

Supports Intensity Scale - SIS

Update: September 2023

The SIS for Adults has been renormed with updated language and gathers additional information about a person's needs. Changes have been made in multiple areas including the scoring, demographics and the questions.

In the spring, Virginia along with many other states began a year long study to inform decisions for moving into using the SIS-A 2nd Edition in June 2024. An Advisory Group of DD waiver users, families, service providers and advocates including The Arc of Virginia began their work this month. The [Advisory Group](#) tasks are to provide ideas and feedback about this project as the VA Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services develops plans for implementing the SIS-A 2nd edition.

The public may observe the Advisory Group meetings. The Arc of Virginia will post meeting dates on Facebook and on our website when they become available.

What is the Supports Intensity Scale or “SIS”

The Supports Intensity Scale(SIS) is an assessment tool to measure the level of supports that are needed by people with developmental disabilities(DD) to be successful in life, similar to their peers who do not have disabilities. The SIS determines the rates paid for specific services. Most people receiving DD Medicaid Waiver services are required to have a SIS.

For people aged 16 and above, the SIS-A assesses the level of support needed in areas of home and community living, learning, employment, health, safety, social activities and protection and advocacy. For people under 16, the SIS-C measures supports needed for home, community and neighborhood living, school participation, learning, health, safety and advocacy.

Everyone who has a SIS assessment is assigned a Support Level that is on the SIS report. People who have extraordinary support needs are assigned to the highest support levels

The Support Level determines the rate that a waiver service provider is paid. There are four rate tiers for the following services:

Community engagement

- Group day support
- Group home
- Independent living
- Sponsored residential support
- Supported living residential

Also the SIS:

Makes sure that rates match the person's needs

Provides more information about support needs for person-centered planning.

Provides data for analysis.

Question and Answer:

Where do I get information about my SIS report?

Contact your Support Coordinator/Case Manager at your Community Services Board

SIS Resources

[Virginia Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services](#)