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Unique Care Community Services, Inc

New York-based 501c (3) serving the special needs community.





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Unique Care Community Services

UCCS use innovative programs to engage, encourage, and empower those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We evaluate your needs, devise, and implement a plan of action, and monitor its effectiveness to ensure desired outcomes are achieved. We strive to improve your and your family's quality of life by using innovative, inclusionary, and community-based programs.

Improve the quality of life for developmentally disabled individuals and their families by using innovative, inclusionary, and community-based programs. Our core foundation is to effect positive change in communities by fostering trust, credibility, compassion, and reliability.

We serve people with developmental disabilities according to a set of values including supporting human dignity, showing compassion, respecting the rights of others and providing excellence in all that we do. Our training reminds DSP of us responsibilities to demonstrate these core values when we support people.

New York's direct support professionals (DSPs) have a professional code that guides and maintains high standards for the life-changing work they do each day. During training, we think about how this Code of Ethics applies when serving people who identify as LGBTQIA+. Let's review some of the ethics that apply so you can see how our code of ethics directly influences our work.



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Services

**We Served: Brooklyn, Bronx,
Queens & Manhattan**

- 1. Community Habilitation**
- 2. In-Home Respite**
- 3. After-School**
- 4. School Holiday Respite**
- 5. Summer Camp**
- 6. Saturday Recreational**
- 7. Monthly Overnight Respite
(Friday -Sunday)**
- 8. Day Habilitation**
- 9. Limited Liability Exception Respite**



1. Community Habilitation

This service helps you learn and keep the skills you need to live safely and independently, meet people, make, and keep friends, participate in community events, and be part of your community. Community Habilitation is for people not living in an OPWDD-certified or operated home. You can have Community Habilitation services at your home or in the community.

Supports include adaptive skill development, assistance with activities of daily living (hands-on), community inclusion and relationship building, training and support for independence in travel, transportation, adult educational supports, development of social skills, leisure skills, self-advocacy, and informed choice skills, and appropriate behavior development to help people access their community.

Community Habilitation supports the person's Life Plan and contains activities developed to help the person achieve his/her goals. It is then implemented through home visits and community activities as set by a schedule between the person with intellectual/developmental disabilities and the Community Habilitation Provider. A person can be authorized for the service regardless of where he/she lives. Services are typically provided in the person's home or non-certified community locations. Community Habilitation services may be delivered in a certified residential setting when:

the person is unable to participate in another H.C.B.S. habilitation service outside the residence due to his/her age, health, or behavioral health status, the person chooses this mode of service delivery the person has regular opportunities for community integration activities, and the provision of this service does not tend to isolate the person. Our program is person-center, we work with the individuals and the family. Community Habilitation supports can include:

adaptive skill development
community inclusion and relationship building



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development of social skills
travel training
money management
leisure skills

appropriate behavior development to help the individual access their community. Community Habilitation may include supports like personal care, supervision, and protective oversight, but these components do not constitute the entirety of the service. Additional guidance is available in the Administrative Memoranda referenced below. Our age group start at 7yrs old and up.

2. In-Home Respite



Caring for others, while rewarding, can also be exhausting. Family members who care for a loved one with a developmental disability can sometimes need a break. Respite services provide temporary relief from the demands of caregiving, which can help reduce overall family stress. This enables families to meet better the needs of their loved ones with developmental disabilities. Respite can be provided at home or out of the home during the day, evenings, or overnight.

Respite is an “indirect” service that provides relief to people who are responsible for the primary care and support of a person with a developmental disability. When a family member, Family Care provider, or live-in/house-parent staff person must deal with a family illness, emergency, caregiver, or staff vacation, respite services can ensure that their loved one’s needs are met.

Talk to your care manager to learn more about respite services. Respite provides parents and other caregivers with short-term childcare services that offer temporary relief and improve family stability, which can help reduce overall family stress. Caring for others, while rewarding, can also be exhausting. Family members who care for a loved one with a developmental disability can sometimes need a break. In-Home Respite is available for families of disabled children, whether regular help for a few hours a week or a more extended break. It helps you at home during the day, evenings, or weekends. Support your child to do fun activities away from home for a few hours a week, either at home or somewhere else, and activity breaks for your child.



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3. SATURDAY RECREATIONAL



The Saturday Respite program services participants start at age **4yrs old and UP**. It is designed to provide structure and routine for individuals on weekends. Staffing includes a program leader and support staff. If 1:1 care is needed, this is available. Besides teaching classes in painting, photography, dance, cooking, and other enjoyable subjects, we take trips to museums, the movies, baseball and basketball games, concerts, the theater, and more. We make every attempt to bring joy and happiness to those we serve.

Our Saturday program is a day of light and delightful activities for individuals. It is a day of respite for primary caregivers, allowing them to take a break from the constant care and attention their son, daughter, sister, or brother might need. Our supervised Saturday Respite and Recreation program is a full-day, weekly activity.

