



The Open Doors Peer Program matches caring peers with developmental disabilities to individuals who receive Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) services who are transitioning to community based services. Peers are people who live independent lives in the community with the assistance of OPWDD services. Peers meet with individuals who are preparing to transition to community-based supports. Family members of individuals who have previously transitioned to community services are also available to meet with the families of transitioning individuals. The Peer will arrange meetings around the individual's schedule and can work with the individual until he or she feels comfortable in their new space and service plan.

To learn more, call us toll free at 844.545.7108 or visit [www.ilny.org](http://www.ilny.org)



The Open Doors Transition Center helps people receiving Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) services in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) transition to community based services. Transition Specialists focus on the individual's needs and desires to help develop a person-centered plan for the person to live more independently in their own residence or a small group home. As Independent Living Center staff, Transition Specialists are familiar with assistive technology that can assist the individual to be more independent in many areas of life. For example, using an adaptive brush may allow someone to brush their own hair, rather than having staff do it for them. Transition Specialists are also aware of community supports, including special interest clubs, faith-based organizations and recreational opportunities. Transition Specialists can assist with the process of selecting a Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC) who will help in setting up services and supports in the community. Transition Specialists work with the OPWDD team so that a person can live in the community the way he or she wants to live. To understand the importance of community integration, Transition Specialists conduct a Quality of Life survey with everyone who participates in the program.



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**A**re you interested in leaving the nursing home and moving to an apartment or home in the community? Do you wonder how you are going to live independently once you leave the nursing home? Do you want someone to talk to? The Open Doors Peer Program matches caring peers with people who want to go home. Peers have disabilities and use services and supports in their community to manage their healthcare needs. Many peers lived in a nursing home at one time and have personal experience with the transition process. Over time, you and the peer will identify the resources that are available in your community. The peer will meet with you on your schedule and is able to work with you through the entire transition process.

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Many people living in nursing homes wish to return to a home in the community. The Open Doors Transition Center can help. We have Transition Specialists who are familiar with local resources. They can help you identify what supports and services you will need to return home. This might include finding affordable housing that meets your physical needs, accessing benefits such as Medicaid, or accessing services such as personal care aides, home modifications, assistive technology, and community medical providers. We work with the staff at your nursing home and community programs to develop a discharge plan that will meet your needs and allow you to be as independent as possible. We accept referrals from nursing home residents, their loved ones, advocates, and nursing home staff. If you have questions about returning to the community, the Transition Specialist can meet with you to discuss your options.



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## **OPEN DOORS TRANSITION CENTER**

is the New York State program to assist people in nursing homes who are interested in returning home. All Section Q referrals must be sent to the Regional Lead contact. We also accept referrals from any other source such as the individual, family members or nursing home discharge planners. A Transition Specialist will visit with individuals to discuss available community supports and services. Then, if appropriate, the Transition Specialist can assist with accessing the home and community based services necessary for the individual to transition back to the community. This can include, but is not limited to, locating affordable, accessible housing, applying for community based waiver or Managed Long Term Care services, identifying community service providers and working with involved family members. Throughout the transition process the Transition Specialist will work with the nursing home discharge team to ensure that the individual is prepared for and has all needs met on day one in the community. The Open Doors Peer Program has peers available to assist individuals through the transition process. Peers are seniors and/or people with disabilities who have personal experience with transitioning and accessing services and supports in the community. If you have any questions about the referral or discharge process feel free to call us toll free at 844-545-7108.