

WHAT'S NEXT?
PLANNING YOUR
PATH AFTER
GRADUATION:
AGENCY BASED DAY
PROGRAMS AND
PRIORITIZING
EMPLOYMENT

Welcome



Jennifer Havrilla & Magda Piacentino
Transition Coordinators
Community Based Services

For 44 years, We have been...

Enriching Lives

Providing Jobs

Cultivating Dreams

Serving the Hudson Valley and Capital Region

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

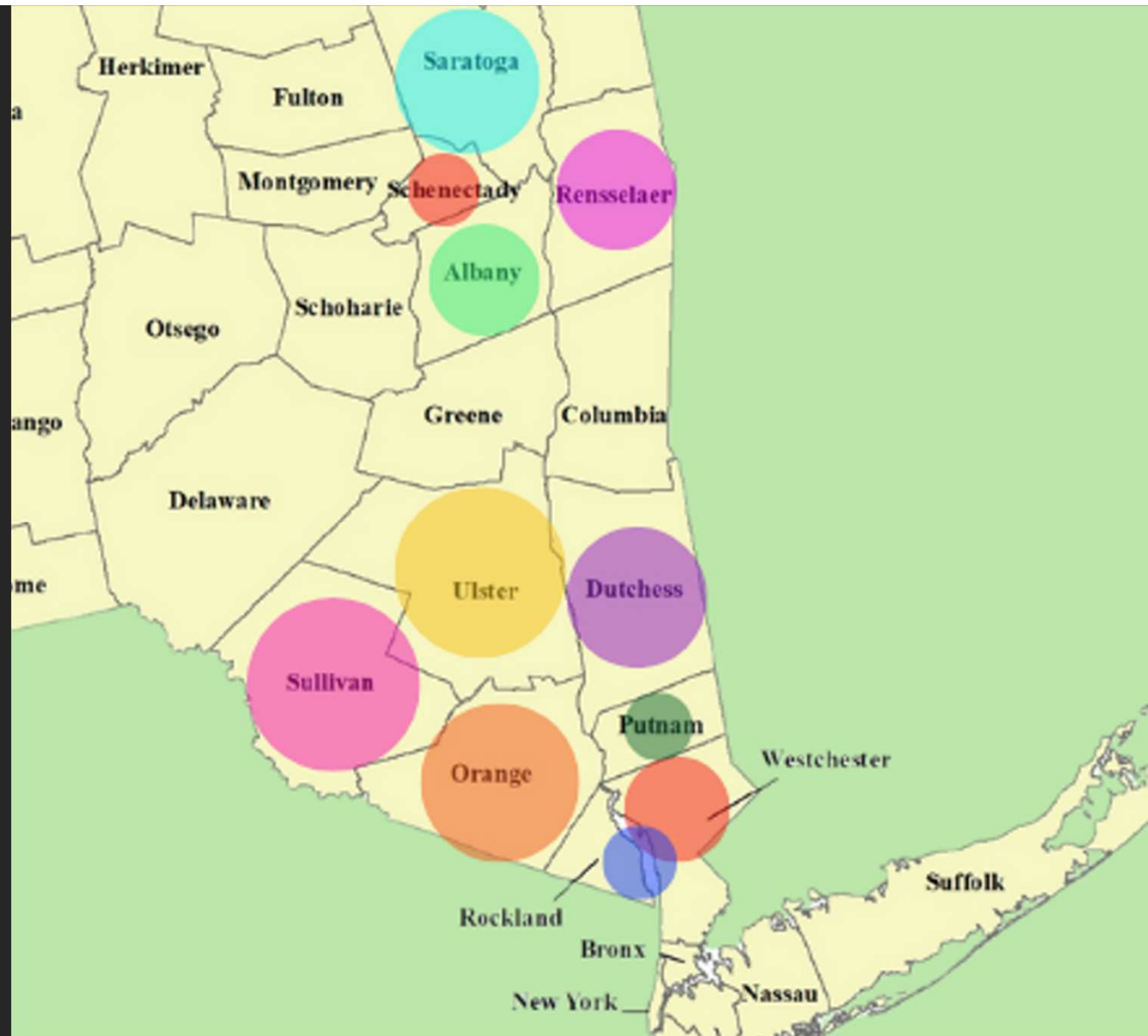
WWW.COMMBASEDSERVICES.ORG

914.277.4771



Uniting

HUDSON VALLEY
CAPITAL REGION



Mission

WE PROVIDE
EACH PERSON
THE BEST
POSSIBLE
QUALITY OF LIFE
THROUGH
RESIDENTIAL
AND
COMMUNITY-
BASED
OPPORTUNITIES.

