs of the non-disabled are met.

Section 504 states that: “No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in section 706(8) of this title, shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance...” [29 U.S.C. §794(a), 34 C.F.R. §104.4(a)].

2.4 THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) is the fundamental law supporting and enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The goal of the act is to “assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life. The DD authorizes three programs that operate in each state and territory (UCEDD, DD Councils, and PADD) known as the DD Network. [The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council \(DDPC\)](#) is the DD Council representing New York State. Although the DDPC is 100% federally-funded, it operates as a New York State agency under the direction of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

The DDPC is not a direct service provider. Its mission is carried out through grant work. The DDPC addresses the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the development of demonstration projects around advocacy, systems change, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion in all facets of life.

2.5 WORKFORCE INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

WORKFORCE INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) is landmark legislation that is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

WIOA of 2014 replaces the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) as the main national legislation on workforce development. This new version of the law includes an increased focus on youth with disabilities. WIOA funds many programs that can help youth with disabilities in high school and young adulthood gain important skills for successful employment.

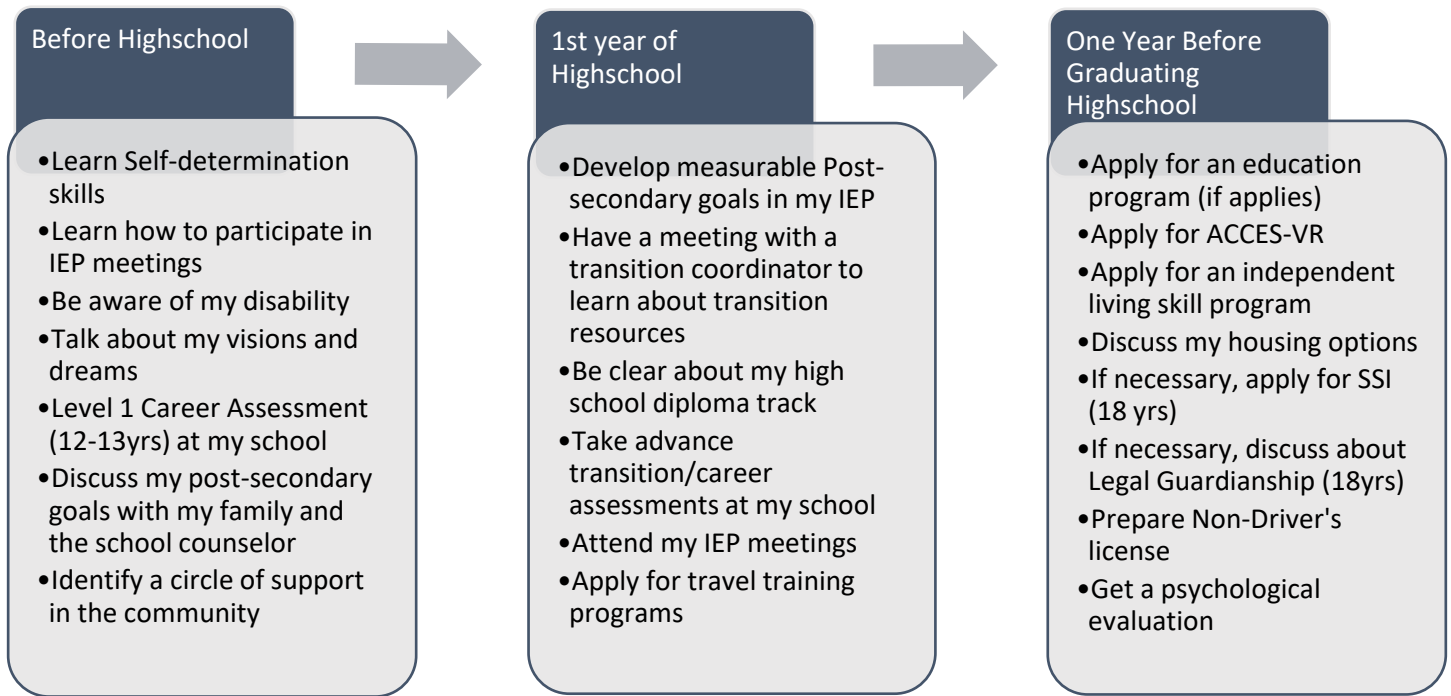
The programs operate through a network of local centers in each state, American Job Centers (AJC), which provide youth job training, education, and employment services at a single location. Services include skill assessments, information on employment, information on training opportunities, job search and placement assistance, up-to-date information on job vacancies, and transition services.

3 PLANNING ADULT LIFE

Transition planning is a process that brings together a student and those individuals directly involved in helping the student prepare to enter a post-school environment. It should be designed to ensure that the student will be provided the necessary skills and services to make a smooth transition from school to adult life with as little interruption as possible. Most of local and transition and developmental disability service applications take lengthy processes. Students with developmental disabilities and their families need to start planning and seeking adult service resources early as possible so that the transition process moves smoothly without delaying and disruption.

3.1 WHERE TO BEGIN - CHECK LIST

Preparing high school to adult life can be varied depending on the person's strengths, preferences, needs and visions. The following chart is a basic list to organize service applications and assistance for community living. Each step and detail plans can be adjusted based on the severity of the person's disability, needs and family situation.



3.2 SELF-ADVOCACY AND SELF-DETERMINATION

Families and educators of persons with developmental disabilities should create an appropriate and reasonable plan to teach self-advocacy and self-determination to a child with developmental disabilities in the early state stage of his or her life. For all children with disabilities, including those who require extensive services and help, learning self-determination and self-advocacy is the foundation of successful community living.

Self-Advocacy is learning how to speak up for yourself, making your own decisions about your own life, learning how to get information so that you can understand things that are of interest to you, finding out who will support you in your journey, knowing your rights and responsibilities, problem solving, listening and learning, reaching out to others when you need help and friendship, and learning about self-determination ([Wrightslaw](#)). It is important for a person with a disability have the knowledge to succeed and the chance to participate in decisions that are being made about your life.

Self-determination is believing you can control your own destiny. Self-determination is a combination of attitudes and abilities that lead people to set goals for themselves, and to take the initiative to reach these goals. It is about being in charge, but is not necessarily the same thing as self-sufficiency or independence. It means making your own choices, learning to effectively solve problems, and taking control and responsibility for one's life. Practicing self-determination also means one experiences the consequences of making choices.

The development of self-determination skills is a process that begins in childhood and continues throughout one's life. Self-determination is important for all people, but it is especially important, and often more difficult to learn, for young people with disabilities.

See more information and resources in [PACER.ORG](#).

3.3 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP) AND TRANSITION PLANNING

According to this federal law, local educational agencies (LEAs) and State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies must participate in planning meetings to assist students and family members to make critical decisions about this stage of the student’s life and his or her future post-school goals.

3.3.1 Postsecondary Goals

In New York State, the measurable post-secondary goals and recommendations for transition services and activities must be included in each student's IEP beginning no later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student is age 15 (and at a younger age, if determined appropriate), and updated annually.

The transition services listed in the IEP should relate to a type of instruction, related service, community experience, development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives (and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills), and provision of a functional vocational evaluation.

3.3.2 Transition Assessments

To guide the transition process, school personnel use the results of a variety of assessments in conjunction with the student’s measurable post-secondary goals. These transition assessments involve the continual collection of information about a student’s strengths, needs, preferences, and interests. The IEP team uses the assessment results to identify appropriate measurable goals and the transition services that need to be included in the student’s IEP. Transition assessment is conducted by a transition coordinator or social worker within the school or district.

Transition Assessments		
Categories	Skills	Uses
Education/ Training	Academic strengths, educational needs, and communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps determine appropriate instruction • Informs educational and job training decisions • Measures student progress • Helps identify future education and job training goals
Employment	Interests, aptitudes, and work-related values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides information on current vocational skills and abilities • Provides information about areas of interest that may lead to a career
Independent Living/ Personal	Social, behavioral, and life skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies current independent-living skills • Identifies current self-determination and self-advocacy skills

In New York State, school districts shall ensure that Students age 12 and those referred to special education for the first time who are age 12 and over, shall receive an assessment, called “Level 1 Career Assessment,” that includes a review of school records and teacher assessments and parent and student interviews to determine vocational skills aptitudes and interests. (8NYCRR 200.4 (viii)).

The Level 1 Career Assessment is:

a structured process that takes place over a 2 year period starting in middle school (age 12); the review of existing student information to assess basic skills and determine a student’s interests; the structured collection of information about the student’s interests and abilities outside the school environment that allow the student and family to work with the school in the career decision making process.

See more information in NYS Education Department website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/transition/level1careerassess.htm>

4 POST-HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

4.1 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

A person with intellectual and developmental disability can go to a college as long as he or she meets the institution’s admission requirements. In New York State, many 2-year or 4-year colleges require high school diplomas and a college entrance exam (e.g. SAT or ACT).

What Happens to IEP after High School?

An IEP from K-12 education will be no longer active after high school education. However, any individual with disability can ask for accommodation in higher education once she or he is admitted.

