

## 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 housing, staffing and activities. You will attend a self-direction information session and then meet with your/your loved one's circle about budget and needs.

## Step 2: Gather Your Resources and Inform Your Circle Members

Inform circle members about interest in living independently and gather their contact information. This can include your/your loved one's:

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

## Step 3: Fill Out the Autism Communities Information Form

Our Information Form helps us gather basic information about your/your loved one's needs. Please review all of our candidate housing criteria before filling out the information form.



# 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

If Autism Communities determines you/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 will take part in an initial Zoom call, and 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 needs, wants and activities will be mapped out and a transition plan for living independently will be written. You may have as many individuals attend this meeting as desired. After this meeting, SMILE will provide independent living recommendations.

## 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments

### Housing Options:

- 1 Bedroom Apartment
- 2 Bedroom Apartment W/ Roommate
- 2 Bedroom Apartment W/ Live In Care Giver

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

You will prepare your/your loved one's housing budget with your broker and fiscal intermediary. SMILE and Autism Communities will assist in preparing you/your loved one with connecting through multiple meetings.

## Step 8: Prepare to Move In

- Connect with our housing liaison.
- Visit the apartment community.
- If needed, prepare a transition plan especially if you/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 new roommates' circle (if applicable).

## Step 9: Sign a Lease & Move In!

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

## Long Island, NY