Quality

FOR OVER 43
YEARS, CBS HAS
PRIORITIZED
QUALITY,
OFFERING THE
PEOPLE WE
SERVE
INTERESTING,
INNOVATIVE,
FUN, AND
EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS.

Today's Presentation

- Transition Planning
- Agency Programs and Services
- Employment
 - NY State Employment First Initiative
 - ACCES-VR
- OPWDD

TRANSITION PLANNING

Turning Dreams into Reality



What is Transition Planning?

Transition planning is the process used to help students and their families plan for transition from high school into adult life.

The purpose is to help teens prepare to be young adults who are as independent as possible.

Transition planning helps students decide what they want to do after high school and create a plan to achieve their goals, participate in their communities, and engage in meaningful activities.

Transition Goals

Learning to use money

Help applying to work programs

Volunteer opportunities

Tutoring

Vocational training

Afterschool activities

Help applying to college and financial aid

Internships

Exploring different types of housing

Help getting a driver's license or state ID

Applying for OPWDD eligibility

Innovate

IMPLEMENTING
DYNAMIC
PROGRAMS
DESIGNED TO
SUPPORT GOALS
AND INTERESTS

GOOD REASONS
DOG TREATS

HUDSON VALLEY
INTERARTS

CULTIVATING
DREAMS FARM



Cultivating Dreams Farm

- 10 acre farm located in Dutchess County
- Farmhouse, 2 Greenhouses, Outdoor Gardens, Walking Path, and Renovated Barn used for the arts
- Agricultural & Life Skills, Art/Music & Movement
- Site-Based Respite and Day Hab Without Walls
- <https://cultivatingdreams.org/>



Good Reasons Dog Treats & Fulfillment Company

- Located in Westchester County
- Jobs for people with all abilities
- Baking all-natural dog treats
- Assembling and Packing products for local businesses
- Every bag of treats purchased today provides a job for a person with a disability tomorrow.
- <https://www.goodreasons.com/collections/all>



Hudson Valley InterArts

- 15,000 sq.ft. state of the art arts center located in Putnam County
- A creative community bringing artists of all abilities together
- Holistic model for health and wellness using creative expression and social engagement
- Addressing isolation by bringing people together for shared creative experiences in art, music, movement and theater.
- Healing through storytelling in creative ways
- Addressing chronic stress – creating and expressing art activates brain systems in positive ways
- Yoga studio, recording studio, pottery, dance, drumming, interactive projector games, theater, arts & crafts, and more!
- <https://www.hudsonvalleyinterarts.org/>

INTERARTS

Valentine's CERAMICS WORKSHOP

VALENTINE'S VASE WITH KAREN JAIMES

SAVE THE DATE




Create something special with someone special!

SATURDAY JAN. 25TH
1 - 4PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:
WWW.HUDSONVALLEYINTERARTS.ORG

40 JON BARRETT RD. PATTERSON, NY



Reiki-infused
Yin Yoga
Sunday, 1/26
3 - 4:15pm

With Kelly Daley & Candice Felton

INTERARTS

Valentine MONDAY MAKERS

CERAMICS WORKSHOPS & MORE!

CREATE THE PERFECT HEARTFELT GIFT FOR [OR WITH] SOMEONE SPECIAL

MUGS
BOWLS
DINNER PLATES
HAND OR FOOT PRINTS
& MORE!

With Liz Stone



MONDAYS || FEBRUARY 3RD & 10TH
[ALL AGES] 2:30 - 4PM || 4PM - 5:30PM || [ADULTS] 6 - 8PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER - WWW.HUDSONVALLEYINTERARTS.ORG

40 JON BARRETT RD. PATTERSON, NY

INTERARTS

Mysteries in the Melt

A Collection of Visionary Curiosities

Exhibition Dates:
FEBRUARY & MARCH

Featured Artists:

- Alexa Spaddy
- Brian Zickaroose
- Genevieve Wood
- Hilary Astrid
- Katie Smith
- Perry Kroeger
- Ralph McQuiston
- TJ Squires

