



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

Fiscal Year 2023-24 Funding Opportunities

What needs to be accomplished?

Over the next two months, OPWDD is working to finalize three distinct initiatives that support providers and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities:

1. Incentivizing Community Transitions
2. Supporting Compliance Costs of Certain HCBS Settings Standards
3. Providing One-Time Bonuses for Staff Retention

What needs to be accomplished?

- For all three initiatives, OPWDD will require the submission of completed attestations from the participating providers.
- OPWDD will stagger deadlines to allow Providers enough time to return attestations.
- OPWDD must make payments no later than mid-March.

2023-24 Community Transition Funding Initiative

- OPWDD has the opportunity to offer a one-time community transition payment for individuals from qualified settings in Fiscal Year 2023-24.



Who is Eligible for the One-Time Transitional Payment?

- Individuals who have completed their educational program from an approved residential school placement and are unmatched despite previously issued LOIs and/or Certified Residential Opportunity (CRO) Referrals and will be served in an existing vacant opportunity.
- Individuals who have been deemed ready for discharge from an ITO, who are on the CRO and are unmatched with a provider.
- Individuals who have deemed ready for discharge from a hospital, who are on the CRO and are unmatched with a provider

Who is Eligible for the One-Time Transitional Payment?

- Providers may re-apply for funds if they were unable to place an individual planned for in the 2022-23 initiative.
- Please note, providers will not receive duplicate funding for the same individual/previous opportunity.

What is the One-Time Transitional Payment for Post-Graduates?

A one-time payment of **\$100,000.00** to:

- Providers willing and able to support individual(s) who have completed their educational program from an approved residential school.
- Placement must occur by September 30, 2024.

What is the one-time transitional payment for those coming from ITOs and Hospitals

A one-time payment of **\$200,000.00** to:

- Providers willing and able to support individual(s) ready for discharge from Intensive Treatment Facilities.
- Providers willing and able to support individuals placed in a hospital since December 31, 2023, who have been deemed ready for discharge, and are on the Certified Residential Opportunity list.
- Placement must occur by June 30, 2024.

What is the one-time transitional payment?

- Payment is a flat, consistent amount regardless of what Medicaid rate the provider will receive.
- The transitional payment is the same regardless of where person will live (same payment for both downstate and upstate providers).
- Payment is one-time in nature to provide transitional funding to stabilize the person in their initial year of community placement.
- Payment gives OPWDD the ability to pilot possible future Value-Based Payment arrangement concept.

What is required to receive the Transitional One-time Payment?

Residential Providers must:

- Use an existing backfill opportunity/vacancy to support:
 - The post-grad student or
 - People ready for discharge from ITOs and Hospitals, needing a certified opportunity.
- Post-graduates must be placed into the backfill opportunity no later than **September 30, 2024**.
- People from an ITO or hospital must be placed into the backfill opportunity no later than **June 30, 2024**.

What is required to receive the Transitional One-time Payment?

Residential provider must:

- Commit to serving the person minimally for a period of at least one year from the date of placement;
- Payment can be used to prepare the provider to support the person (examples include but are not limited to paying higher wages/one-time bonuses to staff, hiring additional clinical expertise, purchase technology aides).
- OPWDD wants to understand what these one-time funds were used for and reserves the right to conduct a post-payment survey on how the resources are budgeted.
- One-time transitional payment will not be cost-reconciled.

What are providers eligible for in addition to One-Time Transitional Payment?

- The appropriate Medicaid rate which could include High Needs funding; acuity levels 1, 2, 3 or 3 enhanced depending on eligibility.
- OPWDD will provide verification of an individual's qualification for high needs, including the acuity level, before a Provider commits to serving them.

What is required to receive the Transitional One-time Payment?

- Residential Providers must submit attestations by February 29, 2024.
- Regional Field Office will evaluate with awards made by March 7, 2024.
- Transitional payment for awarded residential providers will be made mid-March.
- Provider understands and accepts that these are one-time funds and shall manage service provision in subsequent periods within amounts provided by established reimbursement policies in effect.
- Placement(s) must occur on or before September 30, 2024, for post-graduates and on or before June 30, 2024, for individuals being discharged from ITOs and hospitals.
- The transitional payment will be recouped if the provider does not begin serving individuals by the established deadlines.
- Up to the full amount of the transitional payment will be recouped if the provider does not safely serve the individual for a period of at least one year

Attestation and Appendix

- An appendix to the attestation will need to identify the total number of people to be supported in each distinct category
 - Post-Graduates
 - Persons from ITO ready for Discharge
 - Person from Hospital ready for ready for discharge
- Names for 50% of the # opportunities must be identified within the attestation to receive the transitional stipends.
- Attestations are due back by 11:59 PM ET February 29, 2024. Attestations should be sent in electronically as a signed PDF.

Review Process

- OPWDD Regional Office will review provider responses based on the attestation and appendix.
- In the event that responses exceed available funding, awards will be based on a first come first serve basis and the ability to specify individuals.
- If a provider identifies an individual on the attestation and later determines there is another qualified person, they are better able to serve, they can submit justification to the Regional Office for review and approval.