College Options for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (The following information are adapted from PACER.ORG)

In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) for the first time provided access to financial aid to students with intellectual disability attending college programs that meet the requirements of a “Comprehensive Transition Program” (CTP). The legislation emphasizes participation in inclusive college courses and internships and requires the students to be socially and academically integrated to the maximum extent possible. CTPs are designed for postsecondary students with intellectual disabilities to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction in order to prepare for employment. See [Think College](#), national coordinating center offering resources for this college option.

As of March, 2019, there were 265 non-degree programs on university and college campuses across the country offering students with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to take college classes, engage in career development and independent living activities and participate in the social life of the campus. Students with disabilities can learn why inclusive postsecondary education is important (and possible!) for students with intellectual disabilities, how to find the right program, how to prepare, and how to stay involved and supportive throughout their journey.

See more information in PACER.ORG: <https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/postsecondary/college-options.asp>

Contact Information

List of non-degree based college programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (NY): [https://thinkcollege.net/college-search?f\[0\]=tc_state_province%3ANew%20York](https://thinkcollege.net/college-search?f[0]=tc_state_province%3ANew%20York)

Think College Search (Nation Wide): <https://thinkcollege.net/college-search>

4.2 EMPLOYMENT & VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

If you are a person with a developmental disability, or have a child with developmental disabilities, you may apply for an eligibility for services that are available through NYS ACCES-VR, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) or local employment centers. If you have documented your disability or are able to prove the needs due to your disability, you will be able to receive appropriate services and accommodation.

4.2.1 NYS ACCES-VR (NYS Education Department)

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) is a part of the New York State Education Department, and it provides job search, educational, and independent living services and supports that help adults with disabilities find employment. ACCES-VR may provide: Money for college programs, job training programs, and supported employment programs. **The primary target for this program is people with disabilities who are able to work in a comparable work environment with accommodation.**

To be eligible for VR, you must:

- have evidence of having a disability that interferes with getting or keeping a job;
- be able to benefit from Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services; and
- need VR services to get, keep or advance at your job.

1) ACCES-VR Services

ACCES-VR has two program categories: Student and Youth Transition Services and Adult Services. If you are a student with disability, you can apply for the work-readiness programs through your school. If you are a person with a disability and age over 18 or out of high school, you can apply for various vocational programs for adults.

ACCES-VR offers the following services based on the assessment and interviews:

- Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- Assessments and Evaluations
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Special Transportation
- Adaptive Driver Training
- Work Readiness
- Training including tuition, related fees, required textbooks
- Tutor, Reader and Note Taker services
- Youth Services
- Physical and mental restoration services
- Medical care for acute conditions arising during the program
- Modifications to homes, vehicles and worksites
- Job Development and Placement
- Work Try Out & On the Job Training
- Job Coaching
- Occupational tools and equipment
- Goods, inventory, equipment and supplies for self-employment
- Occupational and business licenses

2) ACCES-VR Application and Process for Adults

The application process begins with contacting ACCES-VR and submitting the application forms and supported documents. You may have to attend the ACCES-VR Orientation Session in your area district office. After completing the application paperwork, you will meet with the counselor and she/he will assess your needs, preferences and strength areas for programs and service referrals.

If an individual is on SSDI/SSI and can show ACCES-VR staff current proof of benefits such as an entitlement or award letter, a current benefit check stub, or a current [Ticket to Work](#), ACCES-VR automatically approves the service eligibility.

How to Apply

Complete the VR application below and contact the ACCES-VR District office in your area.

Application form (There is no Korean translation yet): [English](#)

If you are a person with significant developmental disability, ACCES-VR may close the case and refer you to the programs available through NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) that offers more extensive support.

If you do not agree with the ACCES-VR's decision on services, you may appeal or file a complaint by contacting Disability Rights New York (DRNY) is [the Client Assistance Program \(CAP\)](#)

Contact Information

ACCES-VR District Offices in your area: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district-offices>

4.2.2 Ticket to Work

All individuals with disabilities who receive benefits from the Social Security Administration are eligible to participate in the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program. The "Ticket to Work Program" allows SSDI and SSI beneficiaries to seek the employment services, vocational rehabilitation services and other support services needed to obtain, regain, advance in, or maintain employment and reduce their dependence on cash benefit programs.

How to Apply

You can find more about Ticket to Work by visiting <https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/index.html>

Contact Information

Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 / 1-866-833-2967 (TTY)

4.2.3 NYS Department of Labor and Other Local Programs (NYC)

The Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) is jointly funded and administered by the United States Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and the Office of Disability Employment Policy. This federally-funded disability employment service is available in the ten local Career Centers. The DOL provides Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services and accessibility for everyone served in all NYS Career Centers, including individuals with disabilities.

* **NYS Local Career Center Locator:** <https://labor.ny.gov/career-center-locator/>

If you are a NYC resident with a disability, you may contact NYC Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities for job opportunities.

Contact Information

NYC ATWORK: Visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/mopd/employment/nyc-at-work.page> and complete the [contact form](#)

4.2.4 OPWDD Vocational Programs

New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) offers Employment Training and Supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To apply for the program, you have to have received an eligibility decision and obtain Medicaid. Information regarding how to apply OPWDD eligibility is explained in the section below.

4.2.4.1 *Supported Employment (SEMP) and the Employment Training Program (ETP):*

Supported Employment (SEMP) is a paid job training and coaching program in a competitive workplace in the community. Typically, you should have completed supported employment services ACCES-VR, or your case is closed by ACCES-VR and transferred to OPWDD for more extensive support. OPWDD has contracts with multiple agencies who provides SEMP services. If you are approved for Self-Direction (See Section 5), SEMP will be part of the Self-Direction budget,

The Employment Training Program (ETP) can also provide you with an opportunity to work in an internship that will lead to permanent employment in a community business. During the internship, your wages will be paid through New York State or the employer while you learn the skills needed for the job. As an ETP participant, you will also attend job readiness classes that present topics such as conflict resolution and how to dress for work. Employment Training Program services include increased job development and job coaching as well as assistance with other employability skills.

4.2.4.2 *Prevocational Services*

Prevocational services are available to you if you want to work, but need extra help to develop the skills to be successful in the workplace. These services address your vocational interests and can help you build on your strengths and overcome barriers to employment. These services include support and training related to the ability to obtain and retain employment, excluding training on job tasks. You may or may not perform work for which you are paid while receiving prevocational services.

How to apply

Contact your Care Manager once you become eligible to receive services from OPWDD.

5 NYS OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OPWDD)

The OPWDD (<https://opwdd.ny.gov/>) is responsible for coordinating services for more than 128,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, and other neurological impairments. It provides services directly and through a network of approximately 750 nonprofit service providing agencies, with about 80 percent of services provided by the private nonprofits and 20 percent provided by state-run services.

To receive various support from OPWDD, you will need to apply for an eligibility for services which is determined by the Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices (DDROs). The Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices (DDROs) are the regional offices of OPWDD. They are the starting point for individuals with developmental disabilities in the application process for Medicaid waiver services. To begin the process, you need to contact your local **Front Door Regional Office** to get started. You will be asked to attend an information session where you will learn how to access services and what types of services are available.

The first step to receiving assistance is to determine if you are eligible. Once you are determined eligible, you can begin the planning process. **There are many supports and service options available, including supports to live in your home independently or with others, employment, day habilitation, and children's services.**

5.1 FRONT DOOR PROCESS

The OPWDD Front Door Information Sessions will outline the process of how you can become eligible for supports and services, the types of supports and services available and where you can go to get assistance. Registration for the Front Door Information Sessions is done locally through your Regional Office or voluntary agency provider. All Regional Offices offer translation services for the language that best fits your needs and some Regional Offices offer Information Sessions in languages other than English. When registering for an Information Session please let the facilitator know if you need translation services or have other accessibility needs.

How to apply

Contact the OPWDD regional office in your area.

Contact Information

OPWDD Regional Offices

Long Island

Front Door Office Long Island

[631-434-6000](tel:631-434-6000)

Counties served: Nassau, Suffolk

New York City

Front Door Office Queens

[718-217-6485](tel:718-217-6485)

Front Door Office Brooklyn

[718-642-8576](tel:718-642-8576)

Front Door Office Manhattan

[646-766-3220](tel:646-766-3220)

Front Door Office Bronx

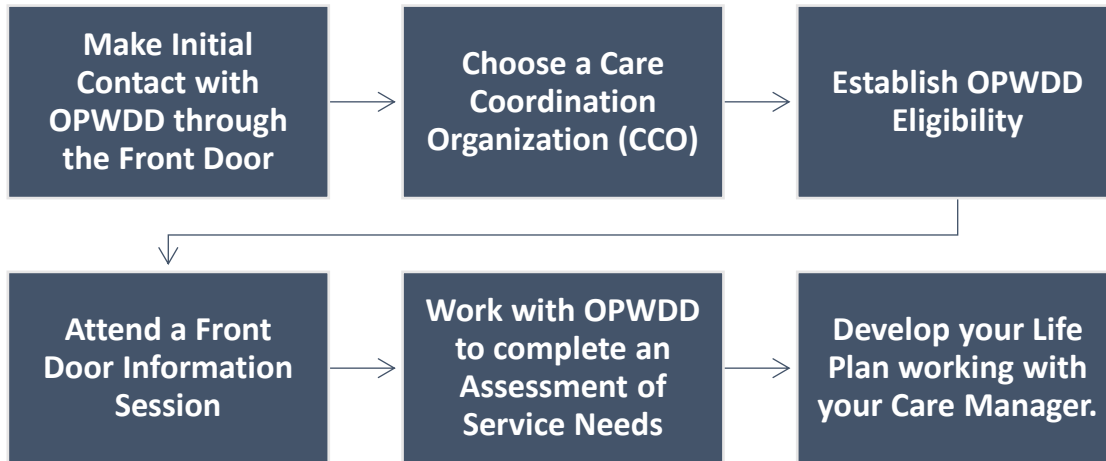
[718-430-0757](tel:718-430-0757)

Front Door Office Staten Island

[718-982-1913](tel:718-982-1913)

The Front Door Welcome Packet has important information that will help guide you through the Front Door process. It includes a checklist of key steps you need to complete to get OPWDD services.