Music By:
Marquis Entertainment

OPENING RECEPTION
FEBRUARY 8th
5pm - 8pm

WWW.HUDSONVALLEYINTERARTS.ORG

40 JON BARRETT RD. PATTERSON, NY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST

OPEN MIC NIGHT



INTERARTS

6:30 - 8:30PM

WWW.HUDSONVALLEYINTERARTS.ORG

40 JON BARRETT RD. PATTERSON, NY



INTERARTS

ART JAM

BRING YOUR OWN PROJECT OR START A NEW ONE AND CREATE IN A FULLY-EQUIPPED ART CENTER WITH FELLOW ARTISTS AND TEACHING STUDIOS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 6-9PM

10\$ DONATION

40 JON BARRETT RD, PATTERSON, NY

SUNDAY MORNING MOVEMENT

ECSTATIC DANCE

FREEFORM DANCE FOR ALL

INTERARTS

Sunday, February 9th
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

40 JON BARRETT RD. PATTERSON, NY

For More Information or to Register:
WWW.HUDSONVALLEYINTERARTS.ORG

Becomes a better version of yourself!



Free Community Class

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 13TH
6 - 7 PM

INTERARTS

Learn More or Reserve Your Spot: www.HudsonValleyInterArts.org

40 Jon Barrett Rd. Patterson, NY

All levels & ages welcome!



INTERARTS

IT'S A
Fresh Start

February



WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE **FREE**
YOUTH MINDFULNESS
CLASSES ALL MONTH LONG!

Spaces are Limited!

REGISTER @ WWW.HUDSONVALLEYINTERARTS.ORG

Services

CUSTOMIZED
CARE FOR
CHILDREN,
TEENS, ADULTS
AND SENIOR
CITIZENS FOR
EXCEPTIONAL
LIVING

Agency Programs & Services

Day
Habilitation

Vocational
Supports

Community
Habilitation

Respite

Residential

In-Home
Support

Innovative
Programs

Transition
Planning



Day Hab Without Walls

- Reach your goals by being in the center of the action right in your community
- Volunteer
- Grow vegetables on a farm, train service dogs
- Deliver meals to the elderly
- Collect food for the hungry
- Develop friendships and work skills
- Engage in arts classes



Site- Based Day Hab

- Spend the day with friends and supportive staff in an innovative space designed for fun and learning.
- Engage in projects, work on computer skills in the media center, take classes, or wind down in the relaxation station, equipped with massage chairs.
- Explore the surrounding area on daily community outings.



Community Habilitation

- Building bridges to the community
- Master the art of traveling, managing money, and creating friendships with one-on-one support
- Community Inclusion
- Adaptive Skill Development
- Personal Care



In-Home & Site-Based Respite

In-Home Respite

- Personalized schedule tailored to your individual needs
- Provided any time, including afternoons, evenings & weekends
- Experienced staff support for safe supervision
- Break for caregivers

Site-Based Respite in Westchester, Dutchess, & Putnam

- Structured activities at our 10-acre Cultivating Dreams Farm
- Greenhouses, gardens, barn, pavilion, and fields
- Fun & safe environment
- Engaging fitness, life skills, sensory arts, and agricultural experiences
- Skill-building, socialization & recreational activities
- Trips to local attractions, museums, beach
- Saturdays available at Cultivating Dreams



Residential

- More than 40 years experience providing personal residential care services
- 10 IRAs in Westchester County
- Trustworthy, dedicated, and compassionate staff
- Quality services in the home that foster independence and enhance quality of life



Vocational Services

Services

- Community Based Prevocational Training
- Supported Employment
- Employment Training Program
- Personalized Employment Plan

Benefits

- Job Coaching
- Travel Training
- Job Development & Job Readiness Training
- Resume Writing & Interview Prep
- Skills Development Through Community Involvement
- Communication Skills & Computer Training
- Workplace Attire, Handshake, Eye Contact and more

New York Employment First Initiative

In 2020, the State established the New York Employment First Initiative to increase employment of New Yorkers with disabilities.

At that time, the employment rate for a New Yorker with a disability (aged 18-64) was 31.2% compared to 72% for a person without a disability, resulting in a gap of 40.8 percentage points.

The poverty rate for New Yorkers with disabilities aged 18-64 living in the community was 28.6%. That was more than twice that of people in New York State without disabilities (12.3%).

