



# 2026 State Agency Planning Priority Guidelines- Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON OPWDD PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 LOCAL SERVICES PLANNING PROCESS

New York State Mental Hygiene Law (§ 41.16) requires the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), the Office of Mental Health (OMH), and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to guide and facilitate the Local Services Planning process in collaboration with Local Governmental Units (LGUs). For many years, each State agency conducted its own local planning process, which required LGUs to comply with three different sets of planning requirements and three separate due dates. Since 2008, however, State agencies and LGUs have worked together to create a comprehensive planning process whereby LGUs submit one Local Services Plan to all three State agencies.

In 2022 a workgroup comprised of Directors of Community Services/LGU Planning Staff, State agency representatives, and Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors (CLMHD) staff revisited the Local Services Planning process. The workgroup recommended comprehensive changes to the Local Services Planning process, including moving from submitting a new Local Services Plan (LSP) each year to creating a LSP that has a four-year timeline and submitting annual updates or addendums to the four-year plan.

This four-year planning process began with the submission of the 2024-2027 LSPs in calendar year 2023. Last year was the first year in which LGUs submitted annual updates to the 2024-2027 LSP, rather than the submission of a whole new Plan. To view your previously submitted 2024-2027 LSP and the 2025 Update, please visit:

[clmhd.org/contact\\_local\\_mental\\_hygiene\\_departments](https://clmhd.org/contact_local_mental_hygiene_departments)

The four-year planning process continues this year with the second submission of annual updates to the 2024-2027 LSP.

**This document is intended to provide details on State priorities for DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY services.** Documents providing LGUs with an overview of the questions that will be on the 2026 Local Services Plan electronic forms were distributed to LGUs via email on Thursday, March 20, 2025. If you did not receive the email with question overview documents, please contact [oasasplanning@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:oasasplanning@oasas.ny.gov).

## LOCAL SERVICES PLANNING TIMELINE

Table 1 displays an overview of the timeline for the 2024-2027 Local Services Planning process, including the annual update cycle.

**Table 1: Local Services Plan Overview 2024 and Beyond**

Process Step	Date
2024-2027 Local Services Plan Due	June 30, 2023
2025 Update to 2024-2027 Local Services Plan Due	June 28, 2024
<b>2026 Update to 2024-2027 Local Services Plan Due</b>	<b>June 30, 2025</b>
2027 Update to 2024-2027 Local Services Plan Due	June 2026
2028-2031 Local Services Plan Due	June 2027

## FORM SUBMISSION OVERVIEW

Below are the links to the 2026 Update to the 2024-2027 Plan forms and surveys. Links to the forms were sent via email on **Thursday, March 20, 2025**, and included the passwords for accessing the forms. If you did not receive the email containing the password information, please contact [oasasplanning@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:oasasplanning@oasas.ny.gov).

1) Goals and Objectives Update Form:

<https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/albany>

The 2026 Update to the 2024-2027 Local Services Plan will be submitted through an electronic platform. This Update form provides LGUs with the opportunity to submit status updates and descriptions of the progress made towards meeting the Goals and Objectives outlined in the 2024-2027 LSP. The URL for the Update form is unique to each LGU and contains the 2024-2027 LSP and the 2025 Updates for reference while providing 2026 Updates to the Plan.

As Local Services Plans are implemented on a four-year cycle, most Goals and Objectives will be stated in the initial four-year plan with status updates and descriptions provided in subsequent Updates. External circumstances, such as a change in DCS, or new local challenge, can create situations where goals and objectives may need to change during a planning cycle. In recognition of this situation, there is a separate form that provides the option to add a new Goal and/or Objective(s) to your planning submission for the 2024-2027 cycle. This **optional** form can be found here:

[https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/2026\\_new\\_goals\\_and\\_objectives\\_optional](https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/2026_new_goals_and_objectives_optional)

Please keep in mind there is a limit of 10 Goals and 10 Objectives per Goal. If needed, there is an additional option to drop a Goal or Objective in order to make space for a new Goal or Objective.

