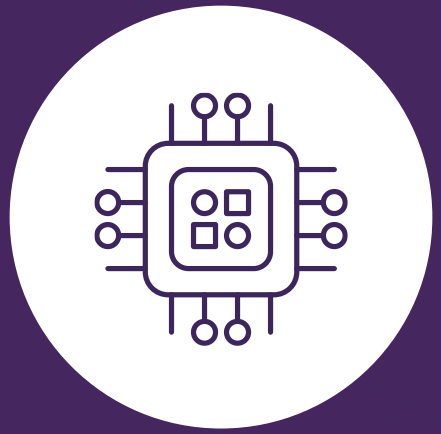
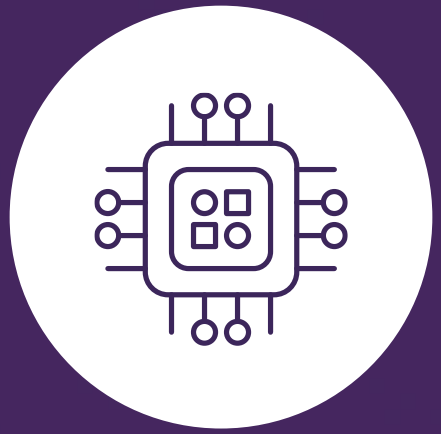


UPDATES FROM OPWDD

2026 ANNUAL CP STATE CONFERENCE



New York State's Master Plan for Aging

Master Plan for Aging: OPWDD'S Role

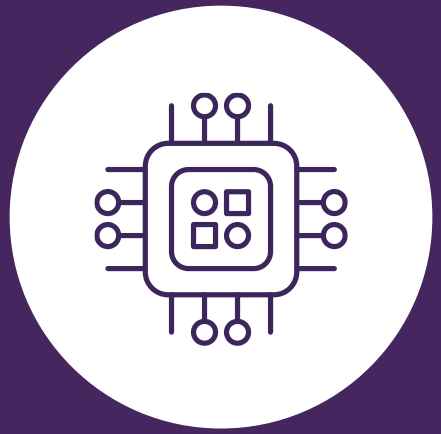
The Master Plan for Aging is an INCLUSIVE Vision for New Yorkers:

- People with developmental disabilities are part of New York's aging population.
- OPWDD helps advance an inclusive, integrated, and equitable system.
- Four key areas of focus for OPWDD:
  - ✓ Workforce
  - ✓ Caregivers
  - ✓ Housing
  - ✓ Technology/Prevention

Master Plan for Aging: From Planning To Implementation

Making The Master Plan For Aging Meaningful Through Partnerships

- Cross-agency collaboration with state partners, advocates, and providers.
- Self-advocate perspectives help shape planning and implementation.
- Current work touches workforce, caregiver support, housing, clinical coordination, and technology.
- Progress depends on sustained partnership, resources, and policy support.



COMMISSIONER'S TASK FORCE ON AGING

Task Force on Aging

OPWDD is committed to supporting people with developmental disabilities as they age with dignity in their communities.

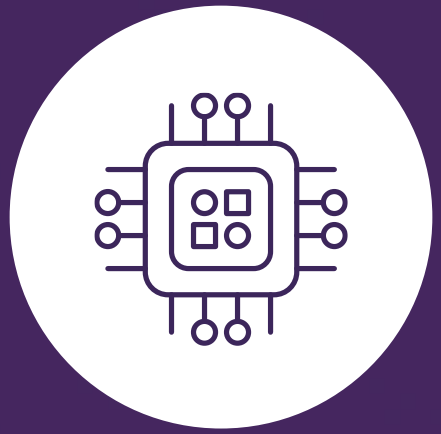
- The Commissioner's Task Force on Aging was established in April 2025.
- The task force builds on New York State's Master Plan for Aging.
- Its goal is to develop actionable recommendations to address the changing needs of older adults with developmental disabilities.
- The task force is a time-limited subcommittee of the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

2026 Activities and Timeline

- Held panels and information-gathering sessions throughout 2026.
- Completed the final topic-specific session on September 22.
- Brainstorming session scheduled for October 6.
- Final task force meeting scheduled for mid-November.
- Final recommendations are expected by the end of 2026.

