



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

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Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Testimony New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

State Fiscal Year 2018-19 Executive Budget
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Good morning Senator Young, Assemblymember Weinstein, Senator Ortt, Assemblymember Gunther and other distinguished members of the Legislature, I am Kerry Delaney, Acting Commissioner for the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about Governor Cuomo's 2019 Executive Budget proposal and how it will benefit the nearly 139,000 New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are eligible for OPWDD services.

Under the Governor's leadership, OPWDD continues to make significant strides in the transformation to a more integrated, person-centered system of services and supports for the people we serve. The 2019 Executive Budget proposal includes more than \$7 billion in state and federal funding for OPWDD programs and services. The budget proposal supports investments of:

- \$120 million in annual all-shares funding to provide new and expanded services for new and currently eligible individuals;
- \$15 million in capital funding to expand affordable housing opportunities; and
- Over \$275 million in all-shares funding to help service providers enhance staff salaries; \$85 million is provided to fund minimum wage increases; and over \$190 million is provided to support a 6.5 percent wage increase for direct care and support staff, and a 3.25 percent increase for clinical staff.

The Executive Budget proposal also supports two new critical initiatives that I would like to highlight for you this morning. The first initiative is a residential pilot program to be jointly-operated by OPWDD and the Office of Mental Health to serve individuals with both developmental disabilities and significant mental health challenges. This program will ensure that there are available and appropriate residential opportunities for individuals with significant challenges, to assist them to stabilize and return to the community.

The second initiative would be supported with a State investment of \$39 million to support the transition from OPWDD's Medicaid Service Coordination program to a Comprehensive Care Coordination model. As you may know, we have developed a new model of enhanced, cross-system care coordination to be implemented by current service providers who are forming Care Coordination Organizations authorized under the federal Health Homes program. Implementing enhanced care coordination will be the first step in our system's multi-year move to managed care.

Executive Office

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I would like to provide an update on how OPWDD has been investing the resources you have been providing to improve the lives of New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2017, nearly 2,100 people accessed either certified, or more-independent, noncertified residential services for the first time. Nearly 1,300 people moved into a certified residence, 75% of whom came from home. To meet future demand, OPWDD recently approved the creation of an additional 459 certified opportunities by over 50 service providers across New York State. This expands OPWDD's residential footprint which supports more than 41,000 individuals at a cost exceeding \$5.2 billion annually and remains the largest in the nation.

OPWDD's more independent residential assistance opportunities are expanding even faster than certified opportunities. The more than 5,300 rental vouchers issued in 2017 were more than double the number issued five years ago. For the third consecutive year, the budget proposes to invest an additional \$15 million in capital to expand affordable housing capacity for individuals eligible for OPWDD services. These funds are in addition to the resources available from New York's five-year, \$20 billion affordable and supportive housing plan, which also helps support development of residential opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Unwavering support from the Governor and Legislature in recent years has enabled OPWDD and our service providers to provide an array of services and supports that are among the richest and most integrated in the nation. Together we have built a system that now supports:

- 78,000 people in day habilitation or employment services;
- 43,000 people in respite services; and
- 16,800 people are now participating in self-directed services after an increase of nearly 40 percent in 2017.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy. We look forward to working with you and all of our stakeholders, to achieve real and lasting system-wide transformation on behalf of our friends, neighbors and loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I welcome your questions.