Key Dates: Community Transition Initiative

Action	Date
Date an individual must be placed in the hospital to qualify for the Community Transition Funding.	December 31, 2023
Attestation for Community Transition Funding due	February 29, 2024
OPWDD completes review of Community Transition Funding Attestation & Appendix and makes awards.	March 7, 2024
OPWDD makes payments for Community Transition stipend through SFS.	Mid-March 2024
Must place qualifying individuals from an ITO or hospital.	June 30, 2024
Must place qualifying post-graduates.	September 30, 2024
Provider must serve individual for a year from date of placement.	June 30, 2025, or September 30, 2024, depending on placement.

HCBS Settings Background

- In 2014 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released new federal requirements for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings.
- One of these requirements includes the use of locks or locking mechanisms in residential settings.
- In response to these federal requirements, a one-time payment will be made by OPWDD to qualifying providers to assist with the cost of complying.

Payment Details

- Each provider will receive a one-time payment of \$280.18 **per lock** for the estimated number of bedrooms to which these requirements apply.
- Providers will receive the one-time payment of the \$280.18 per lock times their maximum certified capacity which has been discounted by 25% to account for double occupancy.
- While OPWDD does not have specific information on the number of bedrooms or double occupancy, the discount was conservatively low based on discussions with the Division of Quality Assurance.
- Payments to providers must be made no later than mid-March.

How was the per lock payment calculated?

- The \$280.18 per lock was calculated as follows:
 - The average cost to purchase a lock for a residential program (\$220.94)
 - Installation costs assume one hour to assemble and install the lock **plus** one hour travel time. (\$59.24)
 - The wage for installation time was based on the NYS average hourly wage for a locksmith per the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (\$29.62/hr).

How does a Provider Receive Payment?

- Each provider will be required to electronically submit signed PDF of the attestation by no later than 11:59 PM ET on February 15, 2024.
- Once the signed attestation has been received, a payment will be issued through SFS.
- The attestation outlines the calculation methodology and the requirements to retain the funds received.

What is the Direct Service Retention Bonus?

- To further efforts to stabilize the workforce in the non-profit sector, OPWDD is able to offer a one-time Direct Service Retention Bonus in Fiscal Year 2023-24.
- This bonus will be based on the aggregated costs for eligible staff in OPWDD CFR reported programs.

Who is targeted for the Direct Service Retention Bonus?

- A Provider may receive a payment targeted for the following staff:
 - Direct Care (CFR Title Code 200)
 - Support (CFR Title Code 100)
 - Clinical (CFR Title Code 300)
 - Production (CFR Title Code 400)

How does a Provider qualify for a payment to be distributed to qualifying employees?

- A provider must have a CFR on file with OPWDD by December 8, 2023, for the 2021-22 or 2022 reporting period and reported costs for qualifying job position title codes in OPWDD-licensed programs/services.
- A provider must electronically return a signed attestation to OPWDD no later than 11:59 PM ET on February 22, 2024.

How is the Direct Service Retention Bonus Calculated?

- The bonus is calculated based on 2.75% of an agency's aggregated staffing costs for all OPWDD CFR-reported programs for staff in title series 100-400 (Direct Care, Support, Clinical, and Production).
- The weighted average, agency-specific mandated fringe benefit rate will be applied to the bonus calculation to cover mandated fringe benefit costs.
- Bonus payments have been adjusted for all known partial and full mergers.

Requirements of the Provider

- Complete and submit the attestation no later than 11:59 PM ET, February 22, 2024. Attestations should be submitted as a signed PDF.
- Must develop a Distribution Plan and share that plan with all employees in accordance with the signed attestation, prior to distribution of funds.
- Must distribute payments to qualified employees no later than March 31, 2025, consistent with the Agency's Distribution Plan.
- Payments must be in the form of a salary increase, not enhancements to or payments for Fringe Benefits (with the exception of the mandated fringe).

Key Dates:

Direct Service Retention Bonus

Action	Date
Provider must have a "2021-22" or "2022" CFR on file with OPWDD	December 8, 2023
Attestation for the Direct Service Retention Bonus due to OPWDD	February 22, 2024
Direct Service Bonus Payments to be paid by OPWDD	Mid-March 2024
Direct Service Bonus Payments to be distributed and Distribution Plan to be shared with employees.	March 31, 2025

Next Steps:

- OPWDD will post attestations and other related materials to the OPWDD website for easy access for Providers.
- OPWDD will post the webinar recording on our website for reference.

Key Dates: Attestations and Payments

Action	Due Date
HCBS Settings Standards Locking Mechanism Attestation	February 15, 2024
Direct Service Retention Bonus Attestation	February 22, 2024
Community Transition Funding Attestation & Appendix	February 29, 2024
OPWDD Regional Office Completes review of Community Transition Funding Attestation & Appendix and makes awards	March 7, 2024
OPWDD makes payments through SFS. Payments for each initiative will be separate and distinct.	No later than mid-March 2024

Inquiries and Submissions

All attestations and inquiries on these initiatives should be submitted to:

LocalAssistanceInquiries@OPWDD.NY.GOV

Please use the following references in the subject line:

Community Transition
Direct Service Retention Bonus
HCBS Settings - Locks



Questions?

