

# Medicaid Waiver, Self Direction & Independent Housing

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# PARENT

Donna Maxon January 2024

My name is  
Donald...



# Agenda

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## Medicaid Waiver

- What Is It
- Who Is Eligible
- Steps to take



## Self Direction

- What Is It
- Who Is Eligible
- Steps to Take

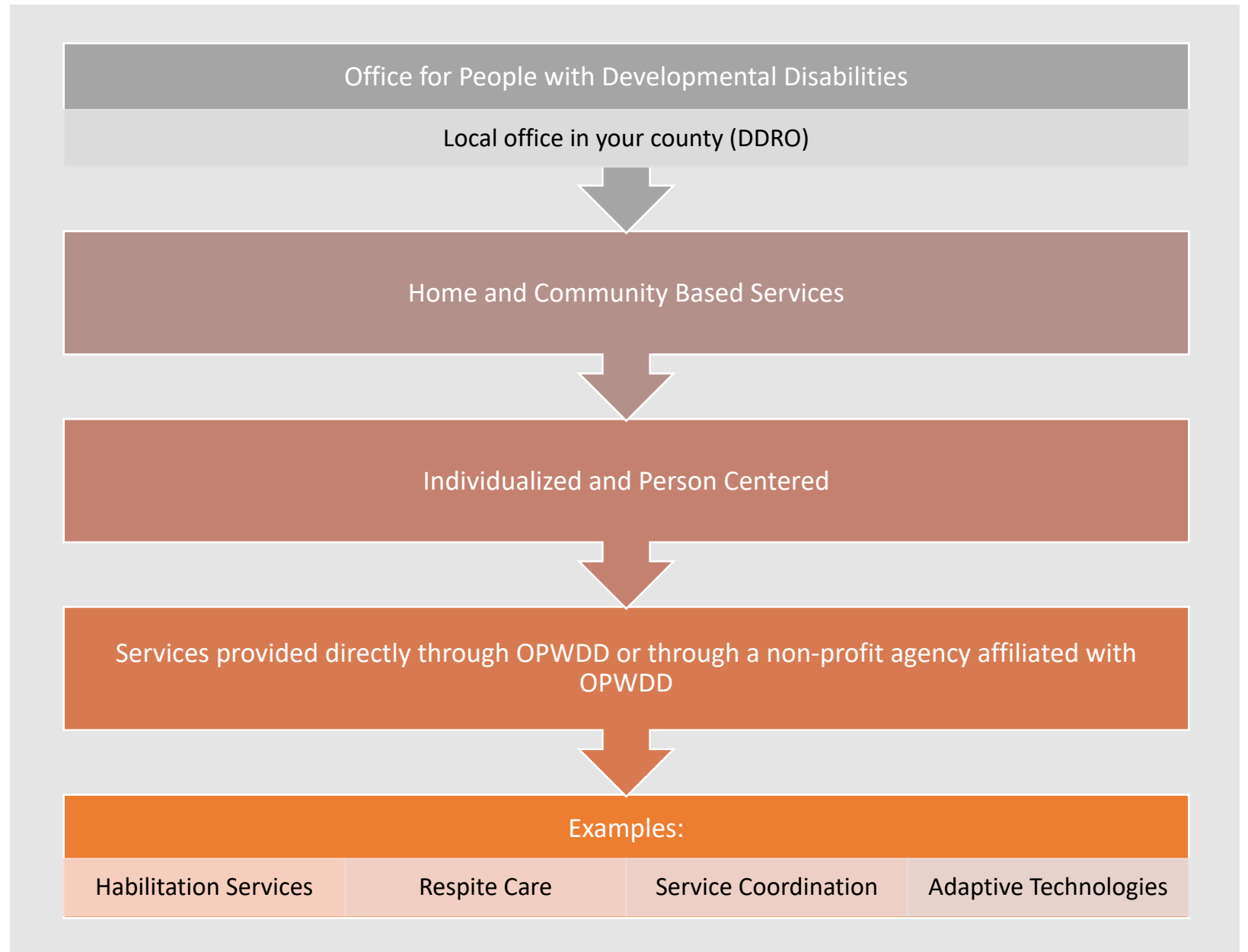


## Independent Housing

- What Is It
- Strong Independent Housing Plans
- Steps to take
- New Project in Eastchester/Tuckahoe

