



Intro to Community and Facility Based Habilitation Services

Focusing on OPWDD Day Habilitation & Community Habilitation

Quick refresh

OPWDD Waiver Services

The Home and Community-Based Services Waiver is the Medicaid program that provides services for adults and children with developmental disabilities in their own home and community.

Day Habilitation and Community Habilitation are OPWDD HCBS waiver services

- To participate in any Day Hab or Community Habilitation services you MUST have OPWDD Eligibility first.
- The first step to receiving OPWDD services is to determine if you are eligible. Once eligibility is approved, you can begin the planning process. There are many supports and service options available, including supports to live in your home independently or with others, employment, day habilitation, and children's services.
- Your CM (Care Manager) is the KEY person who coordinates and sets up via a person-centered approach and signs for approved services by OPWDD. To Access OPWDD Services

Day Habilitation Services

Day Habilitation is offered in a variety of environments to best support a person's preferences. This can include structured on-site programming, community-based programming, or a combination of the two.

Each person is offered an array of opportunities and experiences based on their choices, interests, and talents. All the services and supports are designed to enrich people's lives as they build relationships and participate in their local communities.

There are several organizations throughout Brooklyn NY that offer Day Habilitation services.

Day Habilitation Services



Allowable Day Habilitation Services & Activities:



- Skill Development: Activities designed to improve self-help, social, communication, and travel skills.
- Community Integration: Exploring community resources, volunteering, and participating in recreational or educational activities.
- Vocational Support: Prevocational training, job exploration, and developing work-related skills.
- Site-Based Activities: Art, computer training, sensory activities, and social skill-building in a certified facility.
- Transportation: Transportation between activities during the program day (not to/from the home).
- Clinical Support Integration: Support to access services, such as meeting with a care manager, that are integrated into the day program

What is the difference between " Facility/Site- Based" & "Without Walls" Day Habilitation ?

- Site-based day habilitation is structured to provides services at a fixed, OPWDD licensed facility. A certificate of occupancy is required by law.
- Site-based programs often accommodate individuals who may require higher levels of medical or behavioral support compared to community-based "Without Walls" programs. They may have more staff on-site, a nurse and/or Behavior Specialist.
- Without Walls Services are Community-based activities that occurs entirely in community settings rather than a fixed site.
- While Site-Based programs occur at a dedicated location, they may still include trips into the community, but the primary base of operations is a physical site. In contrast, Day Habilitation "Without Walls" takes place entirely in community settings.
- Typically, approval for either service, is based on the level or support a person needs to participate in group activity, travel in the community and to complete ADL skills.

What is not included in Day Habilitation?

It's important to note that only sometimes programs offer a contracted bus or support with transportation to and from program. Other options are using Access-a-Ride or travel training to use public transportation. It is common that "Without Walls" programs may not provide transportation but will provide the fare along with travel training.

- Medical and Clinical Treatments: While some programs offer nursing supports, intensive, therapeutic, or ongoing medical care is not included.
- Paid Employment/Sheltered Workshops: Day hab is intended for habilitation (skill building), not for production work or competitive employment, although "pre-vocational" skills may be taught.
- Individual Staffing: While programs have staff, 1:1 individualized support is not always guaranteed and depends on the specific authorization and needs of the participant
- Educational Services (School Hours): For children under 21, day hab cannot replace or replicate services provided by public education under IDEA, nor can it occur during regular school hours.
- Basic Childcare: Services that are purely for babysitting or standard child supervision—unrelated to the individual's disability-related needs—are not included. Services that do not include skill building goals ie: respite or recreation
- Residential/Overnight Care: Day habilitation is a daytime service and does not include 24-hour residential support.
- Meals: Many programs do not provide lunches or meals, requiring participants to bring their own.

Community Habilitation Services

OPWDD waiver service providing personalized, one-to-one training to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. It supports skill development for independent living at home and active community participation. The services are tailored to the individual's Life Plan and are provided in non-certified settings, such as their own home, family home, or community locations.



Community Hab is designed to assist people supported to learn and keep the skills you need to live safely and more independently, meet people, make and keep friends, take part in community events and explore their interests.

Services take place in the person's home or community.

People supported and their families choose their goals which may include the development of social skills, financial skills, community inclusion, and relationship building, among others.

Community Habilitation can start from childhood and through all phases of life.

Community Habilitation is for people who do not live in an OPWDD certified or operated home.

Note* there is a separate Residential Habilitation service for those living in OPWDD certified residences



Allowable Community Habilitation Services & Activities:

Independent Living Skills: Training in personal hygiene (bathing, dressing, grooming), cooking, cleaning, laundry, and shopping.

Community Integration: Mobility training, navigating public transportation, and exploring recreational activities.

Financial Management: Training in recognizing money, budgeting, and making purchases.

Health and Safety: Training in self-medication, health care management, and basic first aid.

Socialization and Employment: Developing interpersonal skills for community engagement, volunteering, or pre-vocational skills.

Clinical Supports: Activities can support therapeutic goals (e.g., strengthening techniques from occupational or physical therapy)



What is not included in Community Habilitation ?

Community Habilitation typically takes place in the home or the persons immediate community. That can make sticking to the goals "tricky" as the person and their family will all have their own rules, customs and preferences. It is important to factor in that staff are there to work with the person supported during those scheduled times. Some organizations, and with the support of self-direction, has created the opportunity for people to select and hire their own staff. It's important to know there are also regulations and requirements staff will need to complete even if they are family or friends.

- No "Care-Only" Services: Services cannot be used to simply clean a house or cook meals while the individual does nothing (i.e.: HHA or respite). The focus is on teaching the individual to perform tasks (ADLs/IADLs) themselves, not having the staff do tasks for them.
- Not a Taxi Service: ComHab staff should not simply drive an individual from point A to B; they should be actively engaged with the person at their destination.
- No Certified Settings: Services generally cannot be delivered in an OPWDD-certified residential setting.
- No Supported Employment: Supported employment services (SEMP) are distinct and not permitted under ComHab.
- No Overlapping Services: Time spent cannot overlap with other Medicaid services like therapies, personal care or school hours.
- Not a Substitute for Supervision: It cannot be used strictly for supervision or protective oversight only (ex: respite)



THANK YOU!
