Agency Supported Residential Service Proposal

Updated November 2, 2026

Every caregiver of a person with an intellectual or developmental disability faces the same pressing question: “What happens when I’m gone?”. Today’s system reflects two ends of a continuum. Certified residential models prioritize structure and consistency, which can at times limit flexibility in individual support choices, and self-directed options offer maximum autonomy but require significant skills or strong natural supports to manage. However, there is no option for people in the middle of the continuum - those who want to self-direct services in non-certified settings but require overnight safety support and medical assistance beyond the capacity of technology.

This proposal seeks to address this unmet need, creating a model that bridges the gap between full independence and fully certified residential programs. The proposed Agency Supported Residential Service is a flexible, community-based non-certified residential model that empowers people to direct their own lives while ensuring safety, medical oversight, and continuity of care, including guaranteed backup staffing when natural supports are no longer available. This approach delivers peace of mind for families and creates a sustainable, non-certified residential option for people who need and value both independence and security.

The Agency Supported Residential Service offers significant cost savings compared to traditional certified options. Based on a sample budget for an individual requiring overnight support and medical oversight and using average costs for certified settings in Onondaga County, the analysis shows significant savings. **By combining Self-Directed Day Services with residential supports provided through the proposed Agency Supported Residential Service, total costs would be 21% lower than those for five days per week of Day Habilitation and residence in a certified IRA - resulting in estimated annual savings of $48,233.**

Both OPWDD’s 507 Strategic Plan (2023–2027) and the Guidehouse Self-Direction Assessment Report (2025) include recommendations and data that strongly support models like AS Residential, which combine autonomy with essential oversight. The AS Residential model aligns with state priorities and expert recommendations to address gaps in housing and self-direction for people with disabilities. It would address a gap in the service continuum for those who want to self-direct their services as much as possible but require continuous safety oversight and healthcare management beyond the scope of pure self-direction.

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Key Features of the Agency Supported Residential Service

1. Self-Direction First:

- Recognizes the importance of choice, autonomy, and encourages maximum independence
- Supports individual choice in where to live in their own community and who to share their home with
- Supports maximum choice and the least restrictive setting for people who will not have family members/natural supports available as caregivers in the future

2. Guaranteed Backup Staffing for Safety:

- House Manager provides a guarantee of backup staff for those who require continuous oversight to ensure safety

3. Medication & Healthcare Oversight:

- Delegated nursing provides coordination with healthcare providers and staff training for ongoing management of healthcare
- Ensures that medication administration needs are met and that Residential DSPs have the training and supervision needed

4. Sustainable Care Solutions:

- Addresses the aging caregiver crisis and the need for sustainable housing solutions. Offers peace of mind for caregivers asking: “What happens when I’m gone?”
- Creates a sustainable, replicable, and scalable model for agencies statewide.
- Supports long-term stability and quality of life for people with disabilities
- Bridges the gap between full independence and fully certified residential programs, provided at a lower cost than fully certified residential programs

Agency Supported Residential Service Details

Each person utilizing the service:

- Chooses their own home - the home may be owned by the person/their family/held in a trust or may be a rented house or rented apartment in their chosen community. The AS Residential service provider agency does not own or rent the property/house/apartment

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- Chooses their own housemates – the budget below assumes that 3 housemates choose to live together in a home
- Has a Self-Direction budget through the Fiscal Intermediary of their choice. The Self-Direction Fiscal Intermediary may be a different provider agency than the AS Residential service provider agency
- Chooses to utilize Self-Hired Community Habilitation as their day service
- May choose to utilize their Self-Direction budget for items such as Housing Subsidy, Utilities, Food Subsidy, Internet, Phone, Clothing Subsidy if needed
- Maintains their own SNAP benefits
- Maintains their own SSI benefits

The Agency Supported Residential Service provider agency:

- Employs the House Manager/Assistant Manager, Residential DSPs, Nurse, Residential Director
- Sets the payrates for Residential DSPs
- Provides regularly scheduled Residential DSPs to cover the hours of 4p-9a (7 days/week), plus 9a-4p Saturday and Sunday
- Provides 24/7 guaranteed backup staffing

The Agency Supported Residential Service provider agency's House Manager/Assistant House Manger:

- Invites each person living in the home to be a part of the Residential DSP interviews
- Is responsible for approving Residential DSP service documentation, time and mileage
- Is required to fill in when the person's regularly scheduled Self-Hired DSPs or Residential DSPs are not available

Funding

- AS Residential service funding could mirror IRA funding methodology – billed at a flat rate per person per day, based on services provided from the Residential Habilitation Plan
- AS Residential service is a Direct Provider Purchased service

What is included within the Agency Supported Residential Service rate?

