



RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What are intellectual and developmental disabilities?

Intellectual and developmental disabilities are a variety of conditions which become apparent in childhood and are diagnosed before age 22. These conditions may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime. The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) provides services for people with a diagnosed disability such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other neurological impairments.

2. How do I access residential services for a family member or myself?

If you are interested in information about residential services for yourself or a family member, please contact your Care Manager, and they will assist you with this process. If you or they do not have a Care Manager, please contact the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities at 315-336-2300.

3. How does a person qualify for a supportive (less than 24-hours of supervision) residential setting?

An assessment is done for the person in the areas of Medical, Nutrition, Financial, Socialization, and Community Skills. Each category is designed to determine if the person can live independently with minimal daily oversight. The person can receive up to three hours of daily oversight and guidance. Some critical areas for the Supportive Living program are the ability to self-medicate, independence with an emergency, good budgeting skills, and independence with community orientation.

4. Who pays for residential services?

Generally, the provider payment is covered by the person's benefits (i.e., social security, supplemental security income, veteran benefits, etc.). If a person we support earns significant wages, a portion might be used to offset the decrease in the person's benefits. Private pay is an option in certain situations. Other funding sources include Medicaid, state, and local monies.

5. What responsibilities do the residents have?

Each person we support and/or family member or guardian will need to sign an admissions agreement upon admission to the residence. To the best of their ability, each person must participate in maintaining the cleanliness and neatness of their living environment and home. They will also be responsible for not infringing on the rights of others. As this is the person's home, house guidelines - which include chore charts, are established by the people we support who live in that home with assistance from the staff.

6. Can I choose where my family member or I want to live?

Arc residences are located throughout Oneida and Lewis Counties. Many factors are considered when making determinations on living situations. Some of those factors include the peer group, proximity to work or day program, availability (vacancy), and the person's need for staff oversight. Families are involved and are encouraged to visit prospective IRAs. The decision is made in concert with the individual and the family.

7. Who will care for my family member or me when ill?

The Arc has 24-hour Approved Medication Administration Personnel (AMAP) certified staff in our IRA residences. *NOTE: The AMAP staff are available for a few hours each day in the Supportive Living Program.* Staff can administer medications and are First-Aid and CPR trained. We also have the oversight of Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN). An RN is assigned to each of the residences. The RN oversees the medical care for each resident and provides nursing treatments when needed. The RNs are available by phone after business hours. Residential Services also has a SUNY On-Call Triage and StationMD telehealth which can be utilized if the RN is not available to answer any questions regarding the care of the people we support.

8. Will my family member or I have to share a room?

The Arc's goal is to provide a single room for every resident. Shared rooms are often a personal choice on the part of the person. Each home is different in its layout and bedroom situation.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CINDY GRISWOLD, VICE PRESIDENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

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FAQs CONTINUED

9. Can my family member come to my house for an overnight visit?

Yes. The Arc encourages family involvement and values the importance of family relationships. The amount of days the person can be with family or on vacation is specific to that person as identified in their Life Plan. However, we do follow guidelines set forth by OPWDD, stating that the people we support need to be present in their residence for a certain number of days each month. The resident needs to receive services from direct support professionals, which is a primary funding source for the IRA program. In the Supportive IRAs, the resident needs to be present for 22 days in each month.

10. What types of recreational opportunities are available for residents?

Residents are free to participate in a wide variety of recreational activities. Each residence develops plans to assist people in accessing community events such as movies, concerts, sporting events, picnics, swimming, theater shows, golfing, fairs, camps, etc. Many residents participate in bowling leagues, Special Olympics, and the Leisure Center. Some associations offer organized trips to places within the United States and internationally. These trips can be expensive, and saving enough money is a goal that many people achieve. Almost anything is possible in terms of recreation, and we always try to accommodate interests and requests.

11. Are residents able to work?

There are opportunities to work and earn money. It depends on the person's ability and desire to be employed. Some residents are employed at integrated community work sites through The Arc or other organizations. Others choose to work in the community with assistance from an Employment Service. Still, others have obtained competitive employment in the community without any assistance and are very successful.

12. Do residents have their own spending money?

Each person receives a monthly personal allowance based on their benefits, OPWDD mandates, and the representative payee if other than The Arc. This money may be used for recreational expenses, "pocket money," and items that the resident chooses to purchase. If a person works, they would also have earnings from their job. A specific plan is developed with each person to determine an established amount and frequency of dispensation of funds.