



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

Front Door and Self-Directed Services

Information Line: (866) 946-9733 • www.opwdd.ny.gov

For individuals with hearing impairment use NY Relay System 7-1-1

What will the Front Door do for you?

Through OPWDD's Front Door, you and your family will:

- Learn about the supports and services OPWDD offers,
- Find out how to apply for OPWDD services
- Find out if you are eligible for OPWDD services,
- Identify the supports and services you need, and
- Plan for getting the supports and services you need.

What happens at the Front Door?

- The decision about eligibility for OPWDD services is made based on your disability and how much support you need. Front Door staff will help you through the steps to determine if you are eligible.
- If you are found eligible for services, Front Door staff will talk with you and ask you questions to learn about your strengths and needs. Front Door staff will use the information they learn from you to talk to you about the services that might be most helpful to you.
- You will work with the Front Door to choose a service coordinator. You and your service coordinator will develop a service plan that describes how services you want and need will be provided. OPWDD staff reviews the plan and authorizes the services needed.

Why start the Front Door process now?

Front Door staff can help you get ready for the changes in your life as you move to OPWDD services. Examples of adult supports include:

- Support to live as independently as possible at home with your family or in your own home or apartment,
- Support to be active in your community,
- Housing supports,
- Supports to help you get ready to work and to find and keep a job,
- Get help to you fast when you need it (crisis prevention and response).

For more information on eligibility criteria or to apply for services, please go to the OPWDD website at:

http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/eligibility

What is Self-Direction?

As you go through the Front Door process, you can decide to self-direct your services when you are first planning your services or you can make the choice later when you already have services. Self-direction means you can choose to select and supervise your own staff and/or manage your own budget:

- You choose the staff you work with.
- You decide if you want your staff to have special kinds of skills and experience.
- You look for people to be your staff and send them to an agency you pick so they can hire them.
- You decide when you want the staff to work, decide what they will do to help you, tell your staff what to do and when to do it (supervise them), and decide whether they are doing a good job (evaluate them).
- You can also decide how money in your services budget is spent by choosing the services you need and who provides them. With the help of people who support you, you decide how the dollars within your budget are used.

Self-directed services can include supports to help you:

- Live at home with family or in the community, including a housing subsidy to help you pay for the place where you live,
- Be a more active member of your community, take part in activities you are interested in, like volunteering, and enjoy your free time doing activities you choose, like sports and hobbies,
- Find and keep a job.

Who can Self-Direct?

- If you are an adult and you can make informed choices, or have other people who will help you, and you are willing to do the work to be in charge of your self-directed services, you can choose to self-direct.
- If you are not able to make informed choices, you can self-direct if a family member or other adult you name helps you make choices or co-manage supports and services.
- If you are under age 18 (a minor child), you can self-direct with the help of an adult who is a parent, legal guardian, family member, or other adult you choose.