

THE SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE™ (SIS)™

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Interview

The state is beginning to interview Oregon adults with developmental disabilities who receive 24-hour “comprehensive services” to determine their support needs. These interviews (also known as “assessments”) will determine how much funding each individual will receive in the future for services and supports.

A local DHS assessment specialist will use the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) to measure your support needs during a two-and-a-half- to three-hour small-group interview with:

- You;
- Your guardian, family member or advocate;
- Your case manager;
- A staff person from agencies now supporting you.



Your interview will be held in a location that offers you privacy and comfort, such as your home, employment or day service site, or some other place in your community.

The state will use these interviews to help set “individual budget allocations.” These budget amounts are meant to be:

- **Sensible** – Directly related to your individual support needs,
- **Portable** – They follow you when you move or change providers,
- **Fair** – Everyone with similar needs gets a similar budget.

Why is Oregon using SIS?

- SIS identifies what supports individuals need to be active and successful in their communities.
- SIS has been tested and used in other states and countries.

What kind of questions will be asked?

Questions will cover home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, social life, health and safety, protection and advocacy, exceptional medical supports, and exceptional behavioral supports. Each of these broad topics will include specific life areas. The interview will include multiple questions about each life area. The interviewer will want to know:

- What type of support is needed? (watch, remind, assist, do for).
- How often is support needed? (weekly, daily, hourly);
- How much support is needed? (minutes per day);

SIS identifies what supports individuals need to be active and successful in their communities.

Does this replace my ISP meeting?

No. Your individual support plan (ISP) meeting happens every year. The SIS interview will be done every three to five years — more often if your support needs change. You will receive a summary of your interview results. The SIS results may provide useful information for the ISP and other person-centered planning processes.



When will I get my SIS interview?

The first 600 people will be interviewed by June 2009. Everyone in a group home or supported living program is expected to be interviewed in the next few years.

Tips for a successful SIS interview

Before the interview:

- Learn more about the SIS (see back panel).
- Think about your support needs: What type? How often? How much time?

During the interview:

- Don't underestimate your support needs.
- Keep an open mind about things you don't do now but may do in the future.
- If you disagree with anything that is said, say so.
- If you don't understand a question, say so.
- If you need a break, say so.

After the interview:

- Contact your case manager if you have concerns or a complaint about the SIS interview process.



Upon request this publication can be furnished in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities by calling: **503-947-5099**. Available formats are: large print, Braille, audio tape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

For more information

Attend a SIS orientation session conducted by the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities. Sessions are designed to help individuals and families prepare for their SIS interviews. To locate trainings near you, visit the Council's Web site (see below) or call **800-292-4154** (in Salem, **503-945-9941**).

Call your case manager for more information about when your interview will be scheduled.

Visit the OCDD Web site: **www.ocdd.org/SISorientation.htm** for:

- Schedule of orientation sessions
- Community DD program offices
- Frequently asked questions and answers
- Information about SIS

GETTING READY

for

YOUR SUPPORT NEEDS INTERVIEW



Information to help individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members and guardians prepare for a Support Needs Interview.