

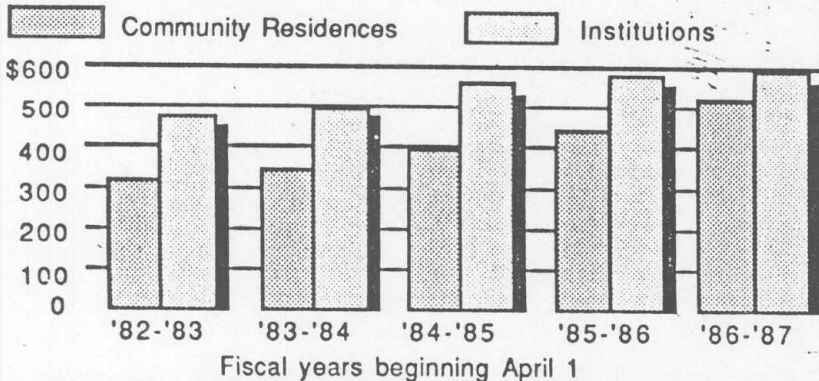


WAITING FOR PLACEMENT: Leon and Cecile Goldfeier and daughter, Fay, in their Bayside, Queens, home.

JOHN PEDIN/DAILY NEWS

N.Y. STATE FUNDS FOR CARE OF RETARDED

In Millions Of Dollars



Fiscal years beginning April 1

KARL GUDE/DAILY NEWS

ly will require institutionalization.

Others are functioning at a sufficiently high level to be able to live independently. But the vast majority in between will require thousands of beds in community residences or supervised apartments.

Michael Goldfarb, the executive director of the New York City Chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, said that his pri-

ivate agency alone has 900 people on waiting lists for community residences.

"That's six times the number of people we have in our 13 existing residences," Goldfarb said. "And in the future, we believe we'll only be able to open three new homes every other year."

"The average age of those on our waiting list is 47 to 48 years old," he

continued. "Which means their parents are in their 70s. And frequently, the best advice we can give those parents is to stay healthy so they can continue to care for their children."

Cecile Goldfeier, 62, of Bayside, Queens, said that she and her husband, Leon, 66, have had their 31-year-old daughter, Fay, on waiting lists of various organizations for more than 10 years. Mrs. Goldfeier recently formed a group called Parent Advocates for Developmentally Impaired Adults to focus attention on the problem.

"This is an issue that seems very unimportant unless you have someone like Fay in your own family," she said. "Fay has cerebral palsy, but she is a sweet, adorable young woman who has lived in Bayside for more than 20 years. All of our neighbors adore her, and wherever she lived, people would like her after they got to know her."

Thomas Dern, the director of Residential Services for the Young Adult Institute, a non-profit agency that operates 25 hostels in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, the Bronx, and Westchester, said that some of the 800 parents on his waiting list have been there for more than a decade.

It's difficult to find group homes for the children of these parents, Dern said, not only because of continuing community opposition, but also because of the skyrocketing cost of large one-family houses and the falling mortgage interest rates for private buyers of such houses.

"In Manhattan, forget about new community residences," Dern said. "Brownstones are going there for a million dollars and more. We can't touch that."

"In other areas, more people can now afford the larger houses we need, and they compete with us in the real estate market," he added.

And in Nassau County, where the local chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children is opening its 21st group home this month on Peninsula Blvd. in Woodmere, houses suitable for hostels are scarce, according to Murray Fried, the director of Residential Services.

Since 1978, when the Padavan Law was enacted to mandate restrictive procedures for setting up hostels, time-consuming hearings and bureaucratic hurdles have sometimes delayed the sales of houses to be used as hostels so long that property owners often give up and make a quick sale to a private buyer, Dern said.