The Employment First Initiative set a tentative goal of a 5% increase in the employment rate and a 5% decrease in the poverty rate among this population.

Executive Order 40

In September 2024, Governor Hochul signed Executive Order 40, committing New York to be an Employment First State.

This pledge will increase competitive, integrated employment for New Yorkers with disabilities.

Defining Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines competitive integrated employment (CIE) as work that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis for which an individual is:

- Compensated at or above minimum wage and comparable to the customary rate paid by the employer to employees without disabilities performing similar duties and with similar training and experience;
- Receiving the same level of benefits provided to other employees without disabilities in similar positions;
- At a location where the employee interacts with other individuals without disabilities; and
- Presented opportunities for advancement similar to other employees without disabilities in similar positions.

What is the Medicaid Buy-In Program for Working People with Disabilities?

The Medicaid Buy-In program offers Medicaid coverage to people with disabilities who are working and earning more than the allowable limits for regular Medicaid, the opportunity to retain their health care coverage through Medicaid.

This program allows working people with disabilities to earn more income without the risk of losing vital health care coverage.

Since 2003.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for the Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities you must:

- Be a resident of New York State;
- Be at least 16 years of age (coverage up to 65 years of age);
- Have a disability as defined by the Social Security Administration;
- Be engaged in paid work (includes part-time and full-time work);
- Have a gross income that may be as high as \$75,385 for an individual and \$102,285 for a couple; and
- Have non-exempt resources that do not exceed the Medicaid resource limit of \$31,175 for a one-person household and \$42,312 for a two-person household.

For more information on the Medicaid Buy-In Program

Applications for the Medicaid Buy-In Program can be made through your local Department of Social Services.

https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/buy_in/

Preparing for Employment

- ACCES-VR
- OPWDD Provider Agency Programs
 - Prevocational Training
 - Supported Employment
 - Employment Training Program
 - Opportunity to work in an internship that will lead to permanent employment in a community business

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/types-services/employment-training-and-supports>
- Vocational Training Programs
 - Bespoke vocational training and education based on individual skills and interests
 - CBS is developing a vocational training center in North Salem

ACCES-VR

Start Here in High School

- Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) provides vocational rehabilitation services to individuals who have a disability, or disabilities, that impact their ability to secure, retain, advance in, or regain employment.
- Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) starts with the presumption that all individuals with disabilities can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services and should have opportunities to work in jobs integrated within their communities.

ACCES-VR

The New York State Education Department ACCES-VR has two (2) pathways for students (ages 14-23) to obtain services.

ACCES-VR Path 1

ACCES-VR offers Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) that will help students develop a better understanding of their career goals, strengths, interests, and abilities.

They are designed for younger students, are very easy to access and do not require an application to ACCES-VR.

ACCES-VR Path 2

Alternatively, ACCES-VR can provide additional services to assist in the transition period of getting ready to leave high school. These transition services (which include Pre-ETS) are geared for older students closer to exiting high school (within two years) and will require students to submit an application to ACCES-VR.

	Path 1	Path 2
**Recommended for who?	Recommended for younger students who have more than two years of high school left (age 14 and older.)	Recommended for older students within two years of high school completion (age 14 and older.)
What services are available under this pathway?	<p>Pre-Employment Transition Services geared towards younger students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-advocacy skills training • Job exploration counseling • Post-secondary options counseling • Workplace Readiness Training (to develop social skills and independent living) • Work-based Learning Experiences which include paid internships with job mentoring. 	<p>The full scope of vocational rehabilitation services that are geared towards older students (and adults) who need less exploration services and more transition assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes all Pre-ETS from Path 1 • Career Counseling • Job Placement assistance • Supported Employment • College assistance • Job Training • Customized Employment • And more
What can I expect from these services?	<p>Service options are customized to meet each student's needs and career goals.</p> <p>Local providers are available to meet in person, at your school or virtually.</p> <p>Services are typically provided in a group or classroom setting but can be individualized upon request.</p>	<p>Service options are customized to meet each student's needs and career goals.</p> <p>Local providers are available to meet you at your school, in the community or virtually.</p>

