



**Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities**

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

**State Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Budget Proposal  
February 7, 2019**

Good morning Chairs Krueger, Weinstein, Carlucci, Gunther and other distinguished members of the Legislature. My name is Roger Bearden and I am the Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about Governor Cuomo’s 2020 Executive Budget and how it will benefit the nearly 140,000 New Yorkers with developmental disabilities served by OPWDD.

Under the Governor’s leadership, New York continues to lead the nation in the amount of funding to support people with developmental disabilities, providing nearly twice the national average. The proposed budget continues this tradition of investment in services and supports. The 2020 Executive Budget includes a significant increase in new investments in spending, leveraging approximately \$8 billion in state and federal funding for OPWDD services and programs. The budget proposal supports investments of:

- \$120 million in annual all-shares funding to provide new and expanded services for people entering the OPWDD system for the first time, as well as those who are currently eligible but whose needs are changing;
- \$15 million in capital funding to expand affordable housing opportunities;
- \$170 million in state and federal resources to assist OPWDD’s network of non-profit providers in complying with the state’s minimum wage law; and
- \$5 million in new resources to assist providers in becoming ready for managed care.

These new proposals are in addition to the substantial resources dedicated to individuals with developmental disabilities in prior years. In fiscal year 2018-2019, more than 5,500 individuals will enroll in community habilitation for the first time, 4,000 individuals will enroll in respite services, and more than 3,500 individuals will enroll in day habilitation services. These services provide vital support to individuals and their families, enabling individuals to live and thrive in the community.

OPWDD also continues its investment in residential supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. OPWDD provides over \$5.2 billion in annual funding to support nearly 43,000 individuals in residential opportunities, the largest system of residential supports for individuals with developmental disabilities in the country. Last year alone, over 1,600 people received residential supports from OPWDD for the first time.

OPWDD is dedicated to building a more efficient and effective service delivery system for New Yorkers with developmental disabilities, based on a history of continuous improvement in the delivery of services and supports over the past 40 years. On July 1, 2018, OPWDD’s care coordination system transitioned to a new model of comprehensive, holistic care management operated by seven newly established Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs). The transition to this enhanced care coordination model is a significant step in the move to managed care, which will improve access and flexibility in our system and ensure quality outcomes.

I would also like to highlight two new initiatives to help support people with autism and their families. The Executive Budget proposal seeks parity for autism services by requiring insurers to apply the same treatment and financial rules to Autism

Spectrum Disorders as those used for medical and surgical benefits. The Budget proposal includes expansion of Medicaid to cover Applied Behavioral Analysis, a form of treatment for children with autism, which represents a \$26 million commitment. This initiative will support over 4,000 individuals, including those who have aged out of the Early Intervention program, and ensure that they continue receiving medically necessary services.

Our evolution to a more responsive and flexible service system would not be possible without the input of the people that we support, their family members, and our partners in the provider community along with the legislature. Thank you for your partnership. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.