

Step 1: Enroll in NYS OPWDD's Self Direction Program

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/types-services/self-direction>

OPWDD's Self Direction program allows individuals to choose their services to best fit their needs. This includes your loved one's housing, staffing and activities. You will attend a self-direction information session and then meet with your loved one's circle about budget and needs.

Step 2: Gather Your Resources and Inform Your Circle Members

Inform circle members you are interested in your loved one living independently and gather their contact information. This can include your loved one's:

- Broker
- Care Manager
- Fiscal Intermediary
- Close Relatives/Friends

Step 3: Fill Out the Autism Communities Information Form

<https://autismcommunities.org/families-of-those-with-autism/#connect>

Our Information Form helps us gather basic information about your family and your loved one's needs. It can be found on the "Apply" tab of our website.



Parent Housing Guide

Step 4: Connect With Autism Communities

After filling out our Information Form, a member of the Autism Communities team will reach out to you directly.

Step 5: Prepare To Connect With SMILE

After Autism Communities determines your loved one is a potential housing candidate, you will be connected with SMILE. SMILE conducts all Autism Communities person centered housing planning meetings with candidates. You should gather necessary documentation as directed by SMILE.

Step 6: PCHP Meeting

The Person Centered Housing Planning (PCHP) meeting will be set up and conducted by SMILE staff. It is at this meeting where your loved one's needs, wants and activities will be mapped out and a transition plan for living independently will be written. You may have as many individuals from your loved one's circle attend this meeting as desired.

1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments Available



Step 7: Prepare Your Budget and Connect With A Potential Roommate

You will prepare your loved one's housing budget with your broker and fiscal intermediary. SMILE and Autism Communities will assist in preparing your loved one and their potential roommates' family with move in information and connecting through multiple meetings.

Step 8: Prepare to Move In

Your family should prepare your loved one to move in by:

- Visiting Westbrook Village.
- If needed, prepare a transition plan especially if your loved one has never been away from home.
- Preparing/scheduling staffing (if appropriate).
- Planning a day to day schedule.
- Preparing shopping needs.
- Frequent discussions with your loved one's roommates' family.

Step 9: Sign a Lease & Move In!

Congratulations! Autism Communities is committed to providing a welcoming and vibrant community!

Westbrook Village-Great River, NY