# Medicaid Waiver : OPWDD (opwdd.ny.gov)

- HCBS Waiver
- Home and Community Based
  - No School
  - No Health



# Who is eligible?

- Have a diagnosis of a developmental disability
- Onset prior to age 22
- Front Door process
  - Psychological Report
  - Medical or Specialty Reports (diagnostic findings to support)
  - Social/developmental history, psycho-social report
  - Other information requested by Eligibility Coordinator

# Steps to Take: Front Door

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- Front Door Regional Offices:  
<https://opwdd.ny.gov/contact-us>
- Attend a Front Door Info Session:  
<https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started/information-sessions>
- Connect to CCO (Care Coordination Organization)
- Evaluations
- Follow-up, Persistence, and Patience

A close-up photograph of a hand with a dark skin tone giving a thumbs-up gesture. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the thumb pointing upwards. The background is a solid, bright blue color. In the lower-left and lower-right corners, there are blurred images of other hands also giving thumbs-up gestures, suggesting a group of people.

# Approval

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- Care Manager
- LifePlan: Guiding Document/ “Prescription” for Services
  - Section 1: Narrative
  - Section 2: Goals
  - Section 3: Safeguards
  - Section 4: Medicaid Funded Services
  - Section 5: State Funded Items, Contacts, Doctors/Pharmacy
  - Reviewed twice per year

