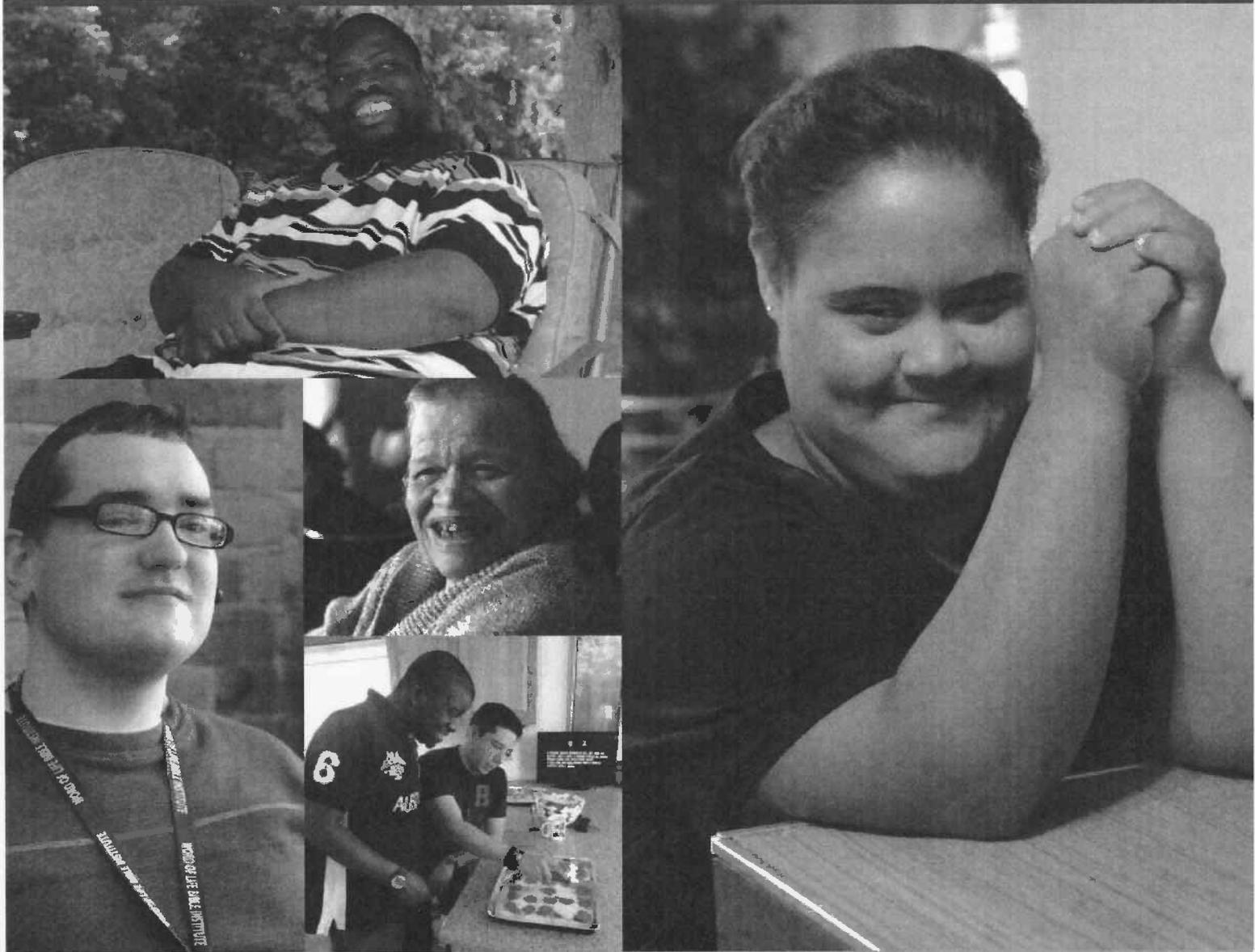




NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities



Report to the Legislature

Residential Request List

February 2016



Report to the Legislature, February 2016
Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
Residential Request List

Executive Summary

The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), as it seeks to evolve its housing strategies to better respond to demand and changing models of support that can be more tailored to the individual, has heard concerns from many individuals and families who fear that they will be unable to access residential supports when they are needed or plan a future for their loved one. More specifically, individuals and families have expressed concern over how long they will need to wait for a residential service and what options will be available to them.

To assist in meeting residential service needs and to further its housing planning process, OPWDD undertook an unprecedented attempt to reach the more than 11,000 individuals reflected on the Residential Request List (RRL) who had at some time in their history with OPWDD indicated interest in residential supports.

This outreach revealed several key findings:

- While over 60% of those contacted were interested in a traditional agency-staffed residence, a significant number were interested in pursuing non-traditional options and enhanced at-home services to keep their loved one at home longer;
- While caregiver age and length of time on the RRL do not always indicate urgency of need, these are nevertheless important factors that indicate the need for an enhanced planning process with such families to ensure that a person-centered plan can be implemented to meet each person's residential needs; and



- Higher behavioral health support needs are often a more important factor in determining the urgency of placement needs than the intensity level of direct support needs. Providing enhanced assistance for families with loved ones with behavioral support needs is critical.

Based upon this outreach, and other work with individuals, families, advocates, and providers, OPWDD will continue to develop strategies to address the need for safe, accessible, affordable and individualized housing supports for people with developmental disabilities.

As described in this report and informed by its RRL outreach, OPWDD will continue to:

- Work to ensure that sufficient certified residential opportunities are available to those who need and want that level of support based on a person-centered planning process, including those living at home with aging caregivers;
- Invest in additional certified residential opportunities as warranted;
- Work to increase access to non-certified housing options to meet the needs of individuals who want and can benefit from non-certified housing; and
- Work to increase respite, day service and crisis support to help individuals and family caregivers assist those who want to live at home longer.

As described in the sections that follow, OPWDD's outreach to and collaboration with individuals, families, advocates and providers have driven the development of these strategies and will continue to do so in the coming year.