



## Advancing Cultural and Linguistic Competence, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: OPWDD-Georgetown University NCCC Partnership for Systems Change

### PROJECT ABSTRACT

The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) entered a three-year partnership with Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC) in October 2022. The goal of this partnership is to *advance policies and practices of cultural and linguistic competence (CLC), diversity, equity, and inclusion in all components of the intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) system of New York State*. This partnership has four primary components that will focus on OPWDD, persons with lived experience of IDD and their families, and New York State's IDD provider network. The fourth component, an OPWDD-administered grant program centered on CLC, diversity, equity, and inclusion, is still under development and will be announced at a later date.

- **OPWDD Component.** Throughout the three-year partnership, the NCCC will provide consultation, technical assistance, and professional development activities to OPWDD Executive leadership team and staff. Such activities include but are not limited to a CLC policy audit, organizational assessment, and other capacity-building processes. The aim of this component is to assure that OPWDD establishes an infrastructure, policies, and practices that advance CLC as evidence-based practices to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion in the IDD system as a whole.
- **Persons with IDD and their Families Component.** The NCCC will convene a series of virtual forums and statewide leadership groups to actively engage persons with IDD and their families across diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and other identity groups in the systems change process. In partnership with OPWDD, the NCCC will conduct a Leadership Academy pilot for persons with IDD that emphasizes their essential role in advancing CLC, diversity, equity, and inclusion change efforts in the New York State IDD system of supports and services.
- **IDD Provider Network Component.** The NCCC will engage and provide consultation and technical assistance to the New York State provider network and the New York State Community of Practice on Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Developmental Disabilities. The aim of this component is to assist these organizations to advance CLC, diversity, equity, and inclusion in the system of supports and services for persons with IDD and their families across all racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic groups.

For more information: <https://nccc.georgetown.edu/opwdd/>