This unique experience allows participants to socialize with peers and explore communication through various social, educational, and recreational activities and excursions. Transportation is provided. Hours of operation are from **8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**, focusing on community integration and helping individuals develop an independent leisure lifestyle. Activities include crafts, cooking, music, movies, Beaches, community outings to bowling alleys, movie theaters, parks, mini golf, and more.

Group programs have been developed with and for children and youth with disabilities to address a variety of interests, skill practices, goals, and outcomes that promote play, inclusion, encourage community participation, and nurture social connectivity with others. These unique small groups offer a variety of thematic and interactive opportunities for:

- Self-growth
- developing new and healthy friendships,
- discovering a sense of self, worth, and role.
- embrace identity and culture.
- engage in sports and recreational interests.

Transportation is provided for pick-up at individual homes and drop-off.



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4. ON-SITE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM



The after-school program is full of choices, and allowing your child to choose the activities she loves most keeps her excited to learn. Individuals have time daily to explore their interests in Creative Arts, the Library, Math and Construction, Puzzles and Games, and Science. Creative Arts: An area where children can express themselves through drama, drawing, painting, poetry, and more.

Library: A bookworm's paradise where children can find inspiration and endless adventure.

Math and Construction: A place where children can solve math problems and puzzles or build bridges, towers, machines, and more using real-life math concepts.

Puzzles and Games: An activity area with group games, challenging brainteasers, and puzzles.

Science: An area where children can experiment, explore, and discover the secrets of the scientific world. After-school is open to all school-age children with developmental disabilities who need after-school respite. The program provides meaningful recreational activities and social opportunities and supports the unique learning needs of students. Operates Monday through Friday from 2:30 pm to 5:30 p.m. during the school year (including summer school).

After-school programs build confidence in individuals with disabilities. Whether they learn to play a new song on an instrument, score a goal, or win a science competition, these children will develop higher self-esteem and gain a sense of pride in their abilities.

This program will provide participants with snacks, socialization, and homework help.

Transportation is provided to the participant's home after the program has ended.

Transportation is provided for drop-off only.

5. SCHOOL HOLIDAY RESPITE





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Unique Care Community Services Holiday Respite Program is offered specifically during the weeks the N.Y.C. public schools are closed. This program is specifically designed to give families of individuals a chance to relax or to keep the individual engaged with recreational activities. At the same time, parents or guardians resume their daily routine, such as going to work or attending appointments. While participating in this program, individuals can participate in exciting indoor and outdoor activities, engage in community inclusion, and partake in recreational outings such as the movies, museums, and parks. Transportation is offered to and from the program. School Holiday Respite is for school children with developmental disabilities between the ages of 5 and up. School Holiday Respite is for school children with developmental disabilities between the ages of 5 and up. Holiday Respite runs anywhere from 1 day to 1 week, depending on the time of year! Our Holiday Respite program enjoys working on arts & crafts projects, music and movement, movies, board games, and circle time. In addition, our Holiday Respite program enjoys community-based trips to create unforgettable and meaningful experiences together!! Who cares for a loved one with a developmental disability can sometimes need a break. We offer School Holiday Respite programs for students attending twelve-month school programs during the school break when the Department of Education (D.O.E.) is close to broke. **Transportation is provided for pick-up at individual homes and drop-off.** Individuals are picked up at their homes each morning and transported to the site, where they are provided with fun activities, including:

Arts and crafts

Music/Dance

Sports

Day trips

This opportunity also allows them to make friends in a fun and safe environment. The children/students are returned to their homes in the afternoon.

6. Summer Camp



Unique Care Community Services (U.C.C.S.) camp offers two- and four-week camp sessions for children and adults with developmental disabilities who are 4yrs and older. A summer camp is a supervised program for children during the summer. We know your children are precious, so we offer them the highest quality and variety to meet every individual's needs and interests. Summer Camp starts July 5 and ends September 7. Children/students are picked up at home



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each morning and transported to the site. The program also strives to enhance the independence of its participants by providing socialization and learning experiences in their local community. This opportunity also allows them to make friends in a fun and safe environment. Day camp at the U.C.C.S. is led by experienced staff. It offers nearly all the benefits of overnight camp – new outdoor experiences, skill-building and lasting friendships – in rural, urban, and suburban settings while allowing campers to return home each afternoon. **Transportation is provided for pick-up at individual homes and drop-off.**

7. Monthly Overnight Respite (Friday -Sunday)



Overnight Planned Respite is a community-based service for clients with Developmental Disabilities who live with their primary caregiver. It offers a break to family caregivers and provides individualized activities and support for the adult client.

We know how difficult it can be to allow your disabled child (ren) to sleep outside your home. Our overnight respite allows your loved ones to begin the first steps in gaining their independence. This program temporarily relieves caregiving demands for a WEEKEND once a month. Which will help reduce your overall family's stress. U.C.C.S. (Unique Care Community Services) provides a home away from home Respite (Overnight Respite) for ages 5 & up; we offer a short stay at an Airbnb for the weekend. Parents would drop off their loved ones at one of our locations in BROOKLYN or QUEENS; we will take it from there. Our individuals experience a sense of independence as they spend time with friends and negotiate activities. Families can attend to other priorities knowing their loved ones receive excellent care and enjoy themselves. The family will drop off individuals at the site (Brooklyn/Queens), and we will provide drop-off at home on Sunday. Services are provided in a community setting, such as hotels and B&B homes.



