



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

**Operations Center Memo FY2022-14**

To: DDS Qualified Providers

From: Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner

CC: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner, Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff, Scott McWilliams, CFO, Private ARDs, Resource Administrators, The Alliance, The Arc CT

Date: November 8, 2021

RE: Statewide Suspension of New CLA and CRS Development

DDS has been monitoring the number of statewide opportune vacancies in our Community Living Arrangement (CLA) and Continuous Residential Support (CRS) settings. The excess capacity has steadily grown over the past year due to a variety of factors not the least of which has been the pandemic. At the same time, the placement of individuals identified as emergencies has become increasingly challenging due to the complication of the COVID virus, staffing shortages and the person's particular support needs. DDS is also concerned about the financial stress providers are experiencing due to these long-term vacancies. At the same time, DDS expects the opening of additional supportive housing developments to become available within the next six months. These new placement opportunities will continue the trend of limiting group home vacancy referrals to individuals with more significant support needs.

DDS believes that it is important for providers to strategize with the regions on ways to support individuals who have significant behavioral and medical needs in CLA or CRS vacancies. This may include increasing or decreasing the number of beds in the home, vacating existing homes and moving to more flexible housing options such as clustered supports or supportive housing, or restructuring homes to better position the agency to support more individuals on the department's emergency list. DDS is also encouraging providers to think creatively about these options and to use technology facing supports, like Assistive Technology and Remote Supports to provide necessary wrap-around services.

It is important to allow for this process to occur without adding additional stress to the system. Effective as of the date of this memo, DDS will be pausing on all new development for CLA and CRS homes until May 1, 2022. Anything that has been approved by the regions as of the date of this directive will be able to continue. This directive is not applicable to individuals moving out of Southbury Training School. The Commissioner may approve, on an emergency basis, the opening of a new CLA based on departmental needs.

Regions will be contacting providers with excess capacity over the next month to set up a meeting to review the agency's opportune vacancies, individuals on the emergency list in need of a placement and to discuss strategies to maximize the residents in the homes. It is our hope that we can work together to meet the needs of the individuals we support and help reduce the financial stress caused by the excess capacity in the system.