

Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS®)

FAQs

- 1. Are the interviews being scheduled in a random way? Why aren't interviews being prioritized to have individuals new to waiver completed first, then individuals with a SIS® older than 3 years?**

Interviews are not scheduled in a random way. DBHDS has prioritized completion of SIS® assessments to ensure a smooth transition to the new waivers. While routine (or three year) assessments are still very important, until transition with waiver redesign is complete, other assessments have higher priority. Assessments for individuals that are new to waiver and requests for Exceptional Supports Rate funding continue to be among the highest priority assessments.

- 2. Ascend has contacted me to schedule a SIS® interview for an individual who's last SIS® was completed by a Support Coordinator within the past two years. Why is a new SIS® being scheduled?**

Only those SIS® assessments completed by Ascend and American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) are considered valid for the purposes of waiver redesign.

- 3. There are people in our agency's Ascend portal queue whose SIS® was completed by AAIDD and are awaiting the addition of respondent information. What should I do?**

Ascend is working on making so that only those individuals needing a SIS® in the near future are visible. If you have any questions about individuals listed in your agency's portal queue contact the Regional Supports Specialist (RSS) assigned to your agency.

- 4. For SIS® assessments that have expired, does an Initial/Reassessment Request for a SIS® need to be submitted?** No. Ascend has a list of those assessments that are over the 3 year cycle and will schedule them to occur based on DBHDS priorities.

- 5. When someone turns 16 years old, does the SC need to submit an Initial/Reassessment request to the RSS?**

No. It is not necessary to complete an Initial/Reassessment Request form. Ascend will schedule the individual's next SIS® two years from the last Children's SIS® date; an Adult SIS® will be completed.

- 6. When should we submit Initial/Reassessment Request forms for individuals who are being discharged from ICFs/ Psychiatric Rehab Treatment Facilities / Nursing Facilities, who will be using Money Follows the Person funding?**

An Initial/Reassessment Request Form should be completed and submitted to the Regional Supports Specialist no more than 120 days in advance of the anticipated date of discharge. On the form, indicate the reason for referral is “New to Waiver.” Write the anticipated date of discharge in the text box on the form.

- 7. The current SC/CM has fewer than 3 months experience with the individual. Does the SC need to have known the person for any time frame to participate in the SIS® interview?**

In order to be a primary respondent, the SC needs to have known the individual for at least the last three months and have observed them across a variety of settings for a substantial period of time. Another SC/CM or SC/CM supervisor, that meets the criteria as a primary respondent, should attend the interview as a respondent. The current SC/CM should also attend for informational purposes.

- 8. Who is responsible for capturing/entering notes during the SIS® interviews?** Ascend; however, SC’s have the ability to provide additional notes/documentation regarding the Important Tos & Fors by using the upload feature in SIS® Online.

- 9. Does everything identified in the Important “Tos” & “Fors” need to be addressed in the ISP shared planning year?** This question is best answered by the Community Resource Consultant (CRC) for your region.

- 10. Will Ascend explain the appeals process during the SIS® interviews?** Ascend will share a copy of the VA SIS® Appeal Process at the interview. Copies of the VA SIS® Appeal Request form will be available to the individual or his or her representative as well.

- 11. Is an Annual Risk Assessment completed during the same year a Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS®) assessment is completed?** Yes, the Annual Risk Assessment is completed by the Support Coordinator when initiating waiver services and every year thereafter at the time of the individual’s person centered planning meeting.

- 12. If an individual is new to Waiver and has not yet had a SIS®, would the SC/CM complete an Annual Risk Assessment? If so, what questions would apply?**

Yes, an Annual Risk Assessment will be completed by the Support Coordinator/Case Manager at or prior to the initial Waiver meeting and annually thereafter. After reviewing the Annual Risk Assessment Instructions, the SC/CM will answer all primary questions for the individual based on their knowledge of Extensive Supports required by the individual. If the answer for any primary question is “Yes”, the sub-questions for that section must also be answered. If the answer for any primary question is “No”, the sub-questions for that section should **not** be answered.

13. A provider is concerned about how to prepare for a Licensure / DMAS audit when the SIS® for individuals they serve has expired. What guidance would you give? The provider should contact their RSS if they are actually cited by DMAS or Licensure, with the date and specific citation.

14. Does application for Exceptional Supports Rate (ESR) funding occur every year after it is approved? No. ESR approval carries over year to year. A new application is not needed.

15. Why does it appear Section 3A: Medical Support Needs and Section 3B: Behavioral Support Needs are being rated differently than when the SIS® was completed by Support Coordinators?

Ascend interviewers are trained and endorsed to a consistent standard established by AAIDD. Support Coordinators were not endorsed by AAIDD.