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8. Day Habilitation



As an individual transition to adulthood, you might be looking for a program to help them build their skills, make new friends, and schedule their days. Day Habilitation could fit your young adult after they age out of high school if they won't be working at a job or going to college or another school.

Unique Care Community Services (U.C.C.S.) Day Habilitation program helps people work on their own goals. Our program happens during the weekdays, usually 5 to 6 hours a day, at a place in the community. This program provides community integration and offers opportunities to build new relationships. Our Day Habilitation program supports and helps your individuals to be active in the community and obtain employment by obtaining volunteer sites, money management, community safety, and traveling; we find alternate ways to navigate the community and become self-advocate.

Our Day Habilitation without Walls provides services in the community and is not based in a facility or "within walls." The Individuals will generally meet in the community or are transported to places in the community and leave from a location in the community.

Daily activities and services reflect the choices made by each person. Without Walls begins each day at a day habilitation facility, where a support staff meets them, and continues with active participation in the community. Families are welcome to tour our site to learn more information. Without Walls" reflects day habilitation programs that stress an individualized schedule entirely of community-based experiences, with goals derived from the Person-Centered Plan.

These programs are offered to people regardless of where they live. They take place outside your home, usually at a certified site or even in the community called Day Hab Without Walls. As with Day Habilitation, services can assist people in acquiring, retaining, or improving their self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills, including communication, travel, and other areas in adult education. Activities and environments are designed to foster the development of skills and appropriate behavior, greater independence, community inclusion, relationship building, self-advocacy, and informed choice. Additionally, people accessing day habilitation often contribute to their communities through volunteer work. We schedule activities and contract volunteer sites that participants are interested in and where they can experience doing



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something that interests them and learns employee integrity and expectations. Enrichment Activities encourage self-expression through artmaking, singing, ceramics, or museums. Eligibility: Our programs are open to all adults 21 and older with developmental disabilities; we also specialize in day services for adults with multiple handicaps and behavioral challenges.

Participants do activities to learn essential skills:

- **Cooking,**
- **Cleaning**
- **Money Management**
- **Computer**
- **Personal care**
- **Social skills and relationships**
- **Job skills and work practice, sometimes called "readiness for employment skills."**
- **Positive behavior**
- **Creative activities and artistic skills**
- **Independence and personal choice**
- **Volunteer Sites**
- **Field Trips (bowling, museum, restaurant)**
- **Gym**
- **Arts and Craft**
- **Yoga**

9. Limited Liability Exception (L.L.E.)

Effective March 15, 2010, if an individual is applying for or receiving Respite services, and the liability covers no other service(s) for services regulations, s/he qualifies for a limited exception. Individuals who qualify for the limited exception for Respite are not. Specifically, s/he is not required to pay for services or pursue Medicaid and H.C.B.S. Waiver enrollment. However, if an individual is receiving Medicaid funding for the service (i.e., Medicaid and Waiver enrolled), at any time on or after March 15, 2010, s/he does not qualify for the limited exception.

Individuals receiving respite services, overseen by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (O.P.W.D.D.) must pay for respite services unless they have Medicaid coverage that will pay for the respite services and are enrolled in the Home and Community Based Services (H.C.B.S.) Waiver. **However, certain individuals receiving respite services may qualify for the limited exception, which means they will not receive bills for these services and are not required to have Medicaid coverage and H.C.B.S. Waiver enrollment.**

To qualify for the limited exception, an individual cannot:

- 1) Live in an individualized residential alternative (I.R.A.), community residence, family care home or intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID).
- 2) Receive or request any of the following services overseen by O.P.W.D.D.: care management, day treatment, community habilitation, day habilitation, prevocational services supported employment services; or



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We keep the individuals' needs in mind when enrolling we make sure our programs are a good fit. Our Respite program starts participants at age 4yrs old and older. Com-Hab participant starts at age 7yrs...Individuals must have O.P.W.D.D. approval and a case manager to receive these services.

NEXT STEPS (FOR RESPITE AND DAY HAB PROGRAM)

INTAKE/TOUR: Once the intake person receives the service referral form, the intake person will review, once it is approved and send an email to the parent and care manager letting them know the program coordinator will reach out for a tour. The days and hours must be agreed on and fit everyone's schedule.

TRAIL: Following the tour if the individual/family wants to continue the intake person will reach out for the intake application and evaluations to be submitted. Once documents are reviewed and approved, the program coordinator will reach out to the family and schedule a three-day to one week trial.

FINAL STEPS: Once the individual/family is interested in moving forward, the intake person will reach out to the care manager for the reminder documents. Once all documentation is received and approval by choice the program coordinator will reach out to the family with a start date as picked up time.



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