- House Manager and Assistant House Manager (both support 2 homes with 3 people living in each home)
- Residential Director
- Medication administration training, approval and supervision for Residential DSPs and House Managers provided by Nurse

- Nurse – Oversees scheduling and follow up for medical care/appointments, trains, approves and supervises Residential DSPs to administer medication, writes and trains Residential DSPs on Nursing Plan for each person
- Mileage for Residential DSPs/staff (DSPs/staff use their own vehicles) paid at federal rate
- 3:1 Residential DSP evening (4p-10p) 7 days/week paid at agency rate of $24/hour*
- Guaranteed evening (4p-10p) backup provided by House Manager/Assistant House Manager
- 3:1 Residential DSP overnight (10p-9a) 7 days/week paid at agency rate of $22/hour*
- Guaranteed overnight (10p-9a) backup provided by House Manager/Assistant House Manager
- 3:1 Residential DSP Saturday and Sunday daytime (9a-4p) paid at agency rate of $24/hour*
- Guaranteed Saturday and Sunday daytime backup provided by House Manager/Assistant House Manager
- Guaranteed Monday-Friday daytime backup provided by House Manager/Assistant House Manager if the person's regular Monday – Friday daytime Self-Hired Community Hab. DSP is unavailable, or if they choose to shift their 35 hours/week of Self-Hired Community Hab. To different hours

What items are excluded from the Agency Supported Residential Service rate?
(these are items that are included within a traditional Supervised IRA rate)

- Agency owned property, maintenance, repairs, taxes
- Agency owned vehicle – (excluded because Residential DSPs use personal vehicle)
- Housing Subsidy (excluded because it is available within SD budget)
- Food Subsidy (excluded because it is available within SD budget)
- Clothing allowance (excluded because it is available within SD budget)
- Rep payee (person contracts with community organization if that is a need that natural supports are not fulfilling)
  Note: Each person maintains their own individual SNAP and SSI benefits

Service Cost Comparison Overview:
Traditional Services vs.
Self-Direction and Agency Supported Residential Services

Cost of Combined Day services and Residential services (for people in need of 24/7 support with guaranteed backup staffing and medication administration)	**Annual Cost of Combined Day services and Residential services**
Day Habilitation** (5 full days) Plus **IRA *****	**Total: $229,800**
Agency Supported Community Habilitation (30 hours/week) Plus **IRA** ***	**Total: $245,150**
Self-Direction Day Service (see details below) Plus **Agency Supported Residential Service** (see details below) Plus **Independent Living Self-Direction Budget items** (see details below)	**Total: $181,567**

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Cost Comparison Details: Day Services

Cost of Day services	**Annual Cost of Day services**
Day Habilitation** 5 Full Days	**Total: $62,400**
Agency Supported Community Habilitation 30 hours/week	**Total: $77,750**
Self-Direction Day Service – sample SD budget includes: • 1:1 Self-Hired Community Habilitation - 35 hours/week at $24/hour • Brokerage - $1,851 • Mileage - $4,000/year • Health Club membership - $600/year • Staff Activity Fees - $300/year • Community Classes - $2,000/year • FI Fee - $751/month	**Total: $74,556**

Cost Comparison Details: Residential Services

Cost of Residential services (for people in need of 24/7 support with guaranteed backup staffing and medication administration)	**Annual Cost of Residential services**
IRA ***	**Total: $167,400**
Agency Supported Residential Service - includes: • House Manager • Assistant Manager • Director • Nurse • Residential DSPs: 3:1 Residential DSP overnights 7 days/week (10 PM-9AM) 3:1 Residential DSP evenings 7 days/week (4pm-10PM)	$99,715

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3:1 Residential DSP daytime Saturday and Sunday (9am-4pm) Plus **Independent Living Self-Direction Budget items -** sample SD budget includes: • Housing Subsidy - $258/month • Housing Subsidy Admin fee - $125/month • Utilities, Food Subsidy, Internet, Phone, Clothing Subsidy - $2,700 total/year	 Plus $7,296 **Total: $107,011**

Cost Comparison Details:
Combined
Day Services and Residential Services

Cost of Combined Day services and Residential services (for people in need of 24/7 support with guaranteed backup staffing and medication administration)	**Annual Cost of Combined Day services and Residential services**
Day Habilitation** - 5 full days Plus **IRA *****	$62,400 Plus $167,400 **Total: $229,800**
Agency Supported Community Habilitation - 30 hours/week Plus **IRA****	$77,750 Plus $167,400

	Total: $245,150
Self-Direction Day Service - sample SD budget includes: • 1:1 Self-Hired Community Habilitation - 35 hours/week at $24/hour • Brokerage - $1,851 • Mileage - $4,000/year • Health Club membership - $600/year • Staff Activity Fees - $300/year • Community Classes - $2,000/year • FI Fee - $751/month Plus **Agency Supported Residential Service** – includes: • House Manager • Assistant Manager • Director • Nurse • Residential DSPs: 3:1 Residential DSP overnights 7 days/week (10 PM-9AM) 3:1 Residential DSP evenings 7 days/week (4pm-10PM) 3:1 Residential DSP daytime Saturday and Sunday (9am-4pm) Plus **Independent Living Self-Direction Budget items -** sample SD budget includes: • Housing Subsidy - $258/month • Housing Subsidy Admin fee - $125/month • Utilities, Food Subsidy, Internet, Phone, Clothing Subsidy $2,700 total/year	$74,556 Plus $99,715 Plus $7,296 **Total: $181,567**

*Agency rate is current as of 1/1/2026
**Day Habilitation cost is based on average rate for Onondaga County providers
***IRA cost is based on average rate for Onondaga County providers

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