Key Discussion Topics

- Non-residential services for older adults from aging-services organizations and OPWDD
- Person-centered future planning and supported decision-making
- Formal and informal supports for caregivers
- Age-related health, dental, behavioral health, and wellness needs
- Grief, social isolation, and support for people with complex medical needs
- Accessible residential settings, universal design, and housing transitions



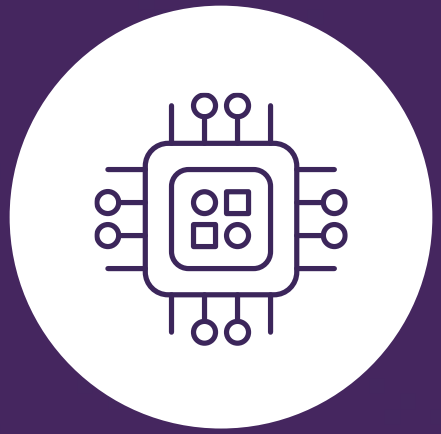
DIRECTORS OF NURSING COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Directors of Nursing Community of Practice

Goal: To Connect Nursing Leaders At OPWDD Providers

- Launched in 2026 by the OPWDD Bureau of Nursing and Health Services.
- Creates a forum for shared learning, collaboration, and problem-solving.
  - ✓ Provider lead, OPWDD facilitated.
- Educational presentations address common clinical and operational needs.
- Member-identified workgroups develop resources, review OPWDD nursing website content, and identify policy needs.

For more information for your agency's Director of Nursing please email: nursingandhealthservices@opwdd.ny.gov



PRE-ADMISSION SCREENING AND RESIDENT REVIEW (PASRR)

The Pre-admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Process

Federally Required Assessment:

MUST be completed **BEFORE** admission to a skilled nursing facility for people with developmental disabilities or who have a serious mental illness.

PASRR Determines:

Whether a short-term or long-term stay at a skilled nursing facility is appropriate for a person with a developmental disability and identifies if specialized services may be needed.

PASRR Helps Prevent:

Unnecessary skilled nursing home placement (institutional placement).

Why Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Matters

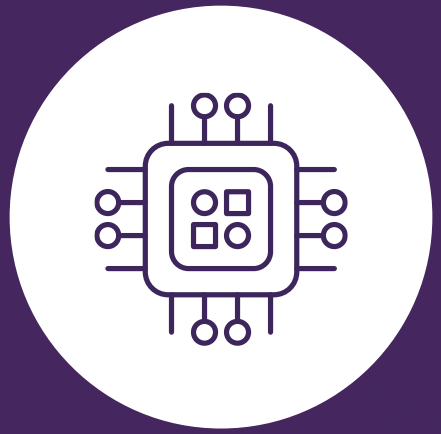
PASRR Keeps The Focus On The Person NOT The Setting!

- **Promotes Community Inclusion**
  - ✓ Helps to prevent unnecessary skilled nursing home (institutional) placement and supports transition to community settings as appropriate.

- **Looks Beyond A Person's Medical Complexities**
  - ✓ Complex health needs do not automatically mean that a person must live in a skilled nursing facility.

- **Supports Self-Determination**
  - ✓ The assessment includes understanding the person's goals, preferences, strengths and support needs.

- **PASRR Continues After Admission**
  - ✓ The Resident Review component helps identify changing needs and opportunities for appropriate services and community transitions



REIMBURSEMENT FOR CLINICS SERVING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Clinic Reimbursement Rates

Reimbursement Rate Increases For:

OPWDD Article 16 Clinics

- 20% increase for some physical health services

Office of Mental Health (OMH)

Article 31 Clinics

- 20% increase to all services delivered to people with developmental disabilities

Office for Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) Article 32 Clinics

- 50% increase for services delivered to people with developmental disabilities

Clinic Reimbursement Rates

Reimbursement Rate Increases For:

OPWDD Article 16 Clinics

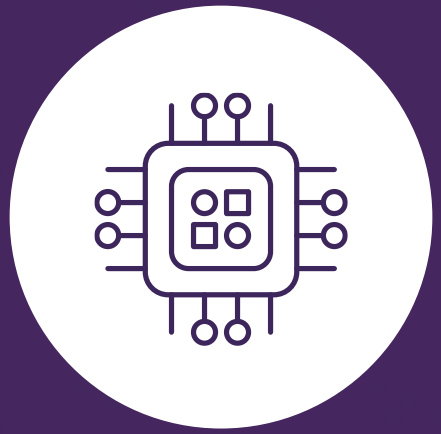
- 20% increase for some physical health services

Office of Mental Health (OMH) Article 31 Clinics

- 20% increase to all services delivered to people with developmental disabilities

Office for Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) Article 32 Clinics

- 50% increase for services delivered to people with developmental disabilities

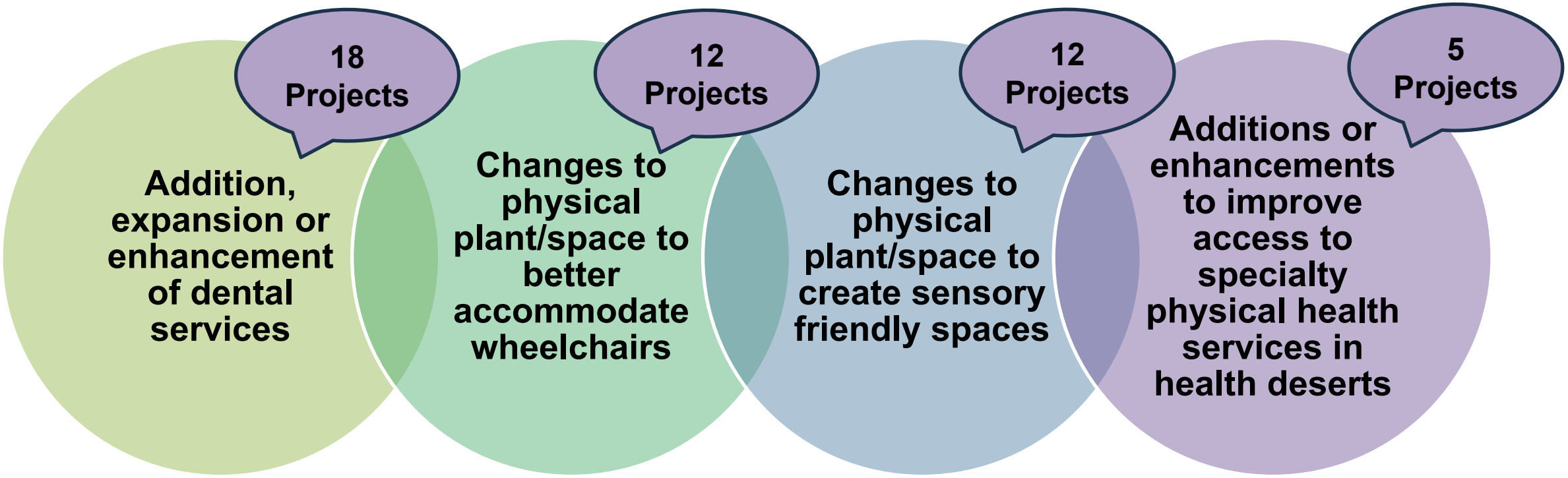


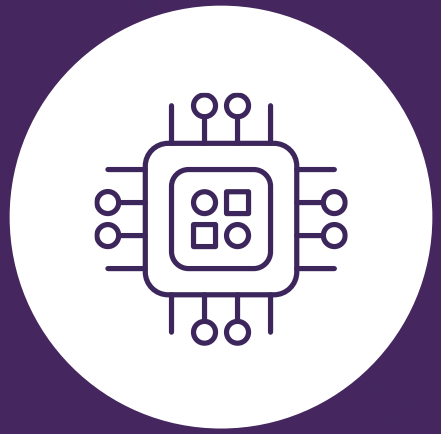
REGIONAL DISABLITY HEALTH CLINICS (RDHC) PROGRAM

Regional Disability Health Clinic Program (RDHC) Awards

The goal of the OPWDD RDHC program is to improve health care for people with developmental disabilities by increasing access to care and better coordinating and integrating services.

