

# **Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)**

## **Evaluation Project**

### ***Measuring Needs and Managing Resources***

#### ***Continuous Improvement of Quality of Life***

DODD is committed to serving its mission of continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. The values that drive that mission include helping to increase the state and local systems' capacity for supporting individuals and families, providing leadership that supports self-determination principles, and continuing to be a good steward of limited resources. Ohio's DD support system serves our citizens best when fostering independence, full integration into society and choices in care and settings. Together, we inspire possibilities by measuring the supports a person needs to live a successful life.

#### **Focusing on Support Needs: Evaluating the Long-Term Benefits of the SIS Scale**

To support community-living options and long-term sustainability in providing supports for individuals with significant needs, DODD is conducting a Support Intensity Scale (SIS) Project. The project will provide Ohio with first-hand experience in using the SIS assessment in order to determine the effectiveness and benefit of the information it provides. Our goal is to determine if this tool provides the best information needed to make data-driven decisions about how to use resources most efficiently to serve more people more effectively—by focusing on the supports needed to participate fully in community life.



#### **SIS Project Facts**

- ◆ Three-year Evaluation Project
- ◆ Assessing 700 individuals with significant support needs.
- ◆ Assessing a random sample of 700 other individuals with DD, for comparison across settings & support needs.
- ◆ Implementing with trained interviewers.
- ◆ Experienced researchers to evaluate data.



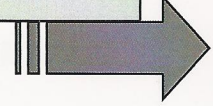
# How We will Implement



Specially trained interviewers will personally assess selected volunteers who have significant support needs. After that phase is complete, the assessment specialists will then interview randomly selected volunteers to gather a comparison across settings and levels of support needs.

The interview is a semi-structured conversation, and an opportunity to learn new or additional information about a person's support needs that may be helpful in planning services. While the assessment helps us gather data through interviews and personal interaction—one person at a time—we only measure aggregate data, not per individual.

## Trained Interviewers

- ♦ 19 Experienced DD Professionals
  - ♦ Trained by AAIDD SIS Trainers
  - ♦ In-Depth Overview of Supports Intensity Scale
  - ♦ Three Consecutive Days of Training with Practice Interviews
  - ♦ Trainers Observe Interviews
  - ♦ Required to Pass Interviewer Reliability Review
  - ♦ Integrity of Data through Consistent Administration
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# Project Outcome Goals

The data generated by the SIS Project will be analyzed to identify elements of the service and support environment that correlate with successful and cost-effective services for people with developmental disabilities. The results will inform our system on how to continue to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who have significant challenges in the most efficient and effective manner. We will have a baseline standard for consistent assessments. By maintaining consistency in what's being measured and how it's rated, our assessments can measure expected intensity of support needed for individuals with similar profiles.

**SIS**  
**FACTS**

Published Jan. 2004; Normed Nationally on 1,306 Adults with DD.  
Used by 15 States, Two Canadian Provinces, and 15 Other Countries.  
Inter-rater Reliability Rating of .87-Excellent Based on Conventional Standards.  
Measures Practical Support Requirements for Adults Aged 16-72.

Published by American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)



## *Experienced Service*

## *Consistent Outcomes*

## *Measurable Results*

### **Janet Keeler**

Cuyahoga County Board of DD  
19 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Barb Sapharas**

Cuyahoga County Board of DD  
34 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Marianne Bobo**

Franklin County Board of DD  
21 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Dotti Ellingsworth**

Franklin County Board of DD  
18 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Jeff Pattison**

Franklin County Board of DD  
6 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Kristy Schuyler**

Franklin County Board of DD  
18 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Linda Woodard**

Lucas County Board of DD  
24 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Misty Croston**

MEORC COG  
9 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Kelly Wells**

MEORC COG  
13 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Ron Smith**

SWORC COG (Butler County)  
8 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Elizabeth Moran**

SWORC COG (Clermont County)  
17 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Carin Garrett**

SWORC COG (Hamilton County)  
6 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Tara Amburgy**

SWORC COG (Warren County)  
7 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Rob Robbins**

DODD (Cambridge DC)  
31 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Heidi Hughes**

DODD (Columbus DC)  
25 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Jill Esz**

DODD (Southwest Ohio DC)  
24 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Tim Perna**

DODD (Northwest Ohio DC)  
32 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Jan Ieraci**

DODD (Youngstown DC)  
14 Years of Professional DD Service

### **Sally Berger**

DODD  
27 Years of Professional DD Service



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who can I contact at DODD for more information?

Sally Berger, Project Coordinator: (740) 393-6200 or [sally.berger@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:sally.berger@dodd.ohio.gov)

## Who will be selected to participate in SIS interviews?

*DODD will identify 700 individuals with DD who have significant support needs, including people on an IO waiver with annual support costs of \$130,000 or more; new admissions to Developmental Centers; and residents of mental health hospitals. In addition, DODD will assess a random sample of another 700 individuals, for comparison profiles across varying levels of support needs.*

## Will participating in a SIS interview/evaluation affect my current funding?

*No. Information collected will not in any way be used to make decisions about any individual's funding for services.*

## Am I required to participate in a SIS interview if invited or requested?

*No. You can decline. However, we expect most people will support the project if they can because it will help us learn more about our resource needs.*

## How is the assessment completed?

*A face-to-face interview is conducted with the person and at least two other people who know them well, such as a family member, guardian or SSA.*

## Who will see my assessment report?

*You, your legal guardian (if you have one), and DODD.*

## Expert Advisory Panel Members

Betty Holland	Ohio Provider Resource Association
Barry Jamieson	Government Resource Center
Willie Jones	Ohio Association of County Boards of DD
Afet Kilinc	Ohio Department of Mental Health
Carolyn Knight	Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
Kristy Schweingruber	Allen County Board of DD
Ron Smith	Butler County Board of DD
Marc Tasse	The Nisonger Center

### DODD Representatives:

Sally Berger, Angie Hannahs, Lori Horvath, John Martin,  
Hope McGonigle, Thaddeus Nestheide, Ginnie Whisman



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Department of  
Developmental Disabilities