



Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Fact Sheet

Individuals who are determined eligible for services by the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will have to complete an assessment. The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) is a standardized assessment tool to identify the support needs for individuals eligible for BHDDH/DDD services in Rhode Island.

What is the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)?

The SIS is a nationally recognized, standardized assessment tool for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that measure the amount of supports an individual will need to live and work in the community.

What does the Supports Intensity Scale measure?

The Supports Intensity Scale measures supports required by an individual in 57 life activities in the areas of daily living; community living; lifelong learning; employment; health and safety; social interaction; and protection and advocacy. Each activity is evaluated according to the frequency, daily support time, and type of support required by the person to participate in the activity.

The SIS also measures an individual's behavioral support needs and medical needs.

Why does Rhode Island use the Supports Intensity Scale?

Traditionally, an individual's level of developmental disability has been measured by the skill deficits. The SIS focuses on the supports people with developmental disabilities need to live as independently as possible in the community. It measures the support a person needs "to be successful" in life.

Who developed the Supports Intensity Scale?

The SIS was developed by a team of experts from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). This team included self-advocates family members, and professionals in the field of developmental disabilities.

Who administers the Supports Intensity Scale?

The SIS assessment is completed in the form of an interview by an AAIDD certified SIS interviewer.

How often is the Supports Intensity Scale administered?

After the initial assessment, the SIS is administered every 5 years.

What can I expect?

BHDDH staff will schedule a face to face interview with the BHDDH/DDD participant and family members, friends, service providers or others that know the individual well. The interviewer will describe a number of life activities and ask the group to rate the amount of support the individual would need to participate in each of the activities. The individuals involved in the SIS, especially parents, should understand that they will be asked to evaluate their child's abilities without any supports.

Who should attend the Supports Intensity Scale interview?

- ❖ It is required that the person who is eligible for services participates in the interview.
- ❖ The SIS will have at least two people present who know the individual in different environments and have known the individuals for at least 3 months.
- ❖ Participants must have had recent opportunities to observe the person in one or more environments for substantial periods of time (at least several hours per setting).
- ❖ Participants can be parents, relatives, guardians, any person providing services/natural supports to the individual, work supervisors, teachers, or any other individual who works or lives with the person being assessed.

What are the benefits of the Supports Intensity Scale?

Knowledge of an individual's strengths and needs. It also provides important information which can be used to plan the individual service plan (ISP).

When will I receive my Supports Intensity Scale results?

When an individual is first found eligible for BHDDH/DDD services, **they will be notified of SIS results typically within 60 days. All existing DDD participants already receiving services will be notified within 90 days prior to participant anniversary date.**

For more information contact BHDDH, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, call (401) 462-3421