In 2026, $25 million in grants for 30 capital projects were awarded to Article 16 clinics and Article 28 clinics. Most RDHC projects addressed more than one of the below priority areas.





CAS/CANS INFORMATION SESSIONS

FALL 2026

In-Person Information Sessions for People and Families

LONG ISLAND
October 21
10:30 am - 12:00pm & 1 pm - 2:30 pm
OPWDD Long Island Office, 415-A Oser Avenue, Hauppauge, NY 11788

ROCHESTER
October 26
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Lifetime Assistance 175 Mile Crossing Blvd - Suite 3, Rochester, NY 14624

BUFFALO
October 27
10:30 am - 12 noon
People Inc. 2128 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14207

NEW YORK CITY
November 4
10:30 am - 12 noon & 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
OPWDD NYC Office, 25 Beaver Street, Room 3K11, New York, NY 10004

CAPITAL DISTRICT
November 12
1:30 pm - 3 pm
OD Heck, 500 Balltown Road Building 3, Meeting Room 2, Schenectady, NY 12304

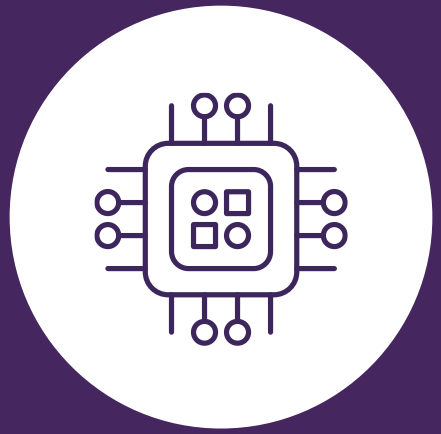
WESTCHESTER
November 17
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
ARC Westchester 265 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY 10532

CAS/CANS WEBINAR-BASED INFORMATION SESSIONS

Save the Date: Statewide Webinar-Based Information Sessions

DAYTIME
November 10
10:00am - 11:30am

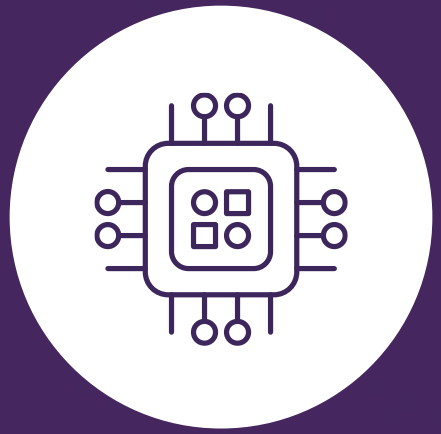
EVENING
November 18
5:00pm - 6:30pm



OPWDD'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Planning – OPWDD Will:

- Develop a shared vision for the agency and the broader system through the next five-year Strategic Plan, beginning in 2028.
- Build on existing collaboration to create an ambitious roadmap for growth and improvement.
- Engage people with disabilities, families, providers, and other partners across the state.
- Expand outreach to people who have historically had limited opportunities to participate.
- Move beyond listening by co-creating priorities, goals, outcomes, and activities.
- Use feedback from recent forums, listening sessions, and Commissioner's Conversations to shape the plan.
- Continue gathering input and sharing updates throughout the planning process.



Provider Initiated Letter of Interest (LOI)

Provider Initiated Letter of Interest (LOI): Key Elements

Clear Description.

Who are you trying to serve- and has a need been identified/authorized?

Strong Justification: **How** does it benefit the person, provider and system?

What Service(s) or Support(s) are being requested or impacted?

Where will the service be delivered or modified- including specific site and geographic details?

Why: What is your purpose or outcomes you expect to achieve with this request?