2) Needs Assessment Form:

[https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/2026\\_needs\\_assessment](https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/2026_needs_assessment)

LGUs fill out Needs Assessments annually to ensure that the needs of communities are regularly assessed, and planning updates are accordingly adjusted.

The Needs Assessments and Goals and Objectives forms are related in that, Goals from the Goals and Objectives Form may address Needs identified on the Needs Assessment form. In order to eliminate duplication of effort, if a Need is addressed by a Goal, then it does not need a descriptive paragraph on the Needs Assessment form.

3) 2026 Mental Hygiene List of OMH Providers to Promote Interagency Collaboration:

[https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/2026\\_omh\\_provider\\_list](https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/2026_omh_provider_list)

In 2024, the LSPs added the ability to include a list of mental health providers. Listing the provider programs in your community on your LSP, that is approved by OMH, will create a nexus with OMH and allow for the disclosure of protected health information to promote collaboration across programs. Please know that while responses to the electronic form are required, uploading an OMH provider list is an **optional** opportunity for your LGU. To view the LSPs with OMH provider lists, please visit: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/planning/local-services-plans.html>

For more information, please visit: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/hipaa-mhl-33-13-field-guidance.pdf> or contact [planning@omh.ny.gov](mailto:planning@omh.ny.gov)

The electronic form provides a section to select one of the following:

- 1) Upload a new or updated OMH list of provider programs within your county;
- 2) Use the same OMH list of provider programs within your county that was submitted in 2024 and posted on <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/planning/local-services-plans.html>; or
- 3) Decline to upload an OMH list of provider programs (for LGUs who did not submit a list in 2024 and do not want to submit a list in 2025).

4) Addiction Services Jail Based Supports County Financial Plan:

[https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/addiction\\_jbs\\_county\\_financial\\_plan](https://oasas.formstack.com/forms/addiction_jbs_county_financial_plan)

OASAS annually collects information from LGUs on jail-based addiction services funding. Previously, OASAS collected this information via a paper form. Beginning this year, the Addiction Services Jail Based Supports County Financial Plan will be an electronic form, collected at the same time as the LSPs. While responses to this form will not be included as part of the 2026 Updates to the 2024-2027 LSP, the information collected through this form will be utilized for addiction planning.

## LOCAL SERVICES PLANNING 2025 UPDATE RESULTS

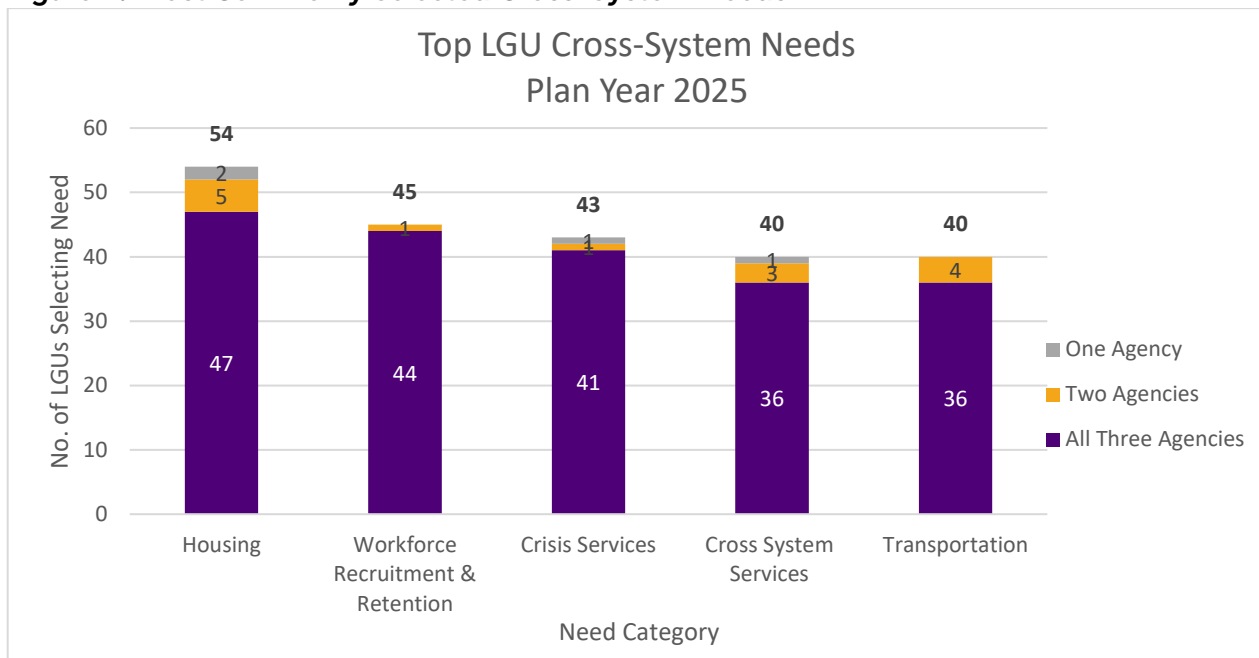
The most commonly identified priorities in the 2025 local services plans were housing, workforce development, crisis services, cross-system services, transportation, and respite services. In addition, LGUs identified specific short- and long-term objectives to address the mental hygiene needs in the community. These strategies targeted several priorities, the most common including workforce, housing, crisis services, prevention, cross-system services, transportation, access to services, and outpatient treatment.

