



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

News Bulletin

August 26, 2020

You are invited to join us for an online meeting tomorrow, **Thursday, August 27 at 11:00 am**. Please [click here](#) to register. This will be an opportunity for you to ask the Care Design NY leadership team questions as OPWDD resumes their in-person and service delivery operations (see the OPWDD guidance documents below). Your feedback is crucial to influencing our most important priorities!

We have recorded the online meetings for your convenience. Please [click here](#) to access.

New York State Withholds 20% Funding

On August 21, 2020, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) issued a memo to OPWDD Providers. It stated effective immediately it will withhold 20% of all non-Medicaid Local Assistance payments made with 100% State funds to address the unprecedented financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on New York State.

In the event Federal stimulus funding is not provided to New York State, Providers were directed to develop a plan with the OPWDD Regional District Offices to allocate these withholds on a recurring basis. Questions on this Local Assistance payment withhold are directed to: ATL_Withholds@opwdd.ny.gov.

Care Design NY and the other six Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) responded with a letter to OPWDD. Please [click here](#) to read the CCO's response.

A Virtual Town Hall on Cuts: September 9 @ 7pm

The Long Island Advocacy Network for the Developmentally Disabled (LIANDD) and NYC FAIR are hosting a virtual Town Hall on September 9 at 7:00 pm EDT on the New York State announced cuts:

1. 20% withholding for non-Medicaid payments, effective August 17, 2020.
2. Cuts to residential services and changes to Community Habilitation.

Panelists will include:

- Susan Constantino, President and CEO of Cerebral Palsy Associations
- Wini Schiff, Associate Executive Director for Legislative Affairs at the InterAgency Council of Developmental Disabilities
- Robert Budd, President of the ANCOR Board of Directors and CEO of Family Residences and Essential Enterprises (FREE)

[Click here](#) to register for the virtual Town Hall. [Click here](#) for the event flyer.

Both the New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation and NYC FAIR have prepared information on the New York State funding cuts. [Click here](#) for the NYC FAIR information and [click here](#) for the New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation information. Questions? Please contact: nycliadvocates@gmail.com.

SPECIAL SECTION: OPWDD SERVICE DELIVERY REOPENING

Day Services Required to Post Safety Plans

The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) revised the July 15, 2020 Interim Guidance regarding the reopening of day services to include the following requirements:

1. Each day service program must consider the specific needs and circumstances of the individuals they serve to ensure individuals they are able to participate to the largest extent possible.

2. To help the appropriate parties (individuals, families, other caregivers, and Care Managers) in the decision-making process, OPWDD day services must provide access to their safety plans, so they can be reviewed proactively and remotely.
3. By the **close of business on September 4, 2020**, day service providers must post their safety plans to their websites. If plans are not yet developed, they will be posted to websites when they've been submitted and attested by OPWDD.

Please direct any questions to: quality@opwdd.ny.gov.

Guiding A Reopening Conversation Checklist

The collective community of the I/DD care delivery system is working through an unprecedented COVID-19 public health emergency. Care Design NY worked with members and families to develop guidance documents to inform the New York State I/DD community on what is critical from their perspective in reopening OPWDD services and programs. Please click on the following:

1. A [checklist](#) of considerations and questions to guide conversations with providers and/or Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) as the OPWDD service delivery system begins to resume in-person support and operations.
 2. A [reopening narrative](#).
 3. An [easy-to-read](#) visual reopening overview.
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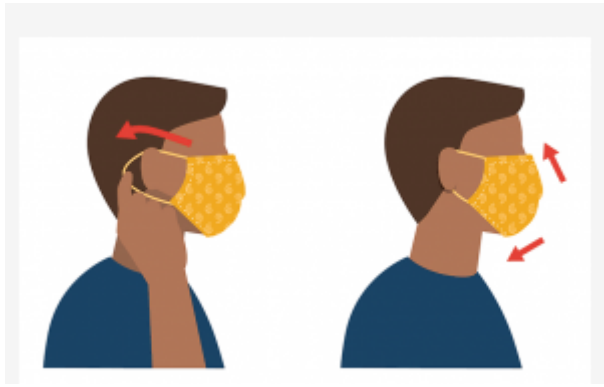
Summarized OPWDD Reopening Guidance

We've created a one-page summary, *OPWDD "COVID-19 Safety Plan for Certified Day Program Reopening" Template for Individuals and Families*.

Please [click here](#) for the Care Design NY summary document.

Here are the OPWDD reopening guidance documents:

1. [Day Services Guidance](#)
 2. [Home Visit Guidance](#)
 3. [Return to Residence Following an Extended Stay Guidance](#)
 4. [Community Outings Guidance](#)
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Helping Adults With I/DD With Face Masks

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School created a document, "Helping Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Become Comfortable With Face Masks." Please [click here](#) to access.

Virtual Webinar: Learn More About NY ABLE Program

The New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation is sponsoring a free virtual webinar via Zoom on September 15 @ 1:00 pm EDT with information on the NY ABLE Program. NY ABLE is a tax-advantaged savings program for individuals with disabilities and their families to save for their current or long-term needs.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for the September 15, 2020 webinar.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Care Design NY is committed to getting answers to your most pressing questions! We have documented the answers from our subject matter experts.

Have a question? Please email: memberfeedback@caredesignny.org.

Please click on the Frequently Asked Questions button below. We will continue to update this FAQ list, so please check back frequently!

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Emergency Resource Search \(COVID-19 SOS\)](#)

COVID-19 Resource Center for Members