Provider Initiated Letter Of Interest (LOI): Data for fiscal year to date FYTD (April 1, 2026- October 16, 2026)

The goal is to provide a clear framework for providers to request changes to their business model. The framework is aimed to improve processes and decision making, ensuring the field is responsive to meet the needs of people.

370 LOI Received

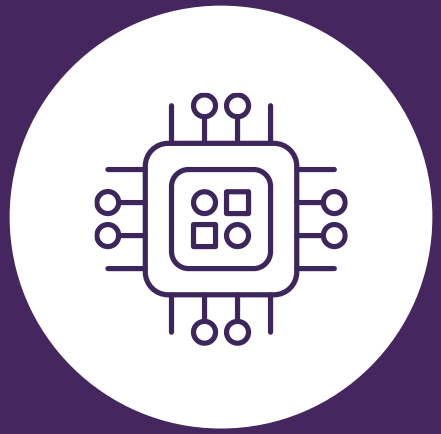
Region 3 and 4 received more than the regional average of 74 FYTD

142 included PPA

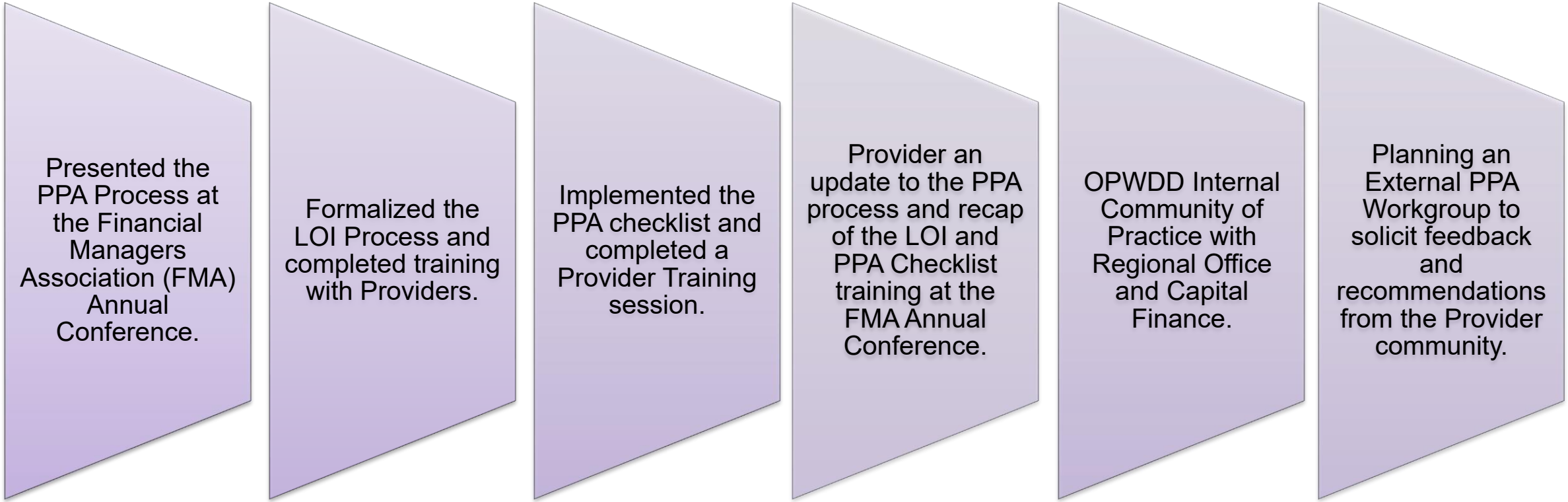
Region 1, 3, and 4 received more requests that included a need for a PPA than the regional average of 28

263 determinations

201 determination by RFO supported LOI request received. Region 1 and 2 were above average 76% approval rate



