



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Elisa F. Velardo
Deputy Commissioner

Operations Center Memo FY2024-08

To: DDS Qualified Providers

From: Elisa Velardo, Deputy Commissioner

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

Date: November 30, 2023

RE: Extension of Statewide Suspension of New CLA and CRS Development

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) continues to monitor the number of statewide opportune vacancies in our Community Living Arrangement (CLA) and Continuous Residential Support (CRS) settings. With the introduction of the [Suspension of New CLA and CRS Development](#) in November 2021, many providers have started to develop creative and person centered approaches to help reverse this trend. While there has been a slight reduction in excess capacity, additional work needs to be done. More recently, through the use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, DDS and our partners have been provided the extraordinary opportunity to transform our service delivery system. With a focus on promoting choice and independence for the individuals we collectively support, we are excited to work with families, providers and staff to explore creative solutions for transformation that moves away from congregate type settings, toward more integrated community-based settings. As a result, DDS will continue to extend the suspension of new CLA and CRS Development until **September 30, 2024**.

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, supportive housing, or restructuring homes to better position the agency to support more individuals on the department's emergency wait 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.

Any CLA or CRS settings that have 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 or CRS based on departmental needs. 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.

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