OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OPWDD)

OPWDD is a New York State agency that provides supports and services to people who have **1**_____ disabilities. Examples of developmental disabilities include intellectual disabilities, autism, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, and neurological impairments such as from an injury or illness.
OPWDD services are free, available starting at age 3, and are meant to help people with disabilities live more independent and meaningful lives. You may be able to get services paid for through Medicaid regardless of family income and other health insurance. OPWDD provides services directly and through a network of service providing agencies. Types of services include housing, day programs, employment supports, respite care, socialization, independent living, and service coordination.

Eligibility
OPWDD through the Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices (DDRO) determines if a person has a developmental disability and eligibility for type and amount of OPWDD services and supports. The application and review process is called the Eligibility Determination Process (**2**_____).
Typically to qualify for OPWDD services, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- Have a diagnosis of a developmental disability
- Have documentation establishing the start of the developmental disability prior to the age of **3**_____.
- The disability is expected to be permanent.
- Have full scale IQ below 70 and/or Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales scores in the low range. (However, some individuals with scores above 69 are accepted for OPWDD services.)

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