Needs Assessments will continue to be disseminated annually to ensure that the needs of communities are regularly assessed, and planning updates are accordingly adjusted. The cross-system needs most frequently cited by LGUs in the 2025 LSP Update include:

- Housing;
- Workforce Recruitment & Retention;
- Crisis Services;
- Cross System Services; and
- Transportation

Figure 2 displays the multiagency needs LGUs most frequently selected on the 2025 Needs Assessment Form. As Figure 2 shows, needs selected by LGUs frequently cross multiple mental hygiene agencies. In total, for the top five most selected cross-system needs, 90% of LGUs indicated that the needs affect all three mental hygiene populations.

**Figure 2: Most Commonly Selected Cross-System Needs**



Explore all the 2025 Needs Assessment responses and year-to-year changes from 2024 through the [2025 Needs Assessment Survey Dashboard](https://www.clmhd.org) located in the Behavioral Health Portal at [www.clmhd.org](https://www.clmhd.org).

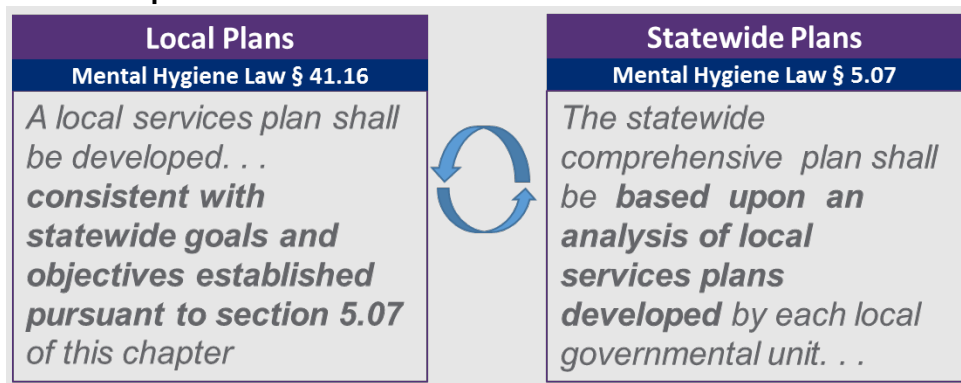
## INFORMING STATEWIDE PLANNING

Section 5.07 of Mental Hygiene Law requires OMH, OASAS and OPWDD to develop a Statewide Comprehensive Plan for the provision of State and local services to individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders and developmental disabilities. Purposes of the Comprehensive Plan include:

- identifying statewide priorities and measurable goals to achieve those priorities;
- proposing strategies to achieve goals;
- identifying specific services and supports to promote behavioral health wellness;
- analyzing service utilization trends across levels of care; and
- encouraging and promoting person-centered, culturally and linguistically competent, community-based programs, services, and supports that reflect the partnership between the State and LGUs

Figure 3 shows the statutory relationship between local planning and State planning. As Figure 3 illustrates, analyses of the Local Services Plans are a key component of the Statewide Comprehensive Plan.

