

COMMON ACRONYMS AND TERMS

About This Document

This glossary helps members and caregivers to understand common words and acronyms used in programs such as Care Management, Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and Medicaid. It uses clear, simple language and focuses on being respectful and person-centered.

Acronyms and Terms

ABA

Applied Behavior Analysis – A therapy based on the science of learning and behavior. ABA helps us understand how behavior works, how it is affected by the environment, and how learning takes place.

ACCES-VR

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services–Vocational Rehabilitation – Assists people with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment that supports independent living.

ACS

Administration of Children’s Services – New York City government agency that handles child protective services in New York City.

ADL

Activities of Daily Living – Routine tasks people do every day, such as dressing, bathing, eating, and toileting.

APE

Annual Physical Exam - Full health review you do once a year with your primary care doctor.

APS

Adult Protective Services – designed to protect vulnerable adults who are at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect.

AT

Assistive Technology – devices, tools or systems that help people with disabilities perform tasks more easily, safely or independently.

BSP (BIP)

Behavior Support Plan – A plan developed after a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) that outlines strategies to address behaviors and support the person in living a meaningful and fulfilling life. Older language may still refer to this as a Behavior Intervention Plan.

CAS

Coordinated Assessment System – A person-centered OPWDD assessment used to identify strengths, needs, and available natural and community supports through input from the individual, family, and circle of support. Typically completed by staff from Maximus.

CANS

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths – A person-centered assessment used by OPWDD to identify strengths, needs, and supports for children and adolescents. Typically completed by staff from Maximus.

CARS

Childhood Autism Rating Scale – A behavior rating scale used to help diagnose autism and distinguish autism from other developmental disabilities.

CCANY

Coordinated Care Alliance New York – Partnership between LIFEPlan CCO and ACANY that improves quality and efficiency in administrative and support services. All the support departments (IT, HR, Clinical, etc.) are within CCANY.

CCO

Care Coordination Organization – A Health Home tailored to meet the needs of people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities by developing an integrated Life Plan that includes health, behavioral health, community, and social supports. ACANY and LIFEPlan are examples of CCOs.

CDPAP

Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program – New York Medicaid program that allows individuals to choose and manage their own caregivers.

CH or Com Hab

Community Habilitation – A Medicaid-funded OPWDD HCBS Waiver service providing one-to-one training to help individuals develop skills needed to live more independently at home or in the community.

CIN

Client Identification Number – A unique identifier assigned to individuals applying for or receiving Medicaid or other benefits.

CM

Care Manager – A professional employed by a Care Coordination Organization who supports individuals in navigating and coordinating IDD services and health services. Sometimes called Care Coordinators, and are also formerly known as a Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC).

COS

Circle of Support – Also known as an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). A group chosen by the individual to support decision-making related to services, including the Care Manager, family, natural supports, and providers.

CPV or CBPV

Community Based Pre-Voc – Waiver service supporting people with employment skills.

CPS

Child Protective Services – Responsible for investigating reports of child abuse or neglect and taking action to protect children.

CSE

Committee on Special Education – A multidisciplinary team within the school district, responsible for recommending educational services that meet the needs of students with disabilities.

CSIDD

Crisis Services for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (NYSTART) – OPWDD services offering crisis prevention and response for individuals age 6 and older with complex behavioral needs.

DAC

Disabled Adult Child – Social Security Benefits received by a person who meets certain requirements.

DD

Developmental Disability – A group of conditions beginning before age 22 that impact physical, learning, language, or behavioral functioning and typically last throughout a person’s lifetime.

DDP-2

Developmental Disabilities Profile–2 – An OPWDD assessment tool used to determine level of need, service intensity, and authorization.

DDRO

Developmental Disabilities Regional Office – OPWDD regional offices responsible for eligibility determinations and service approvals.

DDSO

Developmental Disabilities State Operations Office within New York State’s OPWDD, responsible for overseeing state-operated residential, day programs, clinics, and related services for people with developmental disabilities.

DH or Day Hab

Day Habilitation – A Medicaid-funded OPWDD HCBS Waiver service providing skill-building, community engagement, and daily living supports outside the home.

DH WOW

Day Hab Without Walls – A waiver service providing skill-building, community engagement, and daily living supports exclusively in the community. This is also sometimes referred to as PWW- Program without Walls.

DME

Durable Medical Equipment – Medically necessary equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, or communication devices.

DOE

Department of Education – Refers to state or local education agencies involved in special education services.

DOH

Department of Health – Oversees Medicaid programs and certain service authorizations.

DSP

Direct Support Professional – front line staff that assist a person with IDD with daily living skills, personal care, health, safety, and community participation.