- Front Door Steps [English](#)
- Front Door Steps [Korean](#)
- Front Door Steps [Chinese \(PRC\)](#) [Chinese \(HK\)](#)



5.2 ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS

The process for determining eligibility may involve multiple review steps, and is designed to ensure that every person receives a fair and thorough review. The detailed explanation about the process is explained on the OPWDD page: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/eligibility>

You also need to prepare documents to apply for an eligibility. Here are some of the key documents that you need to prepare in advance:

The following information is needed to determine if a person is eligible for OPWDD services:

- A psychological report which includes an assessment of intellectual functioning (“IQ test” - Full Scale, Index, Part and Subtest scores).
 - For people with **IQ scores above 60**, an interpretive report of a standardized assessment of adaptive behavior assessment (summary, composite, scale, and domain scores)
 - For people with **IQ scores below 60**, an adaptive assessment may be based on an interpretive report using information gathered from interviews with caregivers, records review, and direct observations.
 - For **young children**, an Early Intervention Multidisciplinary Core Evaluation and/or standardized test scores relevant to cognitive, language and communicative, adaptive, social and motor functioning.
- For conditions other than intellectual disability: a medical or specialty report that includes health status and diagnostic findings to support the diagnosis. If available, a recent general medical report should be included in all eligibility requests.
- A social/developmental history, psychosocial report or other report that shows that the person became disabled before age 22. This is required for all eligibility requests.

- Person's Individualized Education Program (IEP) if available.

In some cases, additional information or further evaluation may be requested to determine eligibility. We recommend that you work with the Eligibility Coordinator at your local OPWDD regional office to ensure that you have submitted a complete eligibility packet when requesting an eligibility determination.

5.3 CARE-COORDINATION ORGANIZATION

A Care Coordination Organization (CCO) is a contracted service provider with the OPWDD and an important part of your service process. A CCO can help you apply for OPWDD eligibility and Medicaid and can help you plan for and access OPWDD services. If you are found OPWDD eligible, you will be assigned a Care Manager from the CCO you select. Your Care Manager will help you to develop your Life Plan and connect you to the OPWDD services you need. Please Note: in some communities, where available, you may be referred to a Non-Medicaid Service Coordination (N-MSA) Agency instead of a CCO.

As of September 2020, eight agencies are serving as Care Coordination Organizations under the OPWDD.

Contact Information

- List of Care Coordination Organizations: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/find-care-manager>
- CCO Coverage Areas and Contact Information: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/medicaid_health_homes/idd/docs/cco_coverage_chart.pdf

5.4 FULLY INTEGRATED DUALS ADVANTAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (FIDA-IDD)

The FIDA-IDD is a plan for adults with long-term care needs (significant health and disability issues) where you can receive both your Medicare and Medicaid benefits from one managed care plan.

To join the FIDA-IDD you must be:

- At least 21 years old
- Eligible for OPWDD services
- A US Citizen or lawfully admitted to the United States
- Entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A and enrolled in Part B, eligible to enroll in Part D and eligible for full Medicaid benefits
- Eligible for intermediate care facility (ICF) level of care
- Live in New York City, Long Island, Rockland or Westchester County

The FIDA-IDD offers:

- Care management
- Primary care, specialist and hospital care
- Long-term supports and services
- Behavioral health
- Prescription and non-prescription drugs
- OPWDD services

Currently, only Partners Health Plan (PHP) is offering the FIDA-IDD in NYS.

How to apply

Call PHP directly using this information.

Contact Information

PHP website: <https://www.phpcares.org/>

PHP Tel. (855) PHP-LIVE or (855) 747-5483 TTY:711 8am-8pm, 7 days a week

5.5 SELF-DIRECTION

In New York State, People with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) can use funding from the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to purchase Self-Directed Services (SDS), instead of enrolling in traditional programs run by state and voluntary agencies. It is funded by federal and state Medicaid funds, and is overseen by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Self-Direction requires:

- A Care Manager to assist in accessing services
- A Broker to help write and manage your Self-Direction plan and budget
- A Fiscal Intermediary (FI) to process staff applications, submit documentation of services to OPWDD, and handle payroll
- A Circle of Support who helps a self-directing person to accomplish their goals

Self-directed services offer people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) budget the community activities, hire staff and independent living with help from their family, broker, Care Manager, and anyone else they choose. You have to be approved for an OPWDD eligibility in order to apply Self-Direction.

- For more information, visit OPWDD website: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/types-services/self-direction>.
- Additional Resources about Self-Direction:
 - YAI Presentation: https://www.yai.org/sites/default/files/documents/self-direction_101.pdf
 - Self-Direction Provider Manual: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/sd_guidance_040620.pdf

5.6 ASSESSMENT AND CLINICAL INTERVENTION

To become eligible for the OPWDD services, you will have to provide a series of assessment and evaluation reports. The evaluations can be conducted at a local clinic or independent practitioner. However, it is highly recommended to contact the OPWDD contracted providers who are experts in diagnosing intellectual and developmental disabilities. OPWDD expects providers to conduct diagnostic evaluations and assessments in accordance with accepted professional standards and follow appropriate manualized procedures when administering and interpreting specific assessment tools.

5.7 OPWDD ARTICLE 16 CLINICS

Article 16 Clinics are OPWDD-certified treatment facilities that provide clinical services to individuals with developmental disabilities as well as to those caregivers and other support staff whose participation in the service is deemed necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the treatment, enable the individual to remain in his/her current residential setting and enhance the individual's quality of life. Services may include:

- Individual and Family Psychotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Sexuality Counseling
- Nutritional Counseling
- Psychometric Testing (Psychological Evaluation)
- Psychosocial Evaluation
- medical/dental services and health care services (e.g., nursing, dietetics and nutrition, audiology, podiatry).
- Social Work

Contact Information

- **Providers for OPWDD Assessment and Clinical Services:** <https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/guide-to-eligibility-assessment-resources-revised-6-30-2020.pdf>

5.8 CRISIS INTERVENTION

OPWDD offers a crisis intervention program called, NYSTART for persons with ID/DD age above 6. NYSTART offers crisis prevention and response services to people who have both developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs, as well as to their families and those who provide supports. Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to OPWDD eligible individuals age 6 and over who meet NYSTART eligibility. The goal of the START program is to build relationships and supports across service systems to help people remain in their homes and communities and enhance the ability of the community to support them.

How to apply

You may contact your Care-Manager for referral and service coordination, or call NYS START directly to learn the services they offer.

Contact Information

- **NY START Regional Office Liaisons:** <https://opwdd.ny.gov/crisis-services>

6 HEALTH INSURANCE

After the age of 18, you may apply for SSI and Medicaid together if you are a person with disability and cannot work without support. You can also apply Medicaid once you receive an OPWDD eligibility.

6.1 MEDICAID AND OPWDD SERVICES

Majority of the OPWDD services are provided through New York State's Medicaid program, jointly funded by the federal and state governments. OPWDD also offers limited services with state funding. Therefore, it is very important for you to apply and obtain Medicaid to access services and supports from OPWDD.

Medicaid pays for the following OPWDD supports and services:

- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver services (i.e., most OPWDD services, such as respite, supported employment, community habilitation, day habilitation, and residential services);
- Children's waiver services (for children up to age 18 who have severe medical needs and a developmental disability);
- Care coordination;
- Residential care; and,
- Additional health-related items and services (like Article 16 clinic services)

How to apply

To apply for Medicaid, you will need your personal records, for example, your birth certificate; proof of where you live, such as a rent receipt or utility bill; proof of income (if you have any), such as a Social Security check or SSI; and proof of your resources, such as bank records. You will also need proof of disability and can use many of the same documents used to prove your OPWDD eligibility. If you have received an eligibility decision letter from OPWDD, submit it with the application. You can apply directly to the Medicaid office in your county. If you already have a Care Manager through OPWDD, the Care Manager can help you apply for Medicaid.

Contact Information

- [NYS Department of Health Medicaid Information](#)
- NYS County Department of Social Services: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss.htm
- New York Medicaid Choice: <https://www.nymedicaidchoice.com/?language=en>

6.2 MEDICAID & PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Medicaid Program has special provisions for people with developmental disabilities:

- People can work and still qualify for Medicaid (although depending on their income, a person may need to contribute to service costs).
- Parental income and resources may be waived (not be considered) for children living at home and seeking enrollment in the HCBS or Care at Home waiver programs.
- Financial resources can be put into a Medicaid qualifying supplemental needs trust and be exempt for Medicaid purposes.