**Figure 3: Relationship between Statewide and Local Plans**



State agencies conduct extensive reviews of information submitted in the LSPs. The local services planning process and the priorities identified in county plans, particularly the cross-system priorities, inform each State agency’s policy, programming and budgeting decisions. To help ensure that policies supporting people with mental illness, developmental disabilities and/or substance use and gambling disorders are planned, developed and implemented comprehensively, OASAS, OMH, and OPWDD will continue to rely on the local services planning process and the annual plan submissions as important sources of input.

To learn more about each Mental Hygiene Agency’s Statewide planning efforts please visit the links below:

OASAS: <https://oasas.ny.gov/agency-strategic-plan>  
 OMH: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/planning/>  
 OPWDD: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/strategic-planning>

## PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES

The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is responsible for coordinating supports for approximately 130,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities including intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Autism, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other neurological disorders.

As described below and more fully in the [2023 – 2027 OPWDD Strategic Plan](#), to respond to the challenges that our system has been facing, OPWDD has identified the following three priorities for 2023 – 2027:

- 1. Strengthen Our Workforce, Technology, and Collaboration**
- 2. Transform Our System Through Innovation and Change**
- 3. Enhance Our Person-Centered Supports and Services**

Additionally, OPWDD is interested in strengthening collaboration and coordination across agencies and levels of government to better meet the needs of New Yorkers, including those who interact with multiple systems.

### **1. Strengthen Our Workforce, Technology, and Collaboration**

OPWDD is committed to advancing the developmental disability service system's infrastructure by investing in the workforce, updating data technology, and improving decision-making through collaboration.

OPWDD recognizes the importance of having a high quality, stable workforce and an improved infrastructure that allows for better analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of services. To that end, we have continued to prioritize workforce initiatives, technological reform, and assessment of our current stakeholder and engagement processes to ensure that we are building toward a more equitable and sustainable delivery system.

**Direct Support Workforce:** OPWDD has several projects aimed at building the size and capacity of the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce. This includes efforts to recruit new individuals to the workforce, retain existing staff, and provide opportunities for professional growth and development to those in the workforce.

- OPWDD has provided free access to the [National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals \(NADSP\) E-Badge Academy](#) to over 3,000 staff in both voluntary and state-operated settings. Additionally, the SUNY DSP micro credential program has expanded to 21 campuses, awarding over 2,300 certifications.
- OPWDD supported the launch of a statewide recruitment and marketing campaign to promote the field of direct care. Created in collaboration with DSPs and provider agencies, this campaign promotes DSP careers as a rewarding and vital profession. The intention is to reach a new pool of candidates to facilitate increased applicants for open DSP positions in New York. Since its launch, the #MoreThanWork campaign successfully engaged 600,000 job seekers, with 35,000 connecting to providers for job opportunities.
  - This campaign includes TV, radio, and social media ads as well as traditional print and billboards. More information about the campaign can be found at: <https://directsupportcareers.com/>

- OPWDD has hired over 3,100 staff members in the past year, including many new staff for our state operated programs. New business protocols and data tools have also been developed to improve staffing efficiencies, and supervisory training programs were launched in the Hudson Valley and Taconic regions to develop leadership pipelines.
- OPWDD funded the NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation to support recruitment and retention efforts, as well. Their efforts included creating a provider toolkit, conducting 15 workforce-focused webinars, hosting 11 workforce podcasts, and providing organizational assessments for 130 providers to improve retention strategies.

