

Why the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult®?

People's wants, needs, and life goals differ. Medicaid has a program that can help pay for services and supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) need to live the life that they want in the community. For this program to work Medicaid needs to understand what each person wants and needs to live a good life in their community.

The Supports Intensity Scale-Adult® (SIS-A) assists Medicaid with this discovery process. It helps Medicaid by: identifying who qualifies for services and supports, measuring the types and amount of support each person needs, and allowing Medicaid to create supports budget based on those needs.

In addition to day-to-day support, the SIS-A helps adults with I/DD talk with their team about longer-term aspirational goals, their learning and skill-building goals, and their goals for advocacy and participation in their communities.

About Us

The Adult Developmental Disabilities Program is part of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), more commonly known as Medicaid. The Mission of DHW is to promote and protect the health and safety of Idahoans.



Contact Us

Phone: 1 (844) 793-1286
Email: KW@dhw.idaho.gov
Web: mychoicematters.idaho.gov



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

THE SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE-ADULT® ASSESSMENT & INTERVIEWS

*Idaho Department of Health
and Welfare*
Adult Developmental Disabilities Program

How does the SIS-A work?

The SIS-A involves a group meeting, called the SIS Interview. At the interview, an assessor asks questions about the adult's support needs. These questions are answered by the adults and other people in his or her support circle who know the adult well.

Who should attend a SIS-A Interview?

In addition to the adult with I/DD, other attendees can be:

- The adult's guardian, spouse, or other family member
- Direct Support Providers
- Service Coordinator or Supports Broker
- Friends



What is the Supports Intensity Scale-Adult®?

The Supports Intensity Scale-Adult (SIS-A) is an assessment tool that measures the type and amount of support a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities needs in daily life.

It was developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and is used in many states and other countries.

All adults who currently receive or are entering services through the Idaho adult DD waiver will receive a SIS-A assessment over the next two years.

The SIS-A measures types and amounts of supports a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities needs in daily life.



What kind of questions will be asked?

The SIS-A asks about supports needed in the following areas: home, community, lifelong learning, employment, health and safety, and social activities. For each item on the SIS-A, the assessor asks:

How often is support needed?

How much support is needed?

What type of support is needed?

There are no right or wrong answers. It is important that questions are answered honestly so people get the supports they need.

What about the SIB-R?

The SIS-A will be replacing the SIB-R within the next two years. For now, adults in the program will keep getting their SIB-R as scheduled until the transition is complete.