**OPWDD – Office of People with Developmental Disabilities**

**Who Qualifies?**

A person with a “Developmental Disability”

*OPWDD uses Section 1.03(22) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law as the legal basis for eligibility for OPWDD*

“Developmental Disability” means a disability of a person who is:

**(A)**

Attributable to intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, neurological impairment, familial dysautonomia, or autism.

Attributable to any other condition of a person found to be

closely related to intellectual disabilities because such condition results in similar impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior to that of intellectually disabled persons or requires treatment and services similar to those required for such persons; or

Attributable to dyslexia resulting from a disability in (1) or (2).

*And*

**(B)**

The person applying needs to be under the age of 22 or

Needs documentation of the disability prior to 22 years of age

**(C)**

Has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely;

And

**(D)**

Constitutes a substantial handicap to such person’s ability to function normally in society.

Each requirement in section (A) is interchangeable; but, at least one of those 3 must occur in combination with the requirements of (B), (C), and (D).

A+B=eligibility

A+C=eligibility

A+D=eligibility

**What is the application process?**

**Known has the “Front Door”**

**Link to the FRONT DOOR PROCEDURE**

[**http://www3.opwdd.ny.gov/wp/images/6-3-13\_resource\_booklet\_final\_draft.pdf**](http://www3.opwdd.ny.gov/wp/images/6-3-13_resource_booklet_final_draft.pdf)

**Required documentation for Eligibility Determination:**

In order to determine if you are eligible for OPWDD services, the following information must be submitted to your local Developmental Disabilities Regional Office (DDRO) Eligibility Coordinator for review:

A Psychological report within 3 years which includes an assessment of intellectual function (IQ) test This report should include all summary score from the assessment (Full Scale, Index, Part and Subtest Scores).

For people with IQ scores above 60, an interpretive report of standardized assessment of adaptive score, including summary, composite, scale, and domain score is required.

For people with IQ scores below 60, an adaptive assessment may be base on an interpretive report using information gathered from interviews with caregivers, records review and direct observation.

An interpretive report of adaptive behavioral assessment results.

For conditions other that intellectual (developmental) disability a medical or specialty report which includes health status and diagnostic findings to support diagnosis.

A recent general medical report should be included in all eligibility requests. A social/developmental history, psychosocial report or other report, which shows that the person became disabled before the age of 22

**And sometimes…**

➢ In some cases, the DDRO may require additional information or further evaluations. The DDRO may recommend where additional assessment can be completed.

➢ We recommend that you work with the Eligibility Coordinator at you local DDRO to ensure that you have submitted a completed eligibility packet when requesting an eligibility determination.

Acceptable Adaptive Assessments for OPWDD packet…

➢ Adaptive Behavior Assessment System

➢ v Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales

➢ v The Motor Skills Domain only of the Scales of Independent Behavior

➢ v Other adaptive behavior measures are acceptable if they are comprehensive, structured, standardized and have up**-**to**-**date general population norms. Results from an instrument that is not on this list, but was given prior to the person reaching age 22, can be used to establish a past history of adaptive deficits during the developmental period."

➢ Please make sure it is the 4th addition.

**If found eligible what services can I receive through the OPWDD waiver program?**

Community Habilitation

Day Habilitation

Supported Employment

Prevocational Services

Respite

Adaptive Devices

Environmental Modifications

Plan of Care Support Services

Family Education and Training

CSS-Self Determination

Intensive Behavioral Support

There are also housing subsidies and transition funds for those moving independently into the community.