<p>How can I get these services?</p>	<p>It's very easy and there is no need to submit an application to ACCES-VR. The Pre-ETS provider for your school is:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Give them a call or email and let them know you'd like to receive Pre-ETS. They'll get some basic information from you and let you know when you can start. It's that easy !!!</p> <p>You can also contact your school's ACCES-VR Transition and Youth Services Counselor for more information:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>You will need to submit an application and be determined eligible for ACCES-VR services.</p> <p>You can ask your school's transition coordinator for one, you can call your local ACCES-VR office to attend an orientation, or, you can access the application on line here.</p> <p>In order to expedite this process, please be sure to include your school records (psychological, IEP, 504, medical forms, etc.)</p>
<p>What happens after the student successfully completes the services?</p>	<p>Upon completing the Pre-ETS through Path 1, the student can apply to ACCES-VR to get further assistance or, they can choose not to.</p>	<p>Successful completion of the individualized VR program (which generally spans months/years) leads to employment and the start of a career!</p>

ACCES-VR

The ideal pathway would be for a younger student to start off by receiving Pre-ETS through Path 1 early in their high school enrollment.

Upon completion of Pre-ETS through Path 1 and when they are within two years of exiting high school, their Pre-ETS provider will help them submit an application for VR services.

Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

To apply or be referred for ACCES-VR services you must be:

- An individual with a disability or disabilities;
- At least 14 years old; AND
- Available and willing to actively participate in the vocational rehabilitation process.

Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

In schools, the student's guidance counselor or Special Education teacher would be the person to talk to about ACCES-VR.

They can discuss the program, help figure out which path to take, and help access the application if the student would like to apply.

<https://www.acces.nysed.gov/>

After Graduation

Transitioning to Adult Vocational Services

Agency Vocational Services

Services

- Community Based Prevocational Training
- Personalized Employment Plan
- Internships
- Pre-Work Experience

Supported Employment:

- After completing the Community-based Prevocational Training, the next step is Supported Employment. The job coach will help you find a job by listening to your interests and helping you pinpoint the type of job you desire.

Employment Training Program

- Work in a paid internship that will lead to permanent employment in a community business. Includes job coaching as well as assistance with other work skills.

Agency Vocational Services

Benefits

- Job Coaching
- Travel Training
- Job Development & Job Readiness Training
- Resume Writing & Interview Prep
- Typing, Math & Telling Time, Reading
- Skills Development Through Community Involvement
- Communication Skills & Computer Training
- Workplace Attire, Handshake, Eye Contact and more

OPWDD

OFFICE FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

What is OPWDD?

OPWDD is the New York State agency responsible for coordinating services for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Provides services directly as well as through a network of nonprofit service providing agencies.

Prioritizes individual choices, needs, and desires in making decisions.

Approves people for services and connects them to available services.

WHY OPWDD?

Once a student leaves high school, the support they have been receiving in school through the NY State Education Department ends. To obtain state-funded adult services, a person must be deemed eligible to receive these services.

Once approved, OPWDD provides eligible applicants with customized supports and services. For example, day programs and residential support.

Medicaid funds most OPWDD programs.

OPWDD eligibility provides access to a network of state and private agencies, professionals, and resources that can make a significant difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

(This is why it's important to get started on this process early!)

The Front Door

The first step to accessing services

What Is the Front Door?

1) The Front Door is the way OPWDD connects people to the services they need and want.

The Front Door

The first step to accessing services

2) The Front Door is based on the understanding that people with developmental disabilities have the right to:

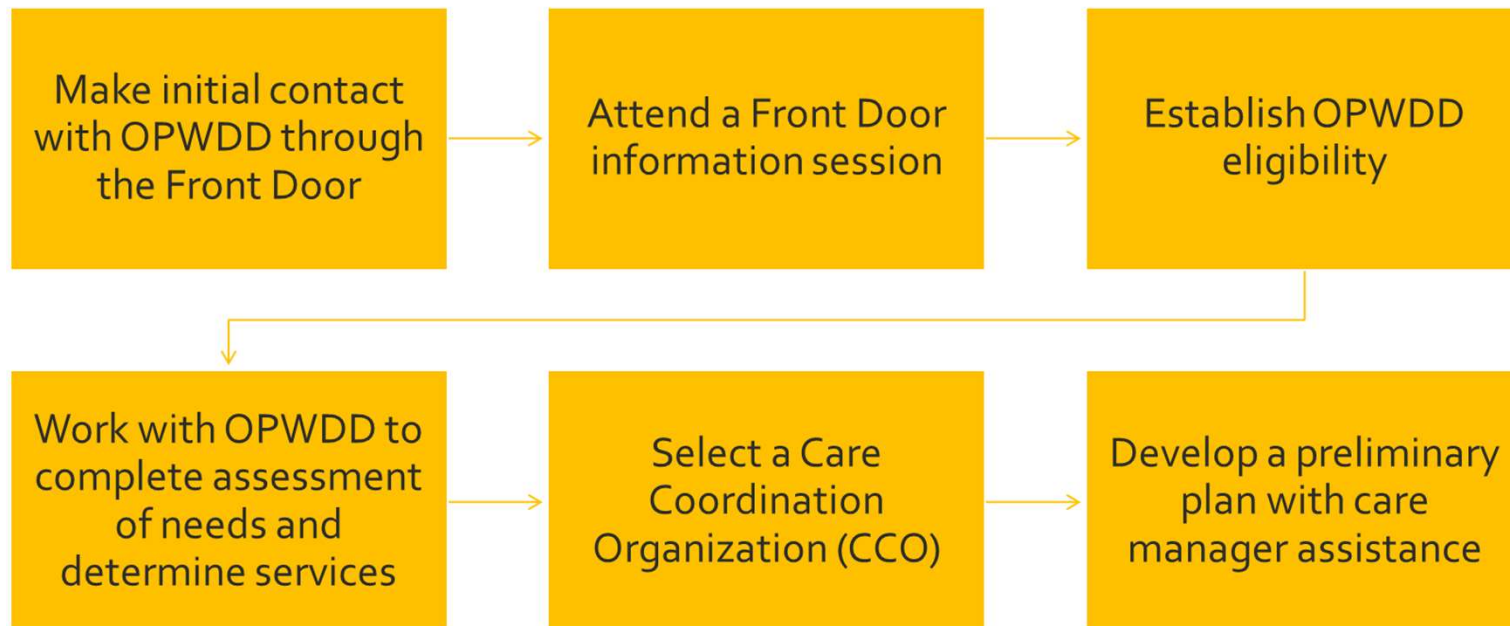
- Enjoy meaningful relationships
- Experience personal growth
- Participate in their community
- Live in the home of their choice

The Front Door

The first step to accessing services

3) The Front Door staff provides guidance on the steps involved in determining eligibility for services with OPWDD, identification of needs, goals and preferences, and help creating a plan for getting those services.

Key Steps in the Front Door Process



Front-Door Information Videos

To help you get ready to plan for OPWDD services, OPWDD created Front Door Videos that provide easy-to-understand information about OPWDD services and how to get started receiving services. The videos offer valuable information about:

- The supports and services that may be right for your student, and how to access them.
- The choices that OPWDD offers for helping individuals and families.
- How the Front Door process works.

What Comes Next?

OPWDD eligibility determination process:

- A multi-step review that determines whether a person has a developmental disability and is eligible for OPWDD-funded services.

- Many children with IEP classifications of intellectual/developmental disabilities and autism qualify for OPWDD services.

- There are a number of required documents, evaluations, and medical reports needed to determine eligibility.

- The process can be a lengthy, begin early and be prepared!

OPWDD Resources

- OPWDD Front Door Website: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started/front-door>
- Contact the OPWDD Infoline at 866-946-9733
- Front Door Videos: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/access-supports/front-door-videos>
- Access to Services Guide: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started/access-services-guide>
- How Can I Get Services: Front Door Brochure
https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/08/012_frontdoor_trifold_7_27_2023.pdf



Transition Planning

- For high school students and their families
- Assisting with designing a plan for transition from school to adult life
- Resources for jobs, education, day programs, volunteering, and community connections
- Navigating systems of care and access to resources

Now Accepting Referrals for all Programs!

Lower and Upper Hudson Valley and Capital Region

- Day Habilitation Without Walls & Site-Based
- Community Habilitation
- Site-Based & In-Home Respite
- Vocational Training & Employment
- Transition Planning Support

Contact

Upper Hudson Valley/Capital Region

JENNIFER HAVRILLA

JHAVRILLA@COMMBASEDSERVICES.ORG

914-236-1128

Lower Hudson Valley

MAGDA PIACENTINO

MPIACENTINO@COMMBASEDSERVICSE.ORG

914-236-1173