**Data Access & Technology:** OPWDD continues to enhance its data access and technology infrastructure to improve service coordination, transparency, and efficiency. This includes:

- OPWDD has launched new data dashboards that provide real-time Medicaid service data and public access to system-wide performance trends. The dashboards increase transparency and help stakeholders track funding, services, and outcomes. To view the new data and website visit: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/data>.
- OPWDD is expanding internal and external data-sharing capacity to ensure stakeholders, counties, and providers have access to comprehensive service data. A new Data Community of Practice (CoP) has also been established to train and inform stakeholders on data availability, and to discuss using data to enhance decision-making as a system
- OPWDD is advancing a broad agency-wide IT modernization initiative aimed at improving transparency, efficiency, and data-driven planning. Key focus areas include housing management, eligibility, investigations, self-direction, and the development of a centralized data warehouse.

**Stakeholder Engagement & Collaboration:** OPWDD remains committed to fostering meaningful stakeholder engagement and collaboration across New York State.

- OPWDD hosts regular stakeholder meetings and engagement activities to hear directly from individuals and families supported by our services as we develop new programs and policies. This includes regular meetings with self-advocates, family members, provider organizations, Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs), Family Support Services (FSS), and the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC), among others.
- We are also actively engaged with partners in other organizations across the State that serve and support those with developmental disabilities including the state's University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) and Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD).
- Likewise, our leadership has participated in cross-systems collaborations and planning efforts with the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), Department of Health (DOH), Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS), and county representatives, including participating in regular conversations at both the regional and statewide level with Mental Hygiene Directors, CLMHD, and as part of the IOCC.
- OPWDD hosted 12 statewide public forums in 2024, including seven in-person events and five virtual sessions. Forums provided updates on strategic plan progress and collected stakeholder feedback on system improvements.

- OPWDD partnered with Sinergia Inc. and the Esperanza Center to hold a Spanish-language forum in Harlem, NY. A bilingual virtual forum with the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC) was also conducted.
- OPWDD created and recruited a Director of Advocacy to enhance self-advocate and family engagement.
- OPWDD supported the development of an Ombudsman Program, in partnership with and headed by Community Service Society of New York, to help people with developmental disabilities and their family members navigate services and address concerns. For more information about the program visit <https://www.cssny.org/programs/entry/iddo>.
- OPWDD partnered with providers meeting cultural and linguistic needs to expand DEI-focused outreach efforts. Over 10,000 people participated in community training and advocacy sessions this year.

## 2. Transform Our System Through Innovation and Change

OPWDD is exploring ways to strengthen the quality, effectiveness, and sustainability of our supports and services by simplifying processes and improving the system's ability to offer people with developmental disabilities, from all backgrounds, opportunities for meaningful community integration and participation. This work prioritizes efforts that facilitate self-determination, improve social determinants of health, and ensure we are advancing our goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### HCBS Waiver and Policy Enhancements

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Rule – The Access Rule: In July 2024, the federal government issued the final 'Access Rule,' establishing national standards to promote consistency and transparency in key areas of service delivery, including person-centered planning, rate-setting, quality oversight, incident management, and accessibility. OPWDD is actively developing an implementation strategy to align with these new federal requirements and will engage stakeholders and partners through ongoing outreach as additional guidance becomes available.
- OPWDD is launching Home Enabling Supports (HES) as a new service under the HCBS Waiver to empower people with developmental disabilities to live more independently in non-certified settings. This service funds assistive technology and supports that promote safety, reduce reliance on paid staff, and increase opportunities for meaningful community participation.
  - In early 2025, eight not-for-profit service providers were awarded approval to deliver HES across the state, following a competitive application process. Services are expected to become available by early Summer 2025.

### Expanded Employment Opportunities

- New York is participating in the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy's (ODEP) National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) initiative which seeks to support our state's network of agencies devoted to improving employment for people with disabilities to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities. OPWDD received a second round of technical assistance from the NEON initiative and

continues efforts toward developing a statewide cross-agency ‘employment first’ vision with multiple participating agencies including OMH, DOL, SED, ACCES-VR, and the Office of the Chief Disability Officer.