6.3 MEDICARE & LONG-TERM CARE

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for: People who are 65 or older and certain younger people with disabilities. Some people get Medicare automatically, and some have to sign up. You may have to sign up if you're 65 (or almost 65) and not getting Social Security.

There are four parts of Medicare: Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D.

- [Part A](#) provides inpatient/hospital coverage.
- [Part B](#) provides outpatient/medical coverage.
- [Part C](#) offers an alternate way to receive your Medicare benefits (see below for more information).
- [Part D](#) provides prescription drug coverage.

If you get Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), you probably have Medicare or are in a 24-month waiting period before it starts. You have options in either case. If you are a person with a developmental disability that requires long term care (e.g. a person who requires extensive supports, physical and health needs), you may be eligible for fully Integrated Duals Advantage for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (FIDA-IDD). Please see [FIDA-IDD](#) above.

Contact Information

- ICAN - Medicare, Medicaid and FIDA consultation FIDA info: <http://icannys.org/icanlibrary/a-plan-for-me-fida-idd/> (ENG/KOR brochure)
- Partner's Health Plan (PHP) website: <https://www.phpcares.org/>

7 DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY - GUARDIANSHIP

In New York State, when a person becomes 18 years old they are assumed to be legally competent to make decision for themselves. This means no other person is allowed to make a personal, medical or financial decision for that individual. If a person is "intellectually disabled or developmentally disabled," has difficulty making decisions for themselves and over 18 years old, you can ask the Surrogate's Court to appoint a guardian for him or her

Guardianship is a legal arrangement where a court gives a person the legal right to make decisions for another person who is unable to make decisions for themselves such as [a child](#), [an incapacitated adult](#) or [someone who is developmentally disabled](#).

In New York State, a guardianship case is handled by the Family Court, Supreme Court or Surrogate's Court depending on the type of guardianship asked for and the person over whom guardianship is requested.

Who's Who

In a guardianship, one person has the legal right to make a decision for another person.

- **Guardian.** The Guardian is the person appointed by the court who has the legal right to make decisions for another person. Anyone can apply to be a guardian if you are over the age of 18 and a legal resident or

citizen of the United States. Someone with a criminal record may not be able to serve as a guardian. The Judge makes the final decision of who can be the guardian.

- **Ward.** The Ward is the person the Guardian makes decisions for. The Ward may not have the cognitive or communicative capacity to make decisions for themselves or be able to give informed consent for personal, medical, or financial affairs. Sometimes the Ward is called the Guardianee.

7.1 17-A GUARDIANSHIP (NYS)

An Article 17-A Guardianship is available only for individuals who are "intellectually disabled or developmentally disabled." These are the legal terms used in [Article 17-A of the Surrogate's Court Procedures Act](#). An Article 17-A Guardianship is very broad and covers most decisions that are usually made by a parent for a child such as financial and healthcare decisions.

How to apply

Download all forms and information here. A certification from one physician and one psychologist or two physicians must be filed with the petition certifying that the person has a disability and is not able to manage his or her affairs because of intellectual disability, developmental disability or a traumatic head injury. The Surrogate's Court can appoint a guardian of the person, the property or both.

- Click here to download: [Article 17A Guardianship Information Checklist](#)
- Click here to download: [17-A Guardianship Proceeding Checklist of Intellectually Disabled/Developmentally Disabled Person](#)
- Click here to download [Guardianship Forms](#)

Contact Information

- NYC's Surrogate Courts : <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/nyc/surrogates/index.shtml>
- Surrogate Courts in Other Areas: <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/cts-outside-nyc-SURROGATES.shtml>

7.2 ALTERNATIVE TO GUARDIANSHIP: SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING (SDM)

Supported Decision Making (SDM) is an alternative to guardianship that allows a person with an intellectual or developmental disability (ID/DD) to use supports to make his or her own decisions. With guardianship, the guardian has the right to make decisions for an individual. With SDM, the individual keeps the right to make their own decisions, but uses supports to do so.

However, SDM has not yet been formally recognized through legislation or the court system in New York. As such, SDM agreements are not legally binding in New York, and third parties, such as healthcare providers, lawyers, landlords, and banks, may not recognize SDM agreements. Such parties may voluntarily accept and honor the agreement though.

What are other alternatives to guardianship?

You may set up the following alternative documents with help from legal consultants:

- Representative payee
- Durable powers of attorney
- Health care surrogacy
- Health Care Proxy
- Power of Attorney

- Living wills
- Trusts
- Community advocacy systems
- Joint checking accounts
- Case management

Contact Information

- If you are interested in Supported Decision-Making resources and assistance, you may visit SDMNY www.sdmny.org, or contact them by phone at (212) 396-7754.

8 PREPARING FINANCIAL SAFETY NET

8.1 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

What is Supplemental Security Income?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a needs-based benefit program. The Social Security Administration (SSA) pays monthly SSI benefits to supplement the income of people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older. Blind or disabled children, as well as adults, can get SSI benefits.

Note: Supplemental Security Income is separate and distinct from Social Security benefits (SSDI) which will be discussed in the Social Security Benefits: See <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-entitle-ussi.htm>

8.1.1 Eligibility Requirements for Supplemental Security Income

Since SSI is a needs-based program, financial eligibility for SSI depends on what an individual owns and how much income he or she has. If the individual is married and living with his or her spouse, SSA also looks at the income of the spouse and what he or she owns. If an individual is under age 18 and living with his or her parents, SSA may look at the income and resources of the parents. If the individual is a sponsored non-citizen, SSA may look at the income of the non-citizen's sponsor and what he or she owns. The table on the following page gives an overview of the criteria that an individual must meet in order to be eligible for Supplemental Security Income.

SSI Amount

Live alone or pay your share of food and housing costs	January 2020
Individual/Child	\$783
Couple	\$1,175

Live in the household of another	January 2020
Individual/Child	\$522

Couple	\$783.34
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Live in a Medicaid Institution	January 2020
Individual/Child	\$30

To be eligible for SSI, an individual must meet the following criteria:

Aged	65 or older
OR	
Blind	Adult or child with 20/200 vision or less in the better eye with best correction, or visual field of 20 degrees or less, even with corrective lens
OR	
Disabled	<p>Adult:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unable to work due to a physical or mental impairment that has lasted or is expected to last at least one year or to result in death <p>Child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has a physical or mental condition(s) that is expected to last at least one year or to result in death ○ Under age 18 who has a physical or mental condition(s) that can be medically proven and which results in marked and severe functional limitations ○ Age 18-22 and meets the disability definition for adults
AND	
<p>All of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limited income ○ Limited resources (\$2,000 for an individual, \$3,000 for a couple) ○ U.S. citizen or eligible qualified non-citizen ○ Resident of the U.S., including the District of Columbia and the Northern Mariana Islands ○ Agree to apply for other benefits ○ Meet certain other requirements 	

8.1.2 Documentation for SSI Application

The following is a list of some of the documents that SSA may request when applying for SSI. The individual will not need to present *all* of the documents; sometimes one document can substitute for another and documents other than those listed here may be required. SSA will tell the applicant what he or she needs and what other documents are acceptable. Documents presented to SSA must be originals. If the individual does not have the original document, SSA can accept a certified copy from the office that issued the original document, but photocopies are not acceptable. SSA will return the original documents to the applicant.

SSA may ask the individual to present the following documents:

- **Social Security Information**

- Social Security card or number
- **Proof of Age**
 - Birth record or religious birth record
 - Other documents showing individual's age or date of birth
- **Citizen or Non-Citizen Status Record**
 - Birth certificate showing that individual was born in the U.S.
 - Religious record of birth or baptism showing the place of birth in the U.S
 - Naturalization certificate
 - U.S. passport
 - Certificate of citizenship
 - Current non-citizen immigration document such as:
 - Permanent Resident Card (I-551)
 - Arrival/Departure Record (I-94)
 - If an individual is a non-citizen who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, he or she may need his or her military discharge papers (DD-214)
- **Proof of Income**
 - Earned income:
 - Payroll stubs
 - If self-employed, a tax return for the last tax year, and work expenses
 - Unearned income:
 - Any records which show how much the individual receives (e.g., award letters, bank statements, court orders), how often, and the source of the payment
- **Proof of Resources**
 - Bank statement(s) for all checking and savings accounts
 - Deed or tax appraisal statement for all property the individual owns besides the house he or she lives in
 - Life or disability insurance policies, burial contracts, plots, etc.
 - Certificates of deposit, stocks, or bonds
 - Titles or registrations for vehicles like cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, campers, etc.
 - Trust documents
- **Proof of Living Arrangement**

If the individual is not residing in a congregate care facility or certified living arrangement, SSA may ask to see some of the following documents:

 - Lease or rent receipt
 - Names, dates of births, medical assistance cards or Social Security numbers for all household members
 - Deed or property tax bill
 - Information about household costs, food, utilities, etc.
- **Medical Information (Blind or Disabled Individuals)**
 - Medical reports
 - Psychological reports

- Clinical reports
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of doctors, hospitals and other providers of medical services and the approximate dates of treatment

■ **Work History**

- Job titles
- Types of businesses
- Names of employers
- Dates worked
- Hours worked per day and hours worked per week
- Days worked per week, and rates of pay for work for the 15 years before the individual became unable to work because of illnesses, injuries, or conditions
- Description of job duties for the type of work performed

■ **Other Sources of Information**

If an individual is applying as a disabled child, or on behalf of a disabled child, SSA needs the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people (teachers, caregivers) who can provide information about how the disabled child's medical condition affects his or her day-to-day activities. In addition, a copy of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) from his or her school is required.

