



## Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

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### For Immediate Release

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### **DDPC Announces \$720,000 Grant to Create Online Housing Options Resource for People with Developmental Disabilities and their Families**

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council is pleased to announce \$720,000 in grant funding for a three-year pilot project to provide education on housing information and the range of non-certified housing options available for people with developmental disabilities. The DDPC funded grant project is in partnership with the New York Alliance for Innovation and Inclusion, Inc.

“Today, people with developmental disabilities are increasingly living more independently and in community-based settings,” said DDPC Acting Executive Director Vicky Hiffa. “These resources will offer people with developmental disabilities and their families different options to consider when exploring housing that is available in New York State that exists beyond traditional OPWDD certified settings.”

With this funding, the NY Alliance will identify statewide and regionally based resources on the various non-certified housing options available, including supportive apartments, paid neighbors, and live-in caregivers. These resources will be hosted on a newly developed website which can be accessed regionally or statewide.

Along with the identification and development of resources, the NY Alliance will also be responsible for providing public education on housing options to families and caregivers of people with developmental disabilities.

“OPWDD is focused on supporting people with developmental disabilities throughout their changing lifespan and non-traditional residential opportunities are one of the ways that people are choosing to live independently in their communities,” said NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities Commissioner Kerri E. Neifeld. “This enhanced website will compliment OPWDD’s existing housing resources and provide people and families with another tool for exploring options that best suit their needs.”

“This funding initiative from the DDPC will have meaningful impact by creating an interactive website and a companion app to help people with developmental disabilities navigate housing options and resources, and have access to valuable information,” said

NY Alliance President and CEO Michael Seereiter. “Through this initiative, we will continue to be a catalyst for change and assist New York State in continuing its commitment to support people with developmental disabilities to live a life of choice and independence.”

This initiative is expected to start in January 2023.

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