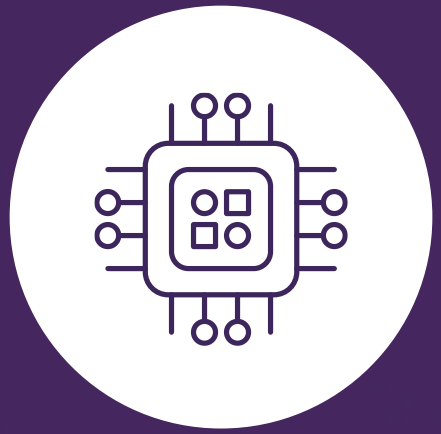
Prior Property Approval(PPA)


Presented the PPA Process at the Financial Managers Association (FMA) Annual Conference.
Formalized the LOI Process and completed training with Providers.
Implemented the PPA checklist and completed a Provider Training session.
Provider an update to the PPA process and recap of the LOI and PPA Checklist training at the FMA Annual Conference.
OPWDD Internal Community of Practice with Regional Office and Capital Finance.
Planning an External PPA Workgroup to solicit feedback and recommendations from the Provider community.

Prior Property Approval Process-Goal of the External Workgroup

By engaging external constituents on the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process, OPWDD plans to:

- Better understand the successes and challenges with the current process from the Provider perspective.
- Seek recommendations for process improvements.
- Identify areas where stakeholders feel there is a lack of clarity
- Strengthen the competence of Providers and OPWDD on developing and processing PPA requests.
- Develop short and long-term goals for process improvements.



Certified Residential-Capacity Management

Certified Residential ADM and Capacity Management Application Goals:

CRO ADM

Seeks to ensure the most integrated housing options are explored.

Is designed to facilitate sustainable, equitable and accessible residential supports.

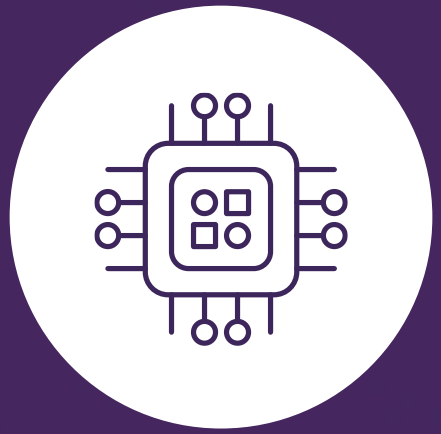
Capacity Management Application (CMA)

Increase Efficiency- by reducing redundancy in data entry and maximize technology to match appropriate placements.

Improve reliability and accountability by ensuring current and accurate information on people's needs while simultaneously capturing both certified capacity, vacancies and useable resources for transparent strategic planning.

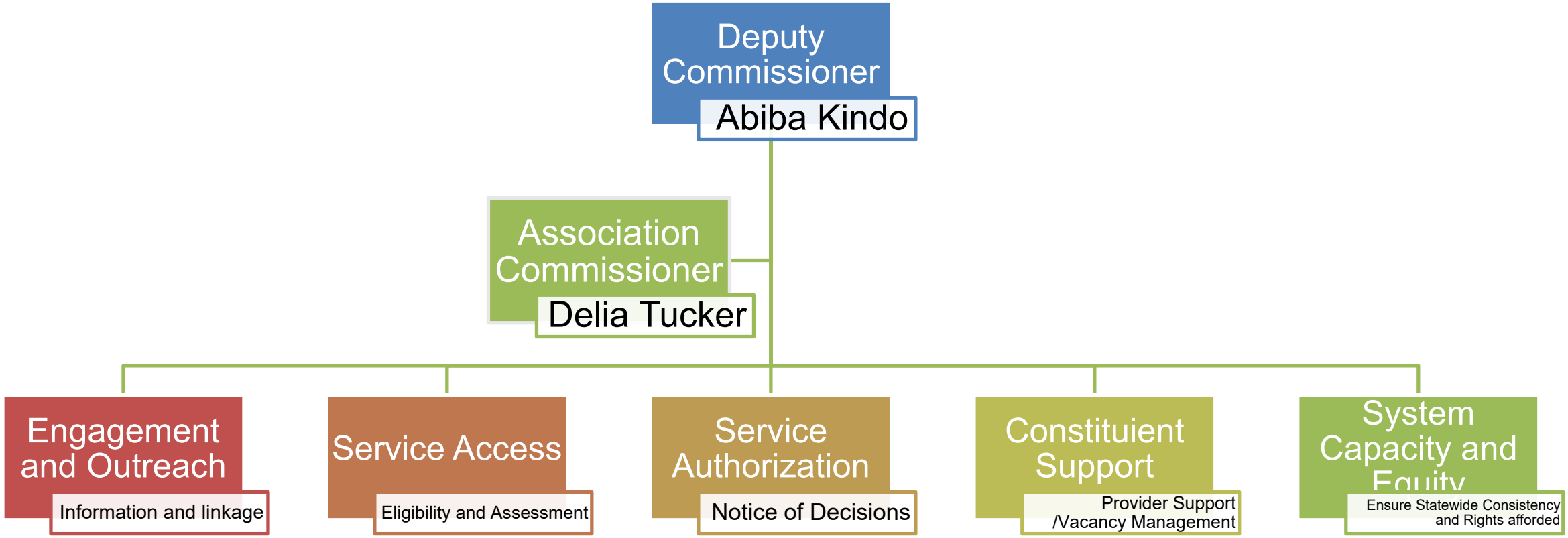
Certified Residential Provider Workgroup-Updates