8.1.3 Representative Payee Program

A representative payee (RP) is a person, agency, organization, or institution selected by SSA to manage an individual's payments when the individual is physically or mentally unable to do so. Before appointing a representative payee, SSA evaluates medical evidence and other information about the SSI beneficiary's ability to manage his or her SSI payments.

SSA requires that a representative payee be named for an individual who is under the age of 18 or is a legally incompetent adult, or anyone whom SSA determines to be incapable of managing or directing the management of his or her funds.

SSA may appoint any of the following as representative payee for an individual in the following order of preference:

- A person, other than a convicted felon, who is concerned with the individual's welfare (usually a spouse, close relative, guardian, or friend)
- The director of a residential institution, such as a nursing home or health care provider, including the director of a voluntary agency
- A public or nonprofit agency or financial organization

8.1.4 Overpayments and Underpayments

An underpayment occurs when an individual does not receive his or her monthly benefit or is not paid the amount to which he or she is entitled. Careful monitoring of the SSI benefit payments and knowledge of the individual's payment level can minimize underpayments.

8.1.5 Causes of Overpayment and Underpayment

Incorrect SSI payments may result from any of the following situations or not reporting changes to SSA timely:

- The individual's income, earned or unearned, was different from the amount that was estimated
- The individual's living situation changed
- The individual's marital status changed
- SSA incorrectly figured the individual's payments because of incorrect or incomplete information
- The individual had more resources than the limit allowed by the SSI program
- The individual was no longer disabled but continued to receive payments

8.1.6 Notice of Underpayment or Overpayment

SSA sends a written notice to the SSI recipient when an underpayment or overpayment of benefits occurs. The notice states the amount in question, how and when the overpayment or underpayment occurred, and the individual's right to appeal the decision. For more about the appeals process, see below.

8.1.7 Appealing an Adverse Decision

If an individual disagrees with an initial Social Security or SSI determination or decision, he or she may appeal the decision.

An individual has 60 days from the date he or she receives a Social Security or SSI decision letter to request an appeal. If the last day of the 60-day window falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or national holiday, the next business day is considered the last day of the window. SSA will assume the individual received the decision letter within five days after the date on the letter, unless the individual can prove that he or she received it later.

How to apply

To apply for SSI, an individual or his or her representative makes an appointment with the local SSA office. The appointment can be made in person at the local SSA office or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

Contact Information

Visit Social Security Administration (SSA) <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/> or through the information line 1-800-772-1213.

8.2 SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE (SSDI)

The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program pays benefits to you and certain [family members](#) if you are "[insured](#)," meaning that you worked long enough – and recently enough - and paid Social Security taxes on your earnings.

Children, disabled or not, can qualify for Social Security benefits if their parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent is receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits (SSDI) – or was entitled to one of these benefits before they died. When a child collects benefits based on the Social Security record of the parent, they are known as auxiliary benefits, or dependents benefits. In some cases, a grandchild or step grandchild can also be eligible for dependents benefits (if there is no living parent).

A child is eligible for up to 50% of the parent’s monthly benefit, subject to a family maximum. A child can receive these benefits until turning 18, or if the child is a full-time secondary school student, he or she can receive benefits until turning 19. If a child marries, however, the dependents benefits will stop.

Note: There are no regular SSDI disability benefits for a disabled child who is under 18. A disabled child under 18 may collect either SSI or, if a parent is collecting Social Security benefits (or collected them before dying), auxiliary benefits.

For more information, read our article on <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>

8.2.1 SSDI Benefits for Disabled Young Adults or Adult Children

This category of benefits, often called “adult child” benefits, is really an extension of the dependent’s benefits discussed above; the extension is for disabled children only. For a child who is disabled when he or she turns 18, or for a young adult who becomes disabled before turning 22, the Social Security dependents benefits discussed above can be continued for as long as the person is disabled. That is, the disabled child can collect SSDI if a parent, adoptive parent, or stepparent is receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits (SSDI) – or was entitled to one of these benefits before they died. In some cases, a grandchild or step grandchild can be eligible for these benefits (if there is no living parent).

The young adult must meet Social Security’s adult definition of disability. This dependent benefit is called a “child’s benefit” because it is using the parent’s earning record, not because the person needs to be young. Sometimes these benefits can start when the “child” is much older than 18 or 22. This happens when the disabled child’s parent doesn’t start collecting Social Security benefits until retirement; the disabled child is suddenly eligible for the child’s disability benefit at that point.

The SSA usually refers to this benefit as SSDI for “adults disabled since childhood,” even though the disability needs only to have started before age 22.

See our article on [disability benefits for disabled adult children](#) for more information.

8.2.2 SSDI or SSI for Disabled Adults

A young adult or adult who becomes disabled *after* age 22 must either have low enough income and assets to qualify for SSI or must rely on his or her own earnings record to collect SSDI. While a young adult does have to have some work history to be eligible for SSDI, young adults require fewer “credits” to qualify for SSDI benefits. For more information, see our article on [SSDI work credits](#).

* Comparison of the Two Disability Programs

Social Security Disability	Supplemental Security Income
----------------------------	------------------------------

Also known as SSD, SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance, Title II or simply "Social Security".	Also known as SSI or Title XVI.
Wage earner must have accrued sufficient "quarters of coverage".	No work history is required.
Benefits to worker's (wage earner) family: Spouses: If at least age 62, or if caring for either a child under 16 or a disabled child of the worker. Divorced Spouses: If the marriage lasted at least 10 years, and the person is age 62 years old or older and remains unmarried. Child: If under age 18 (or under 19 if a full-time high school or elementary student) and dependent unmarried child of an insured eligible worker. Disabled Adult Child: Adult Children (18 or older) of a retired, disabled or deceased worker, if the disability began before the age of 22.	No family member of the SSI recipient will be eligible for SSI benefits unless the family member independently establishes eligibility for SSI.
From the date one becomes disabled, there is a five-month waiting period prior to the receipt of benefits.	No waiting periods. An individual may receive benefits from the date of application of benefits.
Provision for payment up to 12 months before the date of application.	Only paid the first day of the month following month of application.
Only Worker's Compensation or other Federal or State disability payments may affect payment level.	Any income (earned or unearned) can affect benefit (after applying income disregard and exclusion).
No resource limits.	Resources must be below \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for an eligible couple.
Checks are paid one month behind, i.e. check received on May 3 is recipient's April check.	Checks are paid for the month in which they are received.

How to apply

To apply for SSDI, an individual or his or her representative makes an appointment with the local SSA office. The appointment can be made in person at the local SSA office or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

Contact Information

Visit Social Security Administration (SSA) <https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability.html> or through the information line 1-800-772-1213.

8.3 SUPPLEMENTAL NEEDS TRUSTS (SNTs)

Supplemental Needs Trusts (SNTs), often called as Special Needs Trusts, are legal tools used to help people with disabilities keep more of their income or assets without losing their public benefits. SNTs were originally

invented to allow parents of children with developmental disabilities to provide for them after they grow up without making them ineligible for public benefits (like SSI and Medicaid). Ordinarily, if a parent set up a trust fund for their child with disability (disabilities) with \$100,000 in it (for example), this would make them ineligible for public health insurance such as Medicaid. To avoid this, lawyers created special trust funds, which are structured in such a way that they do not impair a person's eligibility for public benefits. They supplement the disabled beneficiary's benefits, rather than replace them; hence the name Supplemental Needs Trust.

Another way that SNTs are used is to shield excess income for Medicaid purposes. By using an SNT in this way, a disabled Medicaid recipient can actually keep the benefit of almost all of their income, rather than having to pay a portion of it towards the cost of their care (e.g., for home care services). Income placed in an SNT can also qualify someone for a Medicare Savings Program.

8.3.1 Third Party Supplemental Needs Trust

A SNT can be established and funded by a person with a disability for their own benefit, or by a third party such as a family member or other loved one. Most common form of SNT for people with developmental disabilities is Third Party Trust which is funded by someone other than the Beneficiary.

8.3.2 No Payback Requirement

A trust established by a parent or other third party with his or her own funds has no payback requirement. For this to be true, the parent must no longer have a duty to support the child with a disability— so the child must be age 21 or older. EPTL 7-1.12 (c)(1), Soc. Serv. Law § 101. No Right of Recovery or Lien In these trusts, the State has no right of recovery and no right to place a lien against the trust property. Parents or other relatives or friends may use the SNT to provide for a child with a disability for life and are free to direct how any remaining trust property will be distributed upon the child's death. If a pooled trust is used, the non-profit might require that some or all of the balance left upon death of the beneficiary remain in the trust, and the rest, if any, may go to heirs.

