What is Respite Care?

Respite care is the provision of short-term, temporary relief to those who are caring for family members with disabilities. Respite programs provide short-term and time-limited breaks for families and other unpaid care givers of individuals with a developmental delay or intellectual disability in order to support and maintain the primary care giving relationship. Respite also provides a positive experience for the person receiving care.

At Unity House, our respite services:

• provide a comfortable, home-like environment for overnight stays
• give individuals an opportunity to experience independent but supported living, while providing care givers time off from their responsibilities
• offer individuals an ideal environment that can prepare them to progress towards independent living
• are structured to allow individuals to simultaneously participate in their community-based programs, such as work, school or day habilitation
• provide inclusion to all house activities taking place during the respite stay, and local programming and transportation

What Should I Bring?

All living comforts and meals are provided by Unity House. Each individual needs only to bring:

• medications
• written orders
• personal belongings

Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. offers respite service at two CNY locations for adult individuals (age 18 or older) with developmental disabilities on a planned or emergent basis. Our service includes 24/7 supervision by trained, caring staff.

Overnight service is offered in Auburn and Ithaca. Both sites are handicapped-accommodating and feature a welcoming, home-like environment. Supports for respite are tailored to meet the needs of each individual.

Auburn

Located within the Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) at 62 South Street, respite accommodations include a private, fully furnished room with cable TV, communal living area, shared bathroom with walk-in shower, kitchen access, and wheelchair lift. Respite services in Auburn are provided on a planned or emergent basis.

Ithaca

Respite service in Ithaca is located at 507 West Green Street. Accommodations include a private, fully furnished room, shared bathroom with walk-in shower, cable TV, communal living space, and kitchen access. Respite services in Ithaca are provided on a planned or emergent basis.

Admission Criteria

Individuals admitted to respite service at Unity House must have an established need for respite, therapeutic stay, trial visit or emergency housing. Each individual must meet the following criteria:

• eligibility for respite per OPWDD guidelines
• Medicaid waiver enrolled
• have a current individual service plan (ISP) and Medicaid service coordinator
• be living with family
• if referred from an emergency room, must be psychiatrically and medically cleared by clinical staff and attending physician

To download a brochure or complete the respite service admissions criteria/referral packet, go to www.unityhouse.com click on the Programs & Services tab, then scroll down and click on the links located in the left margin.
Meeting Your Needs

Unity House’s respite service is person-centered, and features a relaxed and inviting home atmosphere. We welcome the opportunity to coordinate care with you. Our professional staff will work with you to assure that your specific needs are met.

In caring for individuals accessing respite, our trained staff is dedicated to ensuring that individual safety and choice are the primary focus of oversight and management. Our respite service includes RN coverage, and provides quality care and support you can trust.

For more information and admission forms, go to www.unityhouse.com/mrdd-2.html and contact:

Auburn
Chris Kinsella, Program Manager
315-282-0109
ckinsella@unityhouse.com

Ithaca
Doreen Wagner, Program Manager
607-272-1741 x435
dwagner@unityhouse.com

Want to help Unity House meet its mission and support respite care in your community? Make a donation now: online at www.unityhouse.com/supporter.html or mail to 34 Wright Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021

EVERY GIFT IMPACTS A LIFE!