

Operations Center Memo FY2025-02

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: August 27, 2024

RE: 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. Many providers have started to develop creative and person-centered approaches to minimize extended vacancies. 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, while development of new CLA or CRS settings is no longer suspended, DDS will require the Commissioner's Office to approve any new CLA and CRS Development going forward. This will ensure that system development aligns with DDS' vision and that all less restrictive options have been explored.

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 continue as planned. 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.