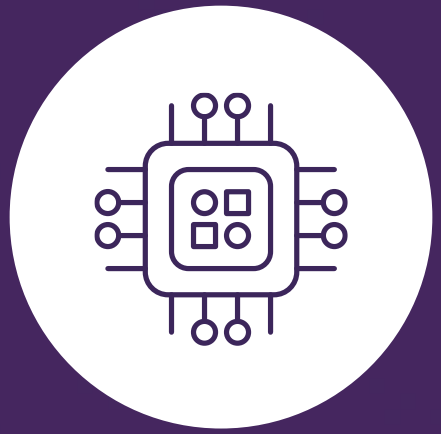
- Provider Convening
- Representation and Membership
- Goals of the Workgroup
- Priorities and Focus Areas Identified
- Next Steps



Service Access, Program Implementation, Constituents Support (SPS)

SPS- Structuring for Consistent Experience by our Constituents





Express NY Initiative

Express NY Initiative Overview

- A statewide effort by Governor Hochul under Executive Order 61 to make government work better through reforming outdated and burdensome regulations.
- State agencies were asked to identify regulations to be reformed under this initiative.
- There are two initial waves for this initiative – one in the Spring 2026 and again in the Fall of 2026.
- As part of the first waive of Express NY reforms, OPWDD introduced amendments to 14 NYCRR § 633.9 and § 633.15.

14 NYCRR § 633.9 – Representative Payee

- Section 633.9 governs the responsibilities of Representative Payees of people who receive OPWDD services.
- This regulation was amended to require a facility director who applies to be a representative payee of a person who receives services to provide written notice of this application to the current payees of the benefits, the beneficiary (if not receiving directly), the beneficiary's legal guardian and any other person designated by the beneficiary.
- The prior regulation required this notification to go to all qualified persons under Mental Hygiene Law § 33.16.

14 NYCRR § 633.9 – Representative Payee

- OPWDD also changed this regulation to require the former agency who was the person's representative payee to disburse to the new facility **three (3)** month's minimum statutory personal allowance or the total of the person's fund, whichever is less, prior to returning to SSA the remainder of the person's SSA funds.
- The prior regulation allowed for disbursement of only one (0 month of the person's statutory personal allowance.
- This change will allow the person to access their funds when the transfer to a new facility while their representative payee is changed.

14 NYCRR § 633.15 – Personal Allowance

- OPWDD amended this regulation to increase the threshold for maintaining receipts for personal expenditures from $15 to $25. Providers are not required to maintain receipts for expenditures under $25 per person for routine recreational activities, but should simply note such expenditures on the person's ledger or other record.
- We also amended this regulation to eliminate the requirement that providers send a copy of each person's personal allowance ledger or card to payees quarterly.
- Providers must maintain such records and produce them upon request of the payee.