- OPWDD awarded \$5.6M in funding to seven nonprofit service providers through a grant funding opportunity supporting Career Specific Vocational Training to people with developmental disabilities. This grant funds voluntary providers, in partnership with corporations, business associations, and colleges to develop or adapt existing career-specific vocational trainings that prepare people with developmental disabilities for employment by building job readiness and marketable skills needed to meet the demands of today’s employers. More than 200 people completed Career-Specific Vocational Training (CSVT), and over 30 providers expanded employment services.
- OPWDD, in collaboration with ACCES-VR and NYSID, is also developing a training for businesses that builds on the EmployAbility marketing campaign that promotes the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

### **Housing Initiatives**

- OPWDD awarded over \$9M to 17 providers as part of the ARPA funded Supportive Residential Habilitation Project. These funds were used by organizations to test new ways to expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to reside in the most integrated settings best suited to their individual needs or to improve a person’s ability to age in place, where appropriate. OPWDD continues to evaluate this work and is collecting data on program outcomes to inform future planning. To date over 700 people have participated in the projects. This includes people who have participated in trainings that support independent living skills and community integration, testing of new technology and staffing models, and those who have successfully transitioned to new living arrangements.
- OPWDD developed a short-term housing strategy focused on stabilizing housing availability, improving provider capacity, and reducing administrative barriers based on stakeholder feedback. Key activities within the short-term housing strategy include: streamlining processes to reduce wait times and better match people to available housing, increasing independent living opportunities and developing new models for people with complex needs, strengthening services for people moving between care settings, investing in technology and data systems to improve planning and decision-making, and offering technical assistance, training, and resources to strengthen providers housing sustainability.
- OPWDD is launching a new Housing Capacity Management platform to streamline housing access and match people with developmental disabilities to available residential opportunities more efficiently. The system will improve data tracking and transparency, reducing wait times and enhancing statewide planning for short-and long-term housing needs.
- OPWDD released updated guidance on requirements for residential provider agencies and providers of care management in the Certified Residential Opportunities (CRO) process. The guidance seeks to ensure the most integrated and least restrictive housing options are explored and made available to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities seeking services in residential facilities certified or operated by OPWDD.

**Evaluation of Existing Programs/Services:** OPWDD remains committed to evaluating existing programs to enhance service quality and access. OPWDD has implemented a series of evaluation efforts across several major agency programs.

- OPWDD completed its Managed Care Evaluation, conducted by Guidehouse. The evaluation reviewed Managed Care models in other states, conducted stakeholder engagement, and analyzed Medicaid and other service delivery data. The Final Report does not recommend a full transition of the OPWDD system of services and supports to managed care at this time. The final report is available to read at <https://opwdd.ny.gov/strategic-planning/managed-care-assessment>
- OPWDD contracted with American Institutes for Research (AIR) in the Fall of 2023 to evaluate the effectiveness of Care Coordination practices. Their evaluation has included a review of current policies and procedures, identification of opportunities to streamline processes, research on promising practices, and submission of recommendations to improve the quality-of-care and the care management model. To ensure a comprehensive review, the evaluators have conducted feedback surveys, focus groups, and interviews with people with disabilities, family members, care managers, providers, representatives, members of the Willowbrook Class, and leadership at both OPWDD and Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs). A Final Report is expected in summer of 2025.
  - OPWDD is also conducting a full review of CCO policies, with an updated CCO Policy Manual to be released in 2025.
- OPWDD is undertaking a thorough evaluation of our Self-Direction model. The review is: considering how the OPWDD program compares to those implemented in other states and countries, analyzing service gaps, identifying potential efficiencies and outlining areas of inconsistency. Throughout the evaluation process, Guidehouse has offered many opportunities for stakeholder engagement through surveys, townhalls, and focus groups to inform the evaluation. Information on the evaluation can be found here: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa/self-direction-program-evaluation>. A final report is expected in summer of 2025.
- OPWDD launched a system-wide quality improvement initiative, focusing on reducing incident management timelines, strengthening provider compliance through targeted training, and enhancing monitoring of service effectiveness. Statewide performance improved by 9% in 2024, due to increased training, site reviews, and updated policy guidance. OPWDD also completed 7,000 site reviews, issued five health and safety alerts, and trained over 15,000 provider staff.

**Health Equity & Aging:** OPWDD is participating in various conversations around health equity with DOH to address stigma and discrimination to improve and enhance health care access and outcomes for people with developmental disabilities.

