NEW YORK STATE
Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

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NEW YORK STATE | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

Family Support Services (FSS) Overview

(866) 946-9733 | NY Relay Service 711

www.opwdd.ny.gov

OPWDD provides a wide variety of services that help New Yorkers with developmental disabilities live richer lives within their communities. Services are provided directly by OPWDD and through a network of approximately 600 nonprofit agencies across the state.

OPWDD's Family Support Services (FSS) provide programs and supports to help families keep their loved ones with developmental disabilities safe and living at home.

Who is eligible to receive FSS?

To be eligible for FSS, a person must:

1. Have established eligibility for OPWDD services; and
2. Live with one or more *non-paid family member (such as biological, adoptive, or extended family or non-paid caregiver in the absence of biological, adoptive or extended family)

*Some exceptions may apply, refer to ADM 2022-02R and associated guidance for specifics

A person does not need to be enrolled in Medicaid to receive FSS.

What kind of support does FSS provide?

There are a wide variety of Family Support Services available to assist you with caring for your loved one at home. Programs vary from region to region and may include assistance with:

- Advocacy
- After-School Programs
- Behavioral Support
- Crisis Services
- Family Reimbursement
- Family Counseling and Training
- Information and Referral
- Parent and Sibling Support Groups
- Recreation/Camp
- Respite
- Service Access
- Social Skills Training
- Specialized Equipment and Home Modifications
- Transportation

FSS can be a lifeline for families who need help to meet the needs of their loved one and may be the only OPWDD service needed to support someone living at home with family.

The Role of Local FSS Advisory Councils

Each of OPWDD's Developmental Disability Regional Offices (DDROs) has a number of local FSS Advisory Councils made up of people with developmental disabilities, family members, and professionals and others with an interest in the care of people with developmental disabilities. These local councils advise OPWDD on the kinds of supports and services that are needed by local families whose loved ones reside in their homes. The councils work in partnership with DDROs' FSS Coordinators to design, implement, and oversee programs that respond to the needs of the local families.

If You Want FSS for Your Family

For more information about OPWDD eligibility, FSS programs or how to get involved with your local FSS Advisory Council, call our toll free InfoLine at (866) 946-9733 for voice, or NY Relay Service 711. You can also find helpful information on the OPWDD website at www.opwdd.ny.gov.