

Accessing Services through the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Eligibility Criteria

The NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) uses Section 1.03(22) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law as the legal basis for eligibility.

“Developmental Disability” means a disability of a person who is:

(A)

1. Attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, neurological impairment, familial dysautonomia, autism; or
2. Attributable to any other condition of a person found to be closely related to mental retardation because such a condition results in similar impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior to that of a mentally retarded persons or requires treatment and services similar to those required for such persons; or
3. attributable to dyslexia resulting from a disability in (1) or (2).

And

(B)

Originates before the person attains the age of twenty two; and

(C)

Has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely; and

(D)

Constitutes a substantial handicap to such person’s ability to function normally in society.

Each of these requirements in section (A) is interchangeable; but at least one of those three must occur in combination with the requirements of (B), (C), and (D).

Parent to Parent of NYS can assist you in locating an agency for an intake interview, answering questions about the eligibility process and providing contact information for your local Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO).

Southern Tier Office
210 12th Street, P.O. Box 205
Watkins Glen, NY 14891
(607)535-2802 or (800)971-1588



Services for People with Mental Retardation (Intellectual Disabilities) and Developmental Disabilities in NYS

Are there services other than Special Education that my child with special needs may be eligible for?

Some children with exceptional needs may be eligible to receive services through the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

What is OPWDD?

The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities coordinates and provides services for people with developmental disabilities and their families and conducts research into the causes and prevention of developmental disabilities. (See appendix for OPWDD Mission, Visions, Values and Guiding Principles.)

OMRDD provides access to services for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities through a regional system dividing the state into sections that are overseen by Developmental Disabilities Services Offices called DDSOs.

What is a DDSO?

There are 13 DDSOs across the State, thereby enabling people to connect with services that are locally provided and/or certified. Contacting the DDSO is a person's first step toward receiving the services he/she may want and need. Funding options, availability of services, and coordination of services can all be discussed at the DDSO. (See appendix for a Directory of DDSOs.)

What kind of supports and services are available through OMRDD?

Some services provided through OMRDD include family support, case management, respite, housing, supported employment, recreation, skills development, training, long term habilitative services, nursing and psychiatric services, respite (short-term caregiver relief).

Who provides these services?

In NYS, services for eligible persons are provided through a network of public and non-profit service providers, all of whom work collaboratively to assure that high quality care is provided.