- OPWDD has expanded efforts to address stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings, working with DOH to provide training to health care providers. This includes recent Grand Round sessions aimed at increasing awareness of the challenges faced by people with developmental disabilities.
- OPWDD has participated in the State's Master Plan for Aging initiative emphasizing the agency's focus on ensuring that older adults with developmental disabilities can age with dignity and access necessary supports.

- A new Health Assessment Coordination Service (HACS) was introduced under the Home Enabling Supports program to improve healthcare access for people in non-certified settings. This should be included as part of OPWDD's health equity efforts.
- Article 16 clinic operations have been restructured to improve access and efficiency.
- New Communities of Practice have been established within OPWDD's Division of State Operations for medical directors, dental providers, and other clinical staff to improve service quality.

### 3. Enhance Our Person-Centered Supports and Services

OPWDD is continuing to address gaps in service to ensure that supports are integrated, holistic, and focused on individual needs across the lifespan. Our goal is to have more linguistically accessible, culturally competent, and person-centered supports that are designed and delivered in a way that meets the needs of the person, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, language needs or geographic location.

**Collaboration & Coordination Across Systems to Support People with Complex Needs:** People with the most complex support needs, including children, can often struggle to access appropriate services due to the barriers they face when trying to navigate multiple systems. This is especially pronounced during times of crisis.

- OPWDD and the Office of Mental Health (OMH) have expanded specialized crisis teams to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations for children (ages 5-20) with co-occurring developmental disabilities and mental health conditions.
- OPWDD, OMH, and Upstate Hospital partnered to create an 11-bed inpatient unit designed for children with dual diagnoses needing short-term stabilization.
- OPWDD continues to partner with OMH on additional new initiatives to support youth in crisis, including youth transitioning from inpatient settings into the community.
- OPWDD has also sustained implementation of and expanded Crisis Services for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (CSIDD) following the nationally recognized Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment (START) model, across the State.
- OPWDD is expanding Comprehensive Adult Transition Homes (CATHs) to support people transitioning from acute clinical services into community-based housing.
- The Terence Cardinal Cooke's specialty hospital expanded its capacity from fifty-seven to seventy-two beds, and OPWDD is collaborating with The Center for Discovery will serve people with neurodevelopment and complex medical needs.

**Centering Equity in OPWDD Service Delivery Systems:** OPWDD recognizes that people with disabilities come from culturally and linguistically diverse families and communities which face historical, structural, and systemic barriers to accessing supports and services. Therefore, the agency has prioritized initiatives that focus on increasing the equity of our system, with a focus on understanding the diverse needs of people OPWDD serves and supports.

- OPWDD has continued to work with Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence (GU-NCCC) to support service providers, family-led and other organizations,

and advocacy groups who work with people with disabilities to respond appropriately to the diversity of people who experience developmental disabilities in New York State, emphasizing those from marginalized and historically underserved communities.

- In 2024, GU-NCCC held 12 Regional Provider Forums across the state. The forums were designed to define cultural competence, linguistic competence, diversity, equity and inclusion; gauge the extent to which each is implemented among New York's network of developmental disabilities service providers; and elicit input on the successes and challenges of implementing policies and practices that support cultural competence, linguistic competence, diversity, equity and inclusion within their respective organizations.
- GU-NCCC launched a process to help providers engage in an organizational self-assessment and receive technical assistance. The assessment is called the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Assessment for Disability Organizations (CLCADD). GU-NCCC will provide technical assistance to organizations as they implement the self-assessment process.
- OPWDD and GU-NCCC have also held some Family Listening Sessions to elicit the experiences of families in accessing supports and services. This includes families who are currently receiving, have received in the past, or are unable to access supports and services.
- OPWDD continues to partner with the Office of New Americans (ONA) and the Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD) on promising pilots that connect people with developmental disabilities and other marginalized identities to OPWDD services.
- OPWDD's Language Access Plan has been updated, including a network of regional Language Access Liaisons and new translations of Front Door materials into additional languages. The Front Door video modules can be found here: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/get-started/front-door>