

What is NY START?

NY START is a community-based OPWDD program that offers crisis prevention and response services to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and complex behavioral health needs, as well as to their families and those who provide support.

NY START emphasizes the development of cross systems relationships, trainings and education, as well as crisis prevention and response supports. Its goals include helping individuals remain in their homes and communities, and enhancing their opportunities for leading healthy, successful and richer lives.

What does NY START offer?

The NY START program offers training, consultation, therapeutic services and technical assistance to enhance the ability of the community to support individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and complex behavioral health needs, and focuses on establishing integrated services with providers.

Who is eligible for referral to NY START?

NY START services are available to individuals age 6 and over who have an intellectual/developmental disability and complex behavioral health needs. An OPWDD eligibility determination is required in order to receive NY START services.

Where is NY START available?

Fully operational NY START teams are available in the Western New York, Finger Lakes, Capital District, Taconic and Hudson Valley regions of NYS. The NY START teams in NYC are in the initial stages of implementation and it is anticipated that they will begin taking referrals in mid-2016. NY START teams in Long Island and Central New York will become available as statewide implementation continues.

Who can make a referral and what is the process?

Referrals are accepted from individuals, families, service providers (I/DD & mental health), hospitals, psychiatric centers and other crisis services. Contact information for operational NY START teams can be found online at: <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/ny-start/home>

Where can I learn more about NY START?

Additional information can be found at the NY START webpage at:
<http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/ny-start/home>