



**February
12th, 2021**

The Self-Advocacy
Association of New York
State

(SANYS)

SANYS 2021 Position
Paper

February 12th, 2021



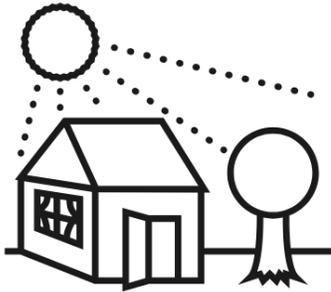
People with developmental disabilities depend on supports and services to be successful and independent



But for many years New York State has not provided enough money for all the people who need supports



The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (**OPWDD**) has seen some increases, but not enough for everyone who needs support



There is some money in this budget for more affordable housing, which is needed by many people



But there needs to be more options for the many people who are waiting for housing



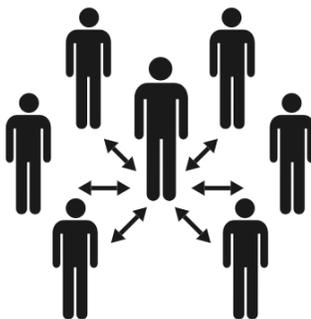
There needs to be more funding for people who want to live independently in areas where housing is expensive



OPWDD is making some changes to rates to support people living in less-restrictive settings and also to support people with higher support needs



We want to make sure that with these changes, people should still have a choice about where they live



We want all people to be able to have the option to live in a less restrictive setting as part of a person-centered process



Many people with disabilities have lost jobs because of the health crisis



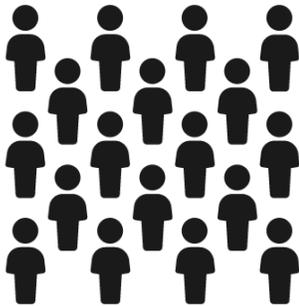
Even before the pandemic there was not enough support for the many people who wanted jobs in their communities



Coming out of the pandemic it will be important to support innovative solutions for people to get jobs



Some people with disabilities like being able to receive services remotely, and everyone should have the choice to be able to do so, even after the pandemic



There should also be options and support for people who choose to receive services in the communities of their choice when it becomes safe to do so



We believe that having many different options for what people do with their days is the best way to support people with disabilities



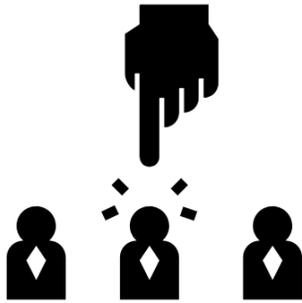
Many people with disabilities have struggled to have access to the internet



We believe access to the internet and the technology to use it are a basic right



Supporting the use of internet technology should be a basic requirement for residential supports



Self-Direction has grown a lot in our system, but we are worried that changes and cuts may make it harder for people to use these programs



We are worried that changes to eligibility and limits on use of services risk sending people back to institutions



We also oppose any withhold or cut to the funding for these and other non-Medicaid programs



Our system has struggled to pay Direct Support Professionals (**DSPs**) fairly, and finding staff is very difficult



The pandemic has made this harder. Many **DSPs** have worked heroically and taken great risks or lost their lives



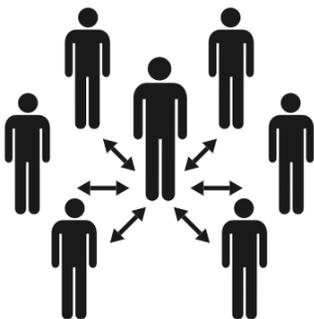
New York State must find ways to pay **DSPs** fairly and honor them for their sacrifices



Accessible transportation is important for people with disabilities to be part of their community



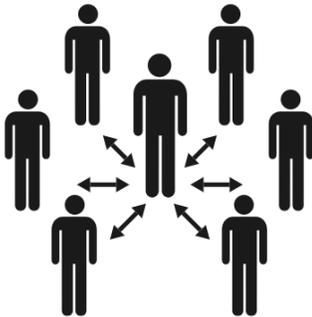
There must be increased funding for transportation and paratransit services for people to avoid isolation



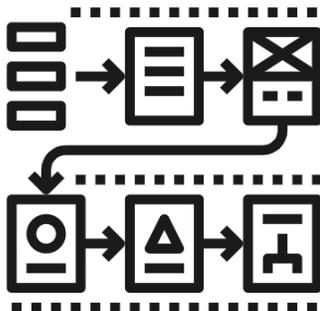
People with disabilities should be included and supported to participate in all transportation planning



For self-advocates it is not clear that managed care would work, and we worry it would take money away from services



Our system must become more person-centered, less restrictive, and more community based to survive



We need to know what the alternative to managed care will be, or what path **OPWDD** plans going forward



We encourage legislators to meet with us, talk with us, and visit us in our programs and communities



SANYS can work with you to support connections with self-advocates to make sure everyone's voice is heard.



You can find information on contacting us in your region at www.sanys.org