# Choice...

Traditional  
Services

Self  
Direction



# Traditional Services



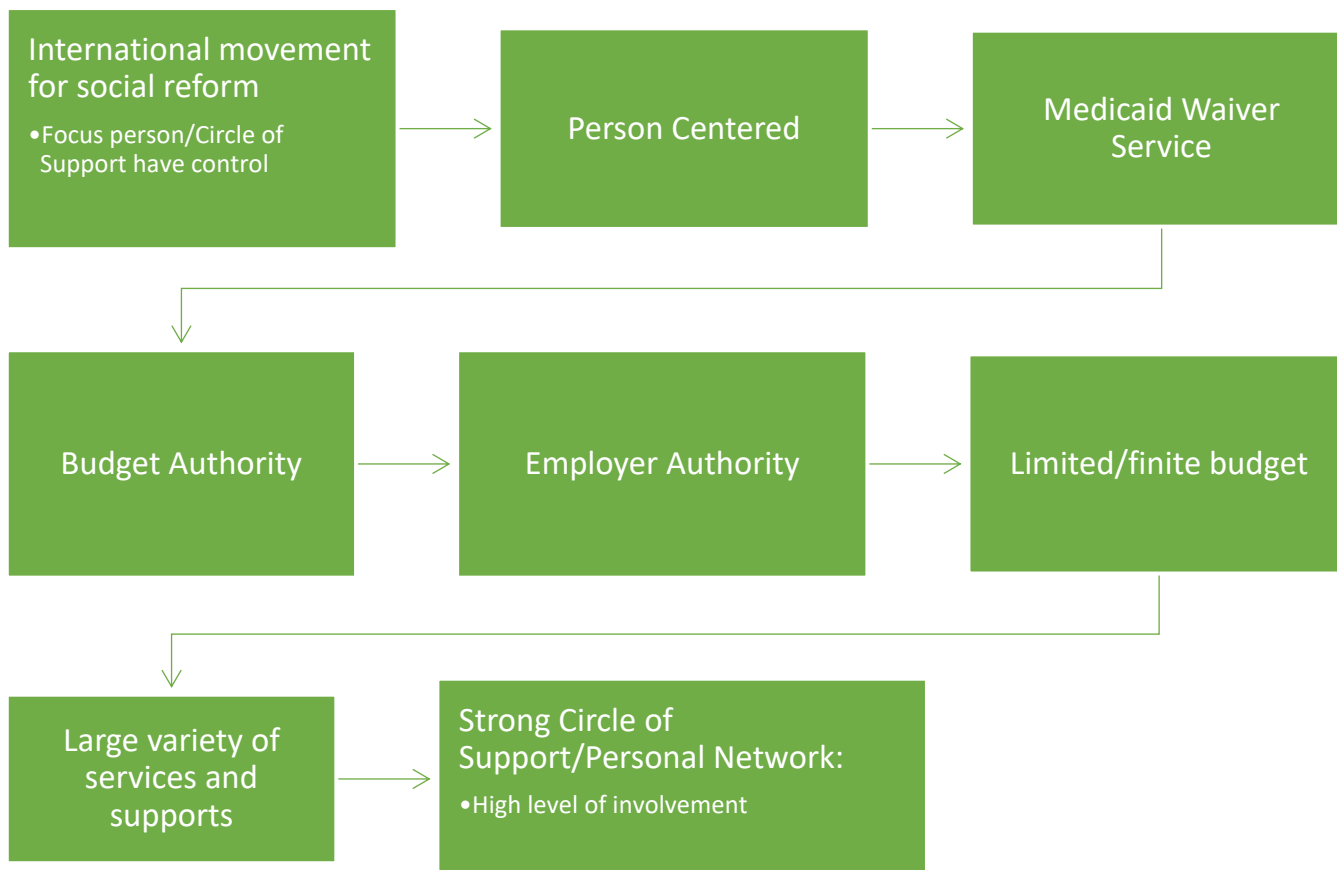
## Agency Services- Examples

- Site Based Respite: programs, trips, camp
- Respite Staff
- Agency Community Habilitation Staff- Work on Goals
- Day Habilitation Programs
- Housing - Certified Settings
- Housing – Independent
- SEMP (Supportive Employment)

Unlimited Budget

Limited Items Available

# Self Direction : What is it?



# Budget – PRA (Personal Resource Amount)

- Based on DDP2 scores: Care Manager
- Related to level of disability
  - Children vs Adults
- Finite amount
- Annual Budget; Refreshed with new funding every year
- Medicaid funded and State funded items
- Certain items only available:
  - **Family Reimbursed Respite**
  - **IDGS – ex: Classes, Memberships, Transportation, Paid Neighbor, Household Supports**
  - **OTPS- ex: Staff Activity Fees, Clothing, Utilities, Internet, Phone, Transportation**
  - **Support Brokerage**
  - **Live In Caregiver**

Self Direction-> Community ->Dance->  
**Viral Video**

Keywords:

Donald Simon, Dancing ,Dunkin, Autism





# Human Kindness Art Show

# Is Self Direction for me?

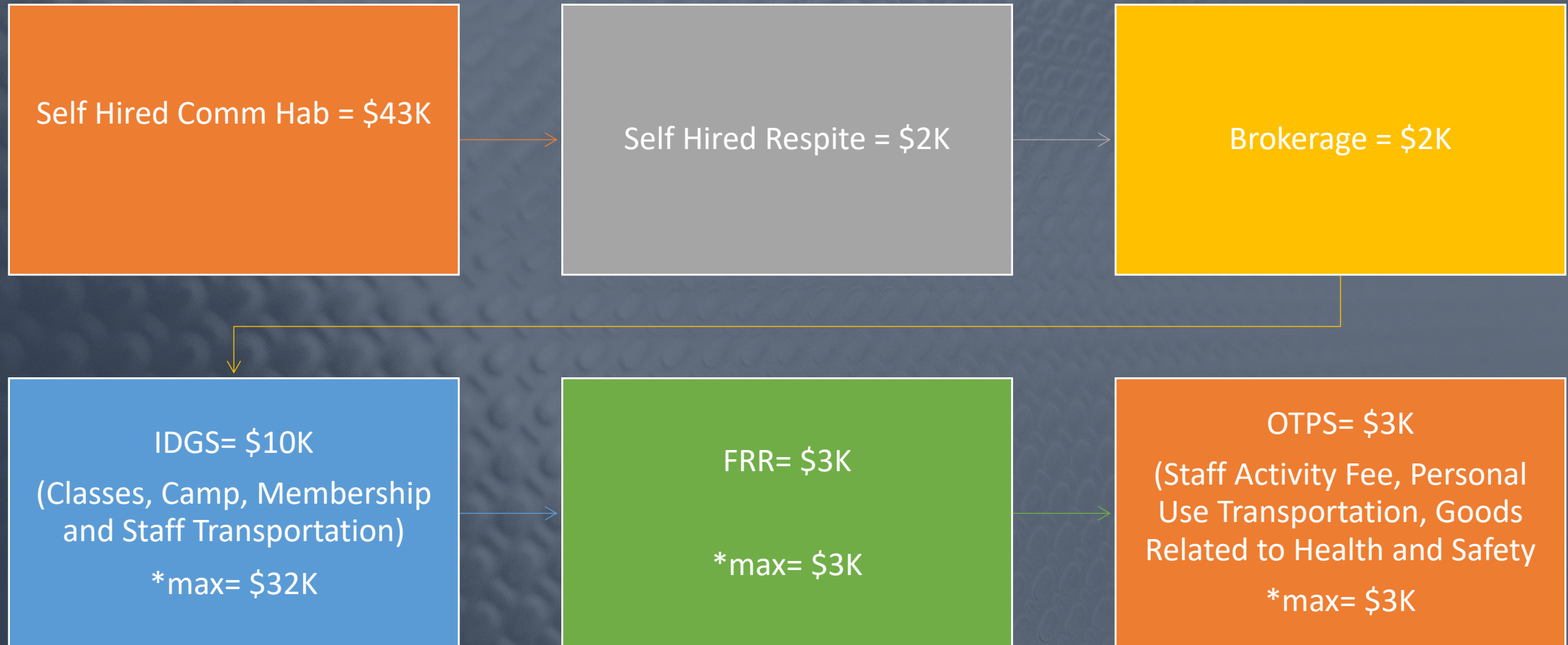
Medicaid Waiver Approved, Care Manager, and LifePlan