DSS or LDSS

(Local) Department of Social Services – government agency that provides social welfare programs, protective services, and support to vulnerable individuals and families.

EBT

Electronic Benefits Transfer – electronic system that lets people receive and use government benefits such as SNAP through a card that works like a debit card.

EHR

Electronic Health Record – digital version of a person’s medical history that is maintained over time. Also known as the EMR - Electronic Medical Record.

EI

Early Intervention – Services for children birth to age three who have developmental delays or disabilities.

EMOD

Environmental Modification – Physical changes to a home, such as ramps or accessible bathrooms, funded through the OPWDD Waiver to increase safety and independence.

EMR

Electronic Medical Record – digital version of a person’s medical history that is maintained over time. Also known as the EHR - Electronic Health Record.

ETP

Employee Training Program – Waiver service supporting people with employment.

FBA

Functional Behavioral Assessment – An evaluation used to understand why behaviors occur and identify appropriate supports.

FI

Fiscal Intermediary – Person who is a financial administrator when a person is enrolled in Self-Directed services.

FRR

Family Reimbursed Respite – is an OPWDD-funded support through FSS, Family Support Services, that allows families to be reimbursed for the cost of respite care they pay for themselves.

FSS

Family Support Services – Non-Waiver services designed to assist families in caring for loved ones with developmental disabilities who live at home with an unpaid caregiver.

HCBS

Home and Community-Based Services – Medicaid-funded supports delivered in home and community settings rather than institutional environments.

HES

Home Enabling Supports – Waiver service that uses technology to increase independence, safety, and community inclusion.

HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act – Federal law protecting the privacy and security of personal health information.

ID/IDD

Intellectual Disability – A disability characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior.

IDT

Interdisciplinary Team – The group of people involved in a person’s planning and supports, including providers, Care Managers, and family members. Also known as the COS - Circle of Support.

IEP

Individualized Education Program (or Plan) – A document outlining special education services and supports for a student with a disability.

IPOP

Individualized Plan of Protection – Formal safeguards put in place to support a person.

JC

Justice Center – NYS agency that works to protect people with IDD through investigation, advocacy, and education. It handles reports of abuse or neglect, ensuring that every allegation is investigated.

IRA

Individualized Residential Alternative – An OPWDD-certified group home providing residential services and supports.

LP

Life Plan – A comprehensive, person-centered plan developed through collaboration with the individual, their supports, and providers to guide service delivery and outcomes.

NOD

Notice of Decision – Official documentation from OPWDD that documents a decision on a person’s eligibility, enrollment, dis-enrollment or service authorization.

OPWDD

Office for People with Developmental Disabilities – A New York State agency responsible for coordinating services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

OTPS

Other than Personal Services – Budgeting expenses in a person’s Self-Direction budget that are not related to staff salaries or wages.

PCP

Person-Centered Planning – An ongoing process directed by the individual to plan for their future, focusing on strengths, preferences, and desired outcomes.

PCP

Primary Care Physician - healthcare provider, often a doctor, but sometimes a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, who serves as your first point of contact for general health care.

PRA

Personal Resource Account - a self-directed budget that gives the individual control over how their OPWDD funds are spent.

QEs

Qualified Entities (also called Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) - Trusted regional organizations approved to connect healthcare and human service providers so they can share information securely and coordinate care effectively.

RHIO

Regional Health Information Organization – Trusted regional organizations approved to connect healthcare and human service providers so they can share information securely and coordinate care effectively.

SAP

Staff Action Plan – Outlines the specific actions and supports provided by providers to help individuals with IDD achieve their goals.

SD

Self-Direction – An OPWDD service delivery model that provides individuals with flexibility, choice, and control over their supports and services.

SDM

Supported Decision Making – Formal process and legal framework that allows a person with IDD to make their own decisions with the support of trusted individuals, while retaining all their legal and civil rights.

SEMP

Supported Employment – Waiver service to assist people with obtaining competitive employment.

SHIN-NY

Statewide Health Information Network for New York – The statewide platform that enables secure, interoperable exchange of patient health information across New York. It connects Qualified Entities (QEs) – also called Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) – which are the local hubs for storing and sharing electronic health data.

SNAP

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Monthly benefits to low-income individuals and households to help them buy eligible food.

SSA

Social Security Administration – Agency in the Federal Government that manages the Social Security program.

SSI

Supplemental Security Income – A federal program providing financial assistance to individuals who are elderly, blind, or disabled with limited income.

SSD/SSDI

Social Security Disability Insurance – A federal program providing financial assistance to individuals who meet certain criteria and are unable to work.

TABS

Tracking and Billing System – Unique ID used for people enrolled in OPWDD services.

V-Mod

Vehicle Modification – OPWDD program that can assist people with modifications to their vehicle.