How to set up

To learn more about Supplemental Needs Trusts, contact an estate planning company or lawyer for a consultation. You may also contact Pro-Bono legal services to discuss the program.

8.4 ABLE ACCOUNT

ABLE Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for individuals with disabilities and their families, were created as a result of the passage of the Stephen Beck Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 or better known as the ABLE Act. The beneficiary of the account is the account owner, and income earned by the accounts will not be taxed. Contributions to the account, which can be made by any person (the account beneficiary, family, friends Special Needs Trust or Pooled Trust), must be made using post-taxed dollars and will not be tax deductible for purposes of federal taxes; however, some states may allow for state income tax deductions for contributions made to an ABLE account.

8.4.1 Legal Background

On December 3, 2014, the ABLE Act passed in the U.S. House of Representatives (404-17). Two weeks later, on December 16, the U.S. Senate voted to pass the ABLE Act as a part of the Tax Extenders package, a group of more than 50 tax breaks that expired at the end of 2013. On Friday, December 19, 2014, President Barack Obama signed the Tax Extenders package, making the ABLE Act the law of the land.

The ABLE Act amends Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 to create tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. By making tax-free savings accounts available to cover qualified disability-related expenses (including education, housing and transportation), this law aims to ease financial strains faced by individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the funds contributed into these accounts will not negatively impact the person's eligibility for public benefits, such as Medicaid. The funds in these accounts don't replace benefits provided through private insurances, the Medicaid program, the Supplemental Security Income program, the beneficiary's employment and other sources. Instead, the funds supplement these benefits.

8.4.2 NYS ABLE

NY ABLE is sponsored by the state of New York and administered by the Comptroller of the State of New York. NY ABLE is intended to be a qualified ABLE program within the meaning of Section 529A. Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, LLC, the Program Manager, and its affiliates, have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including investment advisory, recordkeeping and administrative services.

NY ABLE contributions must be made directly to the Program and not through an ATM or a bank branch. The maximum allowable contribution to a NY ABLE Account is \$15,000 per year. ABLE account owners who earn income may contribute more to their accounts than the program's annual \$15,000 limit. The additional annual contribution is equal to the federal poverty line for a one-person household (\$12,490 for the 2020 tax year) or the account owner's income, whichever is less. Working account owners are not eligible to contribute the additional funds if they are already contributing to a retirement plan.

How to apply

You have to call directly [NYABLE](#) and ask about your eligibility to set up an account.

Contact Information

Call NY ABLE (1.855.569.2253) Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET

New York State Relay System: 711 or 800-662-1220

9 HOUSING

9.1 PREPARING COMMUNITY LIVING

Being part of the community and living as independently as possible are among the most important values and goals shared by people with disabilities, their families, and advocates. A home of one's own – either rented or owned – is the cornerstone of independence for people with disabilities. However, across the U.S. people with disabilities, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, face a severe housing crisis. Particularly for those live in the Metro NYC area, it takes great effort to find a place to live due to the rising housing costs and shortage of the supplies. Here are things to consider before searching for housing for a person with a disability:

- ✓ Self-Determination and Independent Living Skills:
- ✓ Financial Resource
- ✓ Travel to the Shopping and Work
- ✓ Home Accessibility & Accommodation

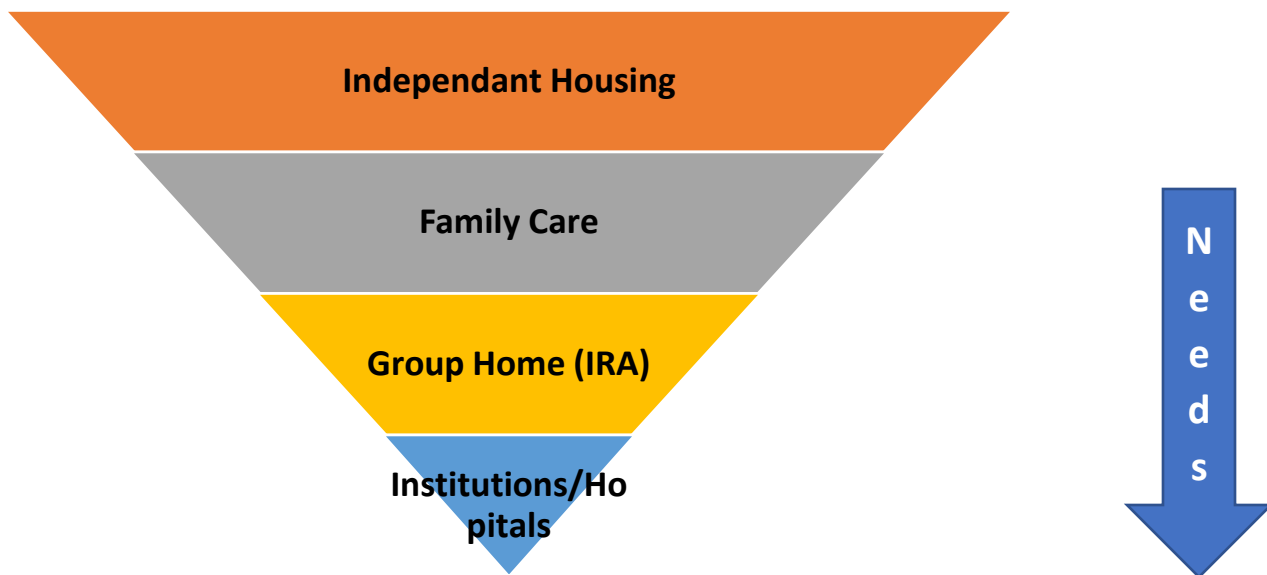
- ✓ Assistance Available in the Community
- ✓ Support Network (e.g. community organizations, church, family etc.)

9.2 HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Federal Housing Law, the [Fair Housing Act](#) prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin. You may search housing options through NYS OPWDD services or New York State affordable housing programs. New York City also has its own affordable housing programs through a few different agencies.

9.3 NYS OPWDD HOUSING SUPPORT TYPES

OPWDD support housing and community living of persons with developmental disabilities who are approved for a service eligibility. OPWDD identifies four types of residential options based on individual's needs and preferences.



9.4 INDEPENDENT LIVING: NON-CERTIFIED HOUSING OPTIONS

If you live by yourself in an apartment or home, you can receive supports and services to help you manage your home and daily activities. OPWDD supports independent living of persons with developmental disabilities through various programs and Self-Direction. For example, using your [Self-Direction budget](#), you can hire a live-in caregiver who can help you in your daily life and make sure you are safe and well while receiving a room and board. A "paid neighbor" can help you when you need assistance with a particular task. You can also receive supports for environmental modifications or E-Mods. These can be physical changes made to your home that can help you live safely in your home and get out into the community (such as a wheelchair ramp).

For those who have low or very low income may receive housing subsidy from New York State government. See more information in the below ["INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTS AND SERVICES \(ISS\) HOUSING SUBSIDY."](#)

9.4.1 Individual Supports and Services (ISS) Housing Subsidy (Non-Certified Housing Options)

Individual Supports and Services (ISS) is a residential program which supports and assists individuals who are capable of living independently with minimal assistance. ISS Housing Subsidy assists adults with developmental disabilities who wish to live independently by providing funds to pay for housing costs, and on a limited basis, for things such as food, transportation, and clothing.

The OPWDD Individual Supports and Services (ISS) Housing Subsidy works like other government funded housing subsidies, such as the Federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (e.g. Section 8 Voucher Program). The ISS Housing Subsidy is designed to support income-eligible individuals with developmental disabilities who choose to live in their communities. These individuals must be financially and legally responsible (e.g. lease holder) for their housing unit as a responsible tenant. Individuals are expected to contribute approximately 30% of their countable income towards housing costs. The ISS Housing Subsidy pays the difference up to the maximum allowable. Individuals may also be eligible for assistance with their security deposit and other moving expenses. Individuals may choose to live alone, with roommates, and/or with live-in caregivers.

Acceptable housing units include a: single-family home; townhouse; condominium; apartment; co-op; or manufactured home. Acceptable housing must meet OPWDD's criteria for housing assistance, and must be available to rent, own, or occupy under a legally enforceable lease/agreement. Housing must be available to the public or through an OPWDD provider agency.

**** The housing unit must be a specific, separate unit with kitchen and bathroom facilities and meet local and state standards as a legal dwelling unit. The OPWDD ISS Housing Subsidy does not support renting a room.**

ISS Payment

ISS funds can be used to pay either for rent or mortgage payments. The current maximum for the programs is \$1,324 for a one-bedroom apartment, which can also include utilities. If two individuals with disabilities share an apartment, they would receive more but based on a complicated formula. The amount for two people would not be double the maximum for an individual. If a person with a disability has a roommate without disabilities, the maximum amount would be the maximum based on the two-bedroom payment standards. Families and individuals can pay additional amounts above the subsidy maximum from a variety of sources, including social security, wages, trust income or direct family subsidies. ISS pays the landlord or mortgage holder directly, but through different mechanisms depending on whether or not the person is self-directing services. ISS payments go directly from OPWDD to the landlord or mortgage holder. For people using Self-Direction, funds are paid to the landlord or mortgage holder by the fiscal intermediary.