Want to be involved and have control

Manage budget, handle paperwork- electronic portals

Recruit and supervise Staff

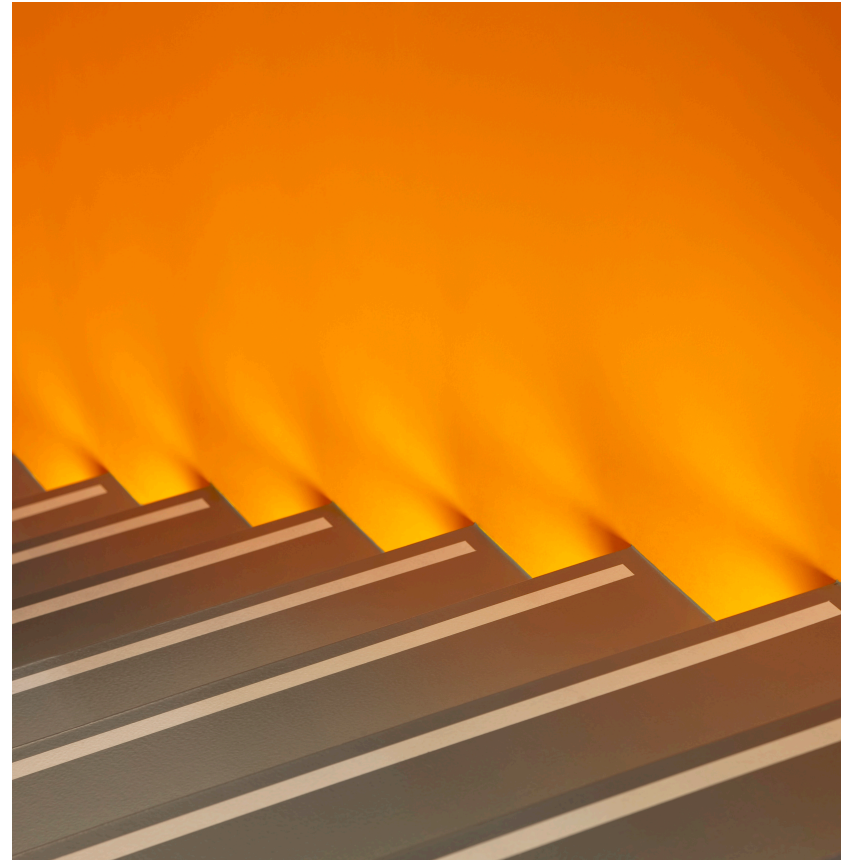
# Sample Child Budget – PRA = \$63,000



# Steps to take:

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- Attend OPWDD Self Direction Info Session
  - Care Manager completes SARF; receives NOD-09 for SD
- Develop a Team: Broker, Fiscal Intermediary Agency, Care Manager, Self Hired Staff
- Apply for a Start Up budget
  - Allows a Broker and FI to join the Team
- Develop a person-centered proposal
  - Budget
  - Staff Action Plan
  - Safeguards
- Implement and manage plan
- Monitor expenditures, manage monthly paperwork, supervise Staff, meet with Team, revise Plan and budget as needed





