



Our Commitment to You



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities' (OPWDD) goal has always been to support the people our agency was created to serve and their family members. That remains just as true today as it was 40 years ago.

The systems in our State are working every day to make sure that the 130,000 people in New York State that need OPWDD services have quality supports while we build a system for the future. Our goal is to make sure that the supports you want and need will be there for you when you need them today and into tomorrow. The supports you need will continue, but they may change to give you more chances to take part in your community.

The system we are working to create will help us to meet the needs of people now and people who will need our services in the future. This will include 24/7 supports for people who need them, day and employment services, respite and all other service options people need. Our goal is to move away from a fixed system of supports toward supports based on the wants, needs and strengths of each person.

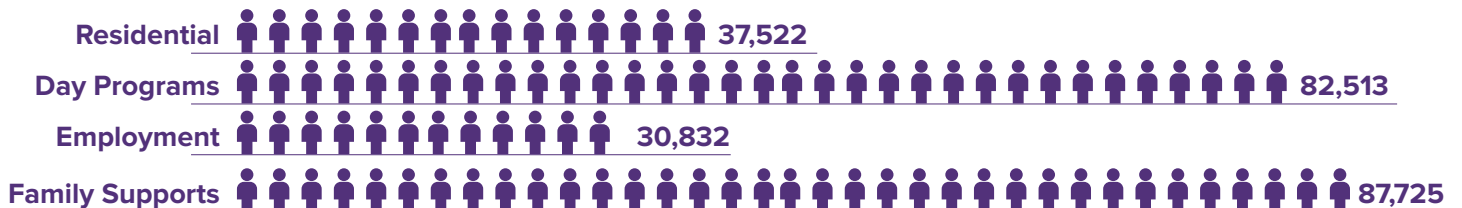


We are committed to providing you and your family the supports you need well into the future. Let's move forward together. We look forward to the New Year when we will move from discussion to action on the important issues that matter to you and your loved ones.

Kerry A. Delaney, Acting Commissioner

OPWDD provides residential supports for nearly 40,000 people with disabilities. We are also helping people that want to live in more community based settings follow their dreams of more independence with the right supports.

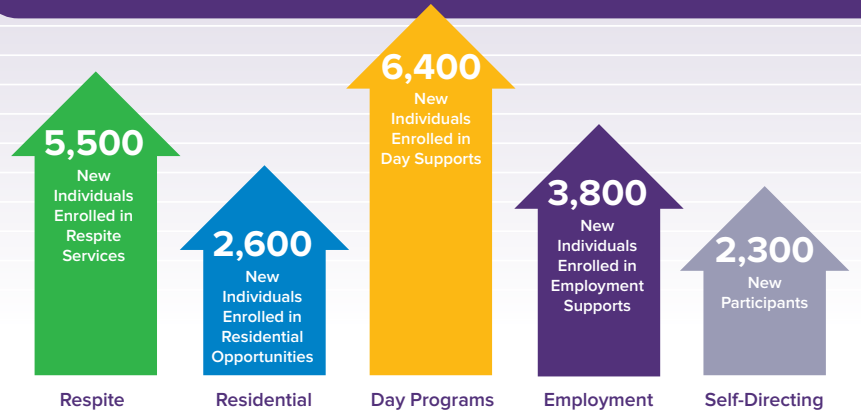
Enrollment in OPWDD Services



2015 Year in Review:

- Based on your questions and concerns, Acting Commissioner Delaney asked a group of individuals, parents, providers and advocates, the true experts in our field, to help shape the future of our system. The results of the Transformation Panel's work will be shared in early 2016.
- OPWDD has been working with sheltered workshop providers to become integrated businesses and offer jobs that help you to be a part of your community.
- OPWDD reached out to everyone who has told us they might need housing supports now or in the future to help us plan so the right supports will be there for you when you need them.
- OPWDD held a conference in early November to develop strategies for people with complex medical and behavioral support needs and begin to talk about how technology can help people live more independently.
- OPWDD awarded over \$65 million in Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) transformation grants to over 100 agency providers to help improve supports and services.

New Individuals Enrolled in Services Over the Last 18 Months



What to Expect in 2016:

- Implementation of the Transformation Panel Recommendations.
- An awareness campaign to help educate communities so that they are more welcoming to people with developmental disabilities.
- A campaign to encourage businesses to hire people with disabilities.
- Ongoing review of new technology in services and supports.
- A housing blueprint and a plan for how to best fulfill needs.



Help us keep in touch with you by signing up to receive regular updates on the homepage of our website at www.opwdd.ny.gov.



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