How to apply

People seeking OPWDD services must contact the Regional Front Door in your area first to obtain eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, the Front Door will help you figure out which services are best for you and get you into services as quickly as possible. If you have a service coordinator, they will help you too.

ISS involves a two-part process. Part 1 is the step that the Care Manager submits OPWDD the applicant's Profile (a separate document on a CCO's letterhead), with supporting documents to include a current Life plan and/or a current psychosocial, DDP2 and behavioral plans and risk assessments, if applicable. Please ensure that the profile reflects the individual's current capabilities, strength, weakness, likes, dislikes and needs.

After review, if appropriate, OPWDD will issue a Part 1 Conditional ISS Approval letter. All documents need to be uploaded onto the ISS Mailbox. After that you can start Part 2 of ISS.

In Part 2, the Care Manager needs to work with an ISS agency to look for an apartment. OPWDD will need a signed lease in the individual's name, work with an ISS agency to get a completed budget, Profile, Part 1 approval letter and SSI/Income and proof of utilities. You would work with the ISS agency to get all this together and submit to OPWDD to the ISS Mailbox (opwdd.sm.ISSRequestR4@opwdd.ny.gov) once you have all the documents.

Contact Information

OPWDD ISS Coordinators: https://www.yai.org/sites/default/files/documents/opwdd_iss_coordinators.pdf
Click here to download [OPWDD ISS Housing Subsidy Brochure](#)

9.4.2 Multi-family Integrated Supportive Housing (ISH) Program

OPWDD sponsors the development and management of apartments within developments built with public funds that have services provided by OPWDD certified provider agencies. These services can be community habilitation or supportive IRA services. Individuals living in non-certified ISH apartments hold the lease for the apartment in their own name and control the setting and may receive an array of other OPWDD waiver services such as community habilitation and other non-waiver services. ISH apartments are expected to be non-certified unless the service provider can document a rationale why the apartment needs to be a certified IRA, based on the individualized needs of the person(s) who will reside there. This is a relatively a new program and there are very limited projects that are still developing.

2020 NYS ISH Criteria (Priority) are:

- People at least 18 years of age who are eligible for OPWDD services who are seeking housing;
- People who were identified as being at imminent risk of homelessness due to potential loss of caregiver; and
- People being referred from institutional settings (including development centers, intermediate care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, prisons, and residential schools).

How to apply

You may call your Care-Manager to search ISH program or email Housing.Initiatives@opwdd.ny.gov.

Contact Information

Currently Block Institute is developing ISH in Brooklyn. Please email your inquiries to housing@blockinstitute.org, or call 718-333-0980.

9.5 FAMILY CARE

OPWDD's Family Care program provides community-based residential housing in certified private homes for people 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. Family Care uses certified private homes to provide residential services to people of all ages who are developmentally disabled and unable to live independently in the community.

The Family Care Program also provides these individuals with on-going service coordination including a Family Care coordinator, Family Care Provider(s), Medicaid Service Coordinators and a nursing team which provides medical care and intervention to consumers in the Family Care program. The five medical team members (One RN-BSN, two RNs and two Health Service Managers) act as the liaison between the consumers and their various medical providers to ensure that the consumers are receiving proper medical care and follow-up.

Who provides Family Care?

Family Care providers must be certified and contracted with OPWDD. Operating certificates for Family Care are issued through OPWDD's Division of Quality Improvement once you complete the training, and you meet all standard requirements and your home passes a safety inspection.

The standard requirements are:

- Age 21 or older
- No history of Class A, B, or C felony conviction
- Valid driver's license or access to reliable transportation
- Successful completion of all background checks for the applicant and all household members, ages 18 and older
- Successful completion of all required training, provided by the sponsoring agency
- Successful completion of a home study and safety inspection

Family Care is normally considered a long-term living situation. If the individual's physical or emotional needs change, other living situations will be discussed with the team, who include the Family Care provider, the individual, the Care-Manager, the Family Care Nurse and home liaison, and family of the individual, to develop a plan for a more appropriate living situation. Other living situations may include a different family care home, an IRA (community residence), a supportive apartment, etc.

Additional requirement for being Family Care providers are explained at this link: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/01/policy_7.1_family_care_home_initial_certification_requirements.pdf

How to apply

Call your Care-Manager for Family Care information. She or he needs to contact The Family Care Home Liaison who is the main contact with the Family Care providers.

9.6 OPWDD CERTIFIED HOUSING: GROUP HOMES

OPWDD offers several forms of housing owned and operated by OPWDD agencies, licensed, and regularly inspected by the state. The two new options are available for individuals who want to live in small residences or their own apartments. These are called IRAs and they are certified and licensed like other OPWDD group homes, but provide individualized services along with rooms and a board. OPWDD offers two alternatives in this program; 1) supportive and 2) supervised residential alternatives.

9.6.1 Supported Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRA):

Supportive Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs) have a maximum capacity of four individuals. Supportive IRAs enable individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to enjoy the benefits of community residential life with habilitation support staffing tailored to the times and circumstances that are

most needed by residents to remain living independently. These settings could be apartments or homes. The provider agency would hold the lease to the settings.

9.6.2 Supervised Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRA)

In contrast, supervised group homes are for individuals requiring staff on site at all times for individuals with disabilities that are present in the home. While supervised residences could be apartments or homes, they can have up to 14 residents.

How to apply

Call your Care-Manager to search available IRAs.

9.7 NYC HOUSING PROGRAMS

If you are a New York City resident, you may apply for Affordable Housing programs offered by New York City Agencies.

9.7.1 NYC Housing Lottery Set-Aside Units

The affordable housing projects managed by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the NYC Housing Development Corporation (HDC) set aside 7% of units for applicants with disabilities (5% for mobility, 2% for vision and hearing). Applications for these units are managed through a lottery system which can be accessed online through Housing Connect www.nyc.gov/housingconnect. Housing lottery usually takes 10 months. You also need to show evidence of income sources that can pay rent or mortgage. Income sources can be salary, SSI, Housing Subsidy (Section 8 voucher), pension or family asset.

****NYC Housing Resources for People with Disabilities:***

[English](#) [Korean](#) [Chinese](#)

How to apply

You may apply directly via [Housing Connect](#), or call [Housing Ambassador](#) near your area.

Contact Information

- Call Housing Ambassador: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/housing-ambassadors.page>
- You may also contact Andrew Lange, HPD's Disability Service Facilitator, for information about Housing Ambassadors or HPD services in general: 212-863-6486 and accessibility@hpd.nyc.gov

9.7.2 Other Low-Income Housing Programs in NYC and Contact Information

You may also consider the following options if you live in NYC.

1) New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

NYCHA is a low-income housing. Due to long waiting lists, priority is given to individuals and families applying from shelters.

1) New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

- [NYC Housing Choice Voucher Program through New York City Housing Authority \(NYCHA\)](#)
- Disability application: phone: 212-306-4652

2) NYC Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) Supportive Housing Programs:

More than a dozen NYC nonprofits currently have contracts to provide supportive housing for homeless or unstably housed individuals who have mental/psychiatric disabilities or are high-cost Medicaid users. The criteria to live in these apartments varies based on the government agency funding them.

- Bronx (Urban Pathways): 646 350 2531
- Manhattan (Heritage Health and Housing): 212-866-2600
- Queens (PSCH): 347-542-5689
- Staten Island (S.I. Behavioral Network): 718-351-5530
- Brooklyn Peer Advocacy Center: 718-855-5929 or 718-875-7744
- Brooklyn (Catholic Charities): 718-722-6229
- Brooklyn (Comunilife): 718-617-6400
- Brooklyn (Institute for Community Living): 718-855-4035

3) Rent Freeze Program:

Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE): Tenants that qualify for the NYC Rent Freeze Program for Tenants with Disabilities (DRIE) can have their rent frozen and be exempt from future rent increases.

- [NYC Disability Rent Increase Exemption through New York City Department of Finance](#)
- Phone: Dial 311

4) Emergency Rental Assistance Program:

The Emergency Rental Assistance program helps people who can't meet an expense due to an unexpected situation or event. Emergency assistance is provided for, but not limited to, the following situations:

- Homelessness
- Dispossess/Eviction
- Utility disconnected or pending termination
- Fire disaster
- Domestic violence
- Circumstances that affect the health and safety of the individual or family

Phone: (212) 331-4640 or HRA hotline 718-557-1399

For more information: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/hra/downloads/pdf/benefits/Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Grant-Flyer.pdf>

5) Family Eviction Prevention Services (FEPS and City FEPS):

For Families with children under the age of 18:

- FEPS is a housing supplement to help prevent evictions and provides rental support to families for up to five years. A household must be in housing court, be receiving public assistance, and have one child under the age of 18 to apply. Call the appropriate borough.
- Learn more: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/rental-assistance.page>
- Housing Advocacy Organizations:
 - Bronx Works: 718-637-2643

- Camba (Brooklyn, Staten Island and Queens): 718-675-3373
- Catholic Charities (Manhattan/Bronx): 212-862-6401
- Queens community house: 718-592-5757

9.8 MAKING YOUR HOME ACCESSIBLE: ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATIONS

Environmental modifications (E-Mods) are physical adaptations to the home that can increase or maintain your ability to live at home with independence. These improvements will address any safety issues you have. Environmental modifications include, but are not limited to: ramps, lifts, hand rails, and bathroom modifications (such as roll-in showers).