# Housing: Certified vs Non-Certified

# Choice...

Certified

Non-Certified



# Certified Housing: What is it?

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- **Supervised IRA** (Individual Residential Alternatives)
- **Supportive IRA**
- **ICF** (Intermediate Care Facilities)
- **Specialty Hospital**
- **Steps to Take: Care Manager**
  - **CRO** (Certified Residential Opportunities)
    - [https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/h005\\_cro-residential-referral-form\\_3-5-19.pdf](https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/h005_cro-residential-referral-form_3-5-19.pdf)

# Non-Certified (Independent) Housing: What is it?

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- Independent in the community
- Apartment/Condo/Co-op/House/ Legal ADU  
(Accessory Dwelling Unit)
- Focus person's name on Deed/Lease
- More information?
  - NY Housing Resource Center: <https://nyhrc.org>
  - Downstate Independent Housing Forum:  
[donnamaxon@aol.com](mailto:donnamaxon@aol.com)

# OPWDD Housing Subsidy

- Formerly known as the ISS Housing Subsidy
- Stand alone through a Traditional Waiver
- Built into the Self Direction Budget
- How is it calculated?
  - Tenant pays 30% of their adjusted income toward rent
    - Utility costs
    - Renter's insurance
    - Out of pocket medical costs
    - Etc...
  - Maximum payment standards by county
    - 2024 HUD FMR Rates ( 1 person/1 bedroom \$1,934)  
[https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2024\\_code/2024summary.odn](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2024_code/2024summary.odn)
    - \* Transition Stipend Available
    - \* Regulations outlined:  
<https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/adm-housing-subsidy-final-3.10.22.pdf>



# Self Direction & OPWDD Housing Subsidy

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- Rent payments deducted from PRA
- Support available through Self Direction:
  - IDGS – ex: Paid Neighbor, Household Supports
  - OTPS- ex: Utilities, Internet, Phone, OTPS Items that Support Health, Safety and Independence
  - Live In Caregiver
  - Self Hired Staffing
  - Housing Navigator ([nyhrc.org](http://nyhrc.org))
  - Fiscal Intermediary provides landlord monthly check for the portion of the rent that is approved for payment



# ArchCare's St Frances Cabrini Apartments at Immaculate Conception Church

Projected Opening date- June 2024

Eastchester/Tuckahoe NY



# Convent @ Immaculate Conception Church



Donna Maxon January 2024

# Project Highlights

Apartment building converted from unused convent

Private funding used for development

Newly renovated building - 10 apartments

Affordable housing

HUD compliant apartments

Common areas and amenities

One year lease; full tenancy rights  
Landlord: Tenant Relationship

Apartments set aside for adults with autism, who have potential to live independently with supports and modifications

Third party consultant conducts selection interviews

All apartments are studios with single occupancy only (utilities and internet are not included in rent)

Tenant Council/Family Council

Published calendar through Tenant Council

Interaction and activity with the greater community  
...in the community and for the community...  
Community Support



ArchCare at St Teresa  
Open since 1/1/2020

Donna Maxon January 2024



Meet the tenants...

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ArchCare Video...

Thank you,  
Cardinal  
Dolan...





# Follow @donaldsdiamonds on Instagram

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- Spelling to Communicate (S2C)
- Monies from sales are donated to CrimsonRise
  - <https://www.crimsonrise.org>
- “Raising money for Communication Rights”



# Donna Maxon

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- Certified Housing Navigator
- Certified PLAN Network Facilitator
- Independent Housing Managing Agent
- PARENT, ADVOCATE, FRIEND

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