

Attachment E

OPWDD Housing Subsidy College Program Pilot

The OPWDD Housing Subsidy College Program Pilot is a unique pilot program to support funding for dormitory housing expenses for individuals who qualify for services through the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and who are enrolled in courses at a college or university located in New York State.

1. Participation

OPWDD, in its discretion, may authorize a Housing Subsidy through the OPWDD Housing Subsidy College Program Pilot. In order to qualify for authorization, the individual must be:

- Enrolled in courses (matriculated or auditing student) at a college or university located in New York State.
- Living in a dormitory-style building located in New York State owned by the same college or university in which the individual is enrolled. In some instances, the college the individual is attending may subcontract housing from another college. This is allowed if the housing is billed through and made to, the college the individual is attending.
- Living in a dormitory-style building that is integrated and not reserved entirely for people with disabilities.

2. Funding

Funding is determined by the OPWDD Housing Subsidy Payment Standards for the county in which the dormitory-style building is located. OPWDD Standard County Maximum Payment Standards apply. For the OPWDD Housing Subsidy College Program only, the “county” is defined as the county in which the dormitory style building is located.

Funding for dormitory style building housing expenses is based on a one- bedroom market rate apartment without roommates listed. If there is a Live-in Caregiver in who is sharing a double occupancy room or if there is a separate bedroom, the number of bedrooms will be identified as “2” to account for the Live-in Caregiver stipend separately.

The funding calculation may be considered as:

- A one-bedroom market rate apartment;
- A 2-bedroom market rate apartment If the individual has a Live-in Caregiver; or
- Other appropriate calculation as determined by the individual's living situation.

3. Payment Standard

The housing subsidy payments will be made monthly while the individual is living in the dormitory-style building and enrolled college. If the individual withdraws from college, leaves college housing, or otherwise becomes ineligible for the OPWDD College Housing Subsidy, they will be liable for the remaining housing balance.

If the individual is going to college in a different DDRO district than their current home and this is not a permanent move, the individual must retain the current home district on their housing subsidy documentation. An Inter District Transfer is not needed for temporary college moves.

4. Documentation Requirements

The Care Manager must obtain and retain proof of matriculation and residence at the college or university where the individual is applying for the housing subsidy. If the college subcontracts dormitory space from another college, the cost of the housing must be included in billing from the college that the individual is attending. Documentation can typically be requested from the Registrar's office. New documentation from the Registrar's office must be requested each semester to confirm continued housing. All required documentation must be shared with the Housing Subsidy provider to support billing for the subsidy.

Housing Subsidy/Self-Direction Budget Template

The application tab on the Housing Subsidy Budget Template/the Demographic tab on the Self-Direction Budget Application Demographic tab must reflect the college dorm's address and county. CHOICES should continue to reflect the individual's permanent home address and not the dorm address.

The current Budget Templates represent a 12-month period. The funding assumptions are that the school-year housing (e.g., 9 months) will be spread over the full year. The housing subsidy calculation methodology may result in less funding going to the college or university than is billed.

In some cases, individuals may reside somewhere other than their dorm during summer breaks and need the OPWDD housing subsidy to assist with this other residence. In these cases, a budget amendment is required to reflect the address and other required information for summer residence for the time they are receiving a subsidy for that location. This arrangement will reduce the total annual amount of subsidy available to be paid to the college/university. Also, if the individual leaves school before the semester ends and is no longer eligible for dormitory housing subsidy, they may be required to pay the school the outstanding housing costs.

For more information on the OPWDD Housing Subsidy College Program Pilot Contact the Housing Liaison or Self-Direction Liaison at the local DDRO.