

# **Coordinated In-Home Supports Project**

An Enhanced Service Package for

School-Aged Children, Youth and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Their Families

In Orange County and around New York State, delivery of quality and effective community habilitation to children with autism spectrum disorders has been challenging on many fronts. The Coordinated In-Home Supports Project is an initiative created to address barriers identified through focused study led by the Orange County Department of Mental Health in collaboration with agencies and parents. Funded by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the project started as a pilot in April 2008. It remains an innovative, ever-evolving collaborative service unique to Orange County.

## **Participating Providers**

Access: Supports for Living • Crystal Run Village • Greystone Programs • Inspire  
The Mental Health Association of Orange County • The Arc Sullivan-Orange Counties

## **Criteria to Access the Service**

OPWDD Eligibility • Autism Spectrum Disorder • Ages 4-17 Upon Enrollment  
Living at Home • Problem Behaviors that Interfere with Learning and/or Family Routines

## **Essential Service Components**

Enhanced Level of Community Habilitation (CH), a professional service delivered in the home and community by mentors employed by one of the six participating providers. This 1:1 service helps children, youth, young adults develop new skills to maximize independence and reduce problem behaviors.

Centralized Clinical Support is provided by the county through one multi-disciplinary team that uses a framework of Applied Behavior Analysis to help parents and mentors employed by all six providers understand, prevent and replace problem behaviors; teach new skills; address sensory, communication, social skills, and family issues.

Centralized Specialized Training is provided by the County to mentors and parents.

## **Five Core Elements**

- Standards for Service Delivery facilitate clear understanding of the terms and conditions of participation and expectations of all involved
- Standards for Training give staff the tools and support needed to be effective with this population
- Services Coordinated with the Educational Program increase consistency across settings
- Child Mentor's Network across agencies resulting in play dates, meet ups and other activities
- Enhanced Rate of Compensation for mentors

## **Other Unique Features & Benefits**

- Parents have an important role and responsibility to participate in training, data collection, plan development and implementation.
- Providers work collaboratively sharing resources, staff, best practices and sometimes families.
- The providers and the county meet monthly to ensure continuous quality improvement, enhance service delivery, problem solve, develop protocols and uniformity of practice where possible.
- Enrollees may not also receive 1:1 respite; families get relief from caregiving when CH is provided.

**Access**

CIHS now is connected with the Orange County Community Supports Initiative (OCCSI). Clinical support can begin once the supporting documents required for OCCSI are received. Then, with an authorization for CH, the care manager must complete the profile on the OCCSI portal indicating a preference for CIHS.

For more information please contact:  
Orange County Department of Mental Health (845)291-2600  
[www.orangecountygov.com/718](http://www.orangecountygov.com/718)

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