In addition to these physical modifications to the home, E-Mods can include modifications that address your sensory deficits, such as Braille identifications systems and strobe light smoke detectors and alarm devices and modifications that promote a safer environment for people with challenging behaviors, including window protection, reinforcement of walls, open-door signal devices and durable wall finishes.

How to apply

To be eligible for E-Mod services through OPWDD, you must be enrolled in the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver or the Children's Waiver and your Care-Manager should complete an application for you.

10 TRANSPORTATION

10.1 NEW YORK CITY SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION AND DISCOUNT PROGRAMS (MTA)

There are multiple, affordable public and private transportation opportunities for people with disabilities in New York City. There are a variety of services designed to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities.

10.1.1 Reduced-Fare Metro Cards

NYC Half Fare Reduced-Fare Metro Cards are available for seniors who are 65 and older, and people with a qualifying disability. People with disabilities who are approved for a Half Fare Reduced Metro Card pay half the base fare when traveling on the MTA bus or Subway. Half Fare Reduced-Fare Metro Cards can be used to pay fares on all MTA NYC Transit subways, all MTA NYC Transit local buses, 24 hours a day, and on express buses during non-rush hours.

[Application and Instructions available on the MTA Website](#)

10.1.2 Access-A-Ride (AAR)

Access-A-Ride provides transportation for people with disabilities whose disability prevents their use of accessible mass transit, public bus, or subway service for some or all of their trips. Access-A-Ride is operated by private carriers under contract to the City.

AAR is the Para-Transit service for NYC and administered by the MTA NYC Transit (NYCT)/Paratransit Division. AAR is a shared ride, door-to-door, or feeder service which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week within the service area covered by the NYC Transit's public bus and subway.

Access Ride Brochures

[English](#) [Korean](#) [Chinese](#)

How to apply

In order to apply for Access-A-Ride (AAR), you first need to call the Access-A-Ride office at 877-337-2017

- 1) First, press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish, 3 for alternative languages.
- 2) Second, press 1 for "Eligibility"
- 3) From there you will be connected with someone that will take your information and an Access-A-Ride Application will be sent to your home address, as well as a time for your certification appointment. You must have the Access-A-Ride Application fully filled out when you go in for your appointment.

Contact Information

Call 877-337-2017 toll free from area codes 212, 929, 646, 718, 347, 516, 631, 914, 845, 917, 332. From all other area codes, dial 718-393-4999. Customers who are deaf/hard of hearing can use their preferred relay service or the free 711 service relay.

For assistance in English, press "1." If "1" is not pressed, callers will hear choices of the languages.

10.2 NASSAU COUNTY SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION

Nassau County offers Able-Ride Paratransit Program that provides public curb-to-curb transportation through the MTA-Long Island Bus service.

The service is available only within Nassau County. [AbleRide](#) will pick up the person with a physical disability outside the home and take the individual to visit the doctor, go shopping, commute to work, or even attend social events. Many people with disabilities are now holding productive jobs as a result of the Paratransit Program.

Fare & Travel Arrangements

The participant may travel with an aide or a companion. The fare is \$3.75 each way for the individual with the disability as well as for companions. Aides travel free of charge. In some cases, Medicaid coverage may be applied. Contact Nassau Inter-County Express (NICE) Bus at 516-228-4028 for an application.

Contact Information

Travel arrangements and reservations are made with NICE Bus at 516-228-4000.

Ableride Information: <https://www.nicebus.com/Able-Ride/Apply-for-Able-Ride>

10.3 SUFFOLK COUNTY SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION

Suffolk County offers Suffolk County Accessible Transportation (SCAT) Services for people with disabilities. SCAT provides curb-to-curb service to individuals with disabilities. Eligibility to use SCAT is determined based on guidelines contained in the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Fare & Travel Arrangements

To receive such assistance, passengers must request it at the time they reserve their trips. For further information on Origin to Destination service paratransit riders may call 631.852.5200 or visit the Suffolk County Transit website www.sct-bus.org

- ADA Eligible Rider \$4.00
- Companions \$4.00
- Personal Care Attendants Free
- Children Under 5 Years of Age Free

Contact Information

Contact Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities 631.853.8333 (voice) 631.853.5658 (TTY)

SCAT Application

10.4 PARKING PERMITS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Department of Transportation issues New York City and New York State Parking Permits for People with Disabilities to residents with a qualifying mobility disability, as certified by a New York State licensed physician or podiatrist.

10.4.1 New York City Parking Permit for People with Disabilities

The New York City Disability Parking Permit, a plaque placed on the dashboard is eligible to park in all "No Parking" zones except those marked as taxi stands; at "No Parking" or "No Standing" spaces authorized for doctors, press, diplomats, and government agencies; at parking meters without depositing a coin; and in "No Standing, Trucks Loading & Unloading" zones except for specified restricted hours.

- [Learn more about New York City Parking Permits for People with Disabilities](#)
- [Instructions and Application for New York City Disability Parking Permit](#)

Contact Information

For more information or to apply, contact the Department of Transportation

New York City Department of Transportation
Parking Permits for Persons with Disabilities
30-30 Thomson Avenue, 2nd fl. suite 208
Long Island City, New York 11101

- Voice: 718-433-3100
- TTY: 718-433-3111

10.4.2 New York State Parking Permit for People with Disabilities

The New York State Disability Parking Permit, a blue hang tag or license plate allows people who are eligible to park in accessible spaces, and those from other states and countries to do the same. Accessible spaces are located in municipal and private lots, such as shopping malls and parking garages. The New York State Disability Parking Permit does not allow people with disabilities to park on the street in the "No Parking Zones."

- [NY State Parking Permit Application and Instructions](#)
- Also see: NYS DMV website <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/parking-people-disabilities>

11 OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS

11.1 SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION

Almost all men ages 18-25 who are U.S. citizens or are immigrants living in the U.S. are required to be registered with Selective Service. U.S. law calls for citizens to register within 30 days of turning 18 and immigrants to register within 30 days of arriving in the U.S.

It is important to understand that the Selective Service System does not have the authority to classify registrants as fit or unfit for military duty. Therefore, every male, even those who may ultimately be deemed unable to serve, must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. According to the Selective Service System's website, "men who have a disability and who live at home must register with Selective Service if they can reasonably leave their homes and move about independently." Unless your son is confined to an institution or is completely "bed-bound", he is required to register.

When your son is reaching the age where he is required to register, it is important to understand that registration does not mean he will be automatically inducted into the military. At the time of the draft lottery, the registrant, or his parents/guardians, would have the opportunity to provide any medical documentation needed for exemption and likely would not even need to appear for any testing.

How to register

- You may [register online](#) or in [mail \(Print and complete\)](#)
- Please visit <https://www.usa.gov/selective-service>

Contact Information

To contact the Selective Service System, call 1-847-688-6888 or toll-free 1-888-655-1825 Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ET. ID cards or Documents

11.2 ID CARDS

11.2.1 Non-Driver License (DMV)

A person of any age can apply for a New York State non-driver photo ID card. You do not have to be a resident of New York to apply.

You must apply at a DMV office. They will give you a temporary non-photo document at the DMV office near you. Allow 2 weeks to receive your photo ID card in the mail.

- NYS DMV application website: <https://dmv.ny.gov/id-card/get-non-driver-id-card-ndid>

11.2.2 IDNYC

IDNYC is the new, free identification card for all New York City residents. As a government-issued photo identification card, IDNYC secures access to City services that come from having recognized identification.

IDNYC cardholders can access services and programs offered by the City as well as by businesses. IDNYC helps enhance public safety, by serving as a recognized ID for interacting with NYPD. It also helps New Yorkers gain access to all City buildings that provide services to the public and is accepted as a form of identification.

For more information, visit IDNYC website <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/idnyc/index.page> [Tax Report](#)

12 ADDITIONAL WEBSITES

Advocacy

Arc Website	https://thearc.org/policy-advocacy/civil-rights/
Self-Advocacy Association of NY	https://sanys.org/

Housing

NYS Housing Resource Website	https://nyhousingsearch.gov/Resources.html
NYS Housing Alliance Website	https://nyalliance.org/
NYC Housing Resources for People with Disabilities	https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/resources-for-people-with-disabilities.page

OPWDD

OPWDD Acronyms	https://inthedriversonseat.org/getting-started/acronyms/
Self-Direction Glossary	https://inthedriversonseat.org/getting-started/glossary/
Self-Direction Guidance	https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/sd_guidance_040620.pdf
Employment Support	https://opwdd.ny.gov/types-services/employment-training-and-supports

Transition (Nation-Wide)

NTACT	https://transitionta.org/
Transition Coalition	http://transitioncoalition.org/transition/
National Health Care Transition Center	http://www.gottransition.org/
YASA – Youth as Self Advocates	https://familyvoices.org/yasa/
The Youthhood	https://www.youthhood.org/
ASAN	https://autisticadvocacy.org/
Eye to Eye	https://eyetoeyenational.org/
Youth 4 Youth	http://www.youth4youth.org/
YouthMove National	https://youthmovenational

You can find more resources from CIDA's website <https://cidainfo.com/resources/>