



# Level framework discussion

March 2023



Human Services  
Research Institute

**Mission: We believe that all people and their families have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations in their community.**



# What Does HSRI Do?

- Helped design models in over 20 states. These models are sometimes called frameworks.
  - Models or frameworks in most states help choose the level of support someone needs
  - Frameworks can also help decide funding for each person or rates for agencies
  - All frameworks use SIS A information to know what level of support is right
  - Frameworks are different in different states. The Vermont model will be based on what Vermonters need.

# Support Levels

Each person will have a level of support based on their support needs. This makes things more fair and easier to understand.

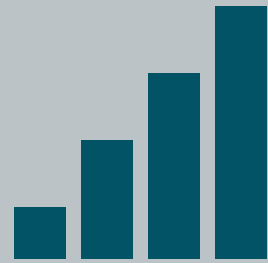
- Uses the SIS A assessment and other information about what someone needs to choose the right level of support.
- Each level of support has a description. The description says the usual type of support someone in that level needs. People in the same level might have different needs but have a lot of things in common.
- Each level will have a budget amount. We don't have budget amounts yet. We will talk about this in the future.
- There will be a way to ask for more supports or different budget. This is called an exception.

# Support Level Framework

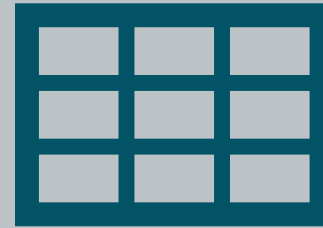


Assessment of  
support needs  
(SIS-A)

Additional  
information  
(context, living  
setting)



Support level  
assignment  
Support level  
description



Budget



Service planning

# Support Level Framework

## Support level framework

- Easily understood
- Nothing hidden about how it works
- Follows the rules

## Support level assignments

- Made with Vermont SIS A Information
- Shared with the person, family, providers, direct support professionals (DSP)
- Can help make budgets
- Can be checked to make sure it's working the right way

# Questions to Answer Today

1

What is the best number of levels for a general support needs framework?

2

How should people in each group be described?

# What HSRI has done so far

Looked at all the SIS A results in the country  
Used the SIS A second edition information

Studied all the SIS A results to find the best way to make the levels

Looked at the Vermont SIS A results

Studied the Vermont SIS-A sample to make levels of support for Vermonters



# Next steps

Get stakeholder input about how many levels we need in VT


This is what we are doing right now



In a few months we will make sure the second edition of the SIS A is like the first edition



We will add the medical and behavioral support sections of the SIS A  
We will add more information about individual needs, sometimes called context



Do a record review to make sure the framework matches people's needs

# Model requirements

Groups make  
sense

Some people  
need a lot of  
supports and  
some need less

Groups are  
different from  
one another

# How do we know how many levels we need?

- Latent class analysis (LCA) uses math to help us know when people have things in common.
- It is the best way to make the level framework.
- LCA does not put people in a group. LCA tells us how many different groups have things in common. We make levels based on those groups.
- Vermont will be able to choose why someone needs a certain group or level of support.

# Possible frameworks

# Parts of the support level framework

- All questions from the SIS A. These questions ask about medical, behavioral, and everyday support needs.
- The questions about everyday support needs are called the Support Needs Index or SNI.
- Frameworks will have 5 or 6 levels:
  - Separate levels for medical and behavioral support needs called levels “M” and “B” in later slides.
  - 3 or 4 levels for everyday support needs.

We are only talking about the SIS -A part of the framework today.

More information about what people need will be added to the framework later.

Now we will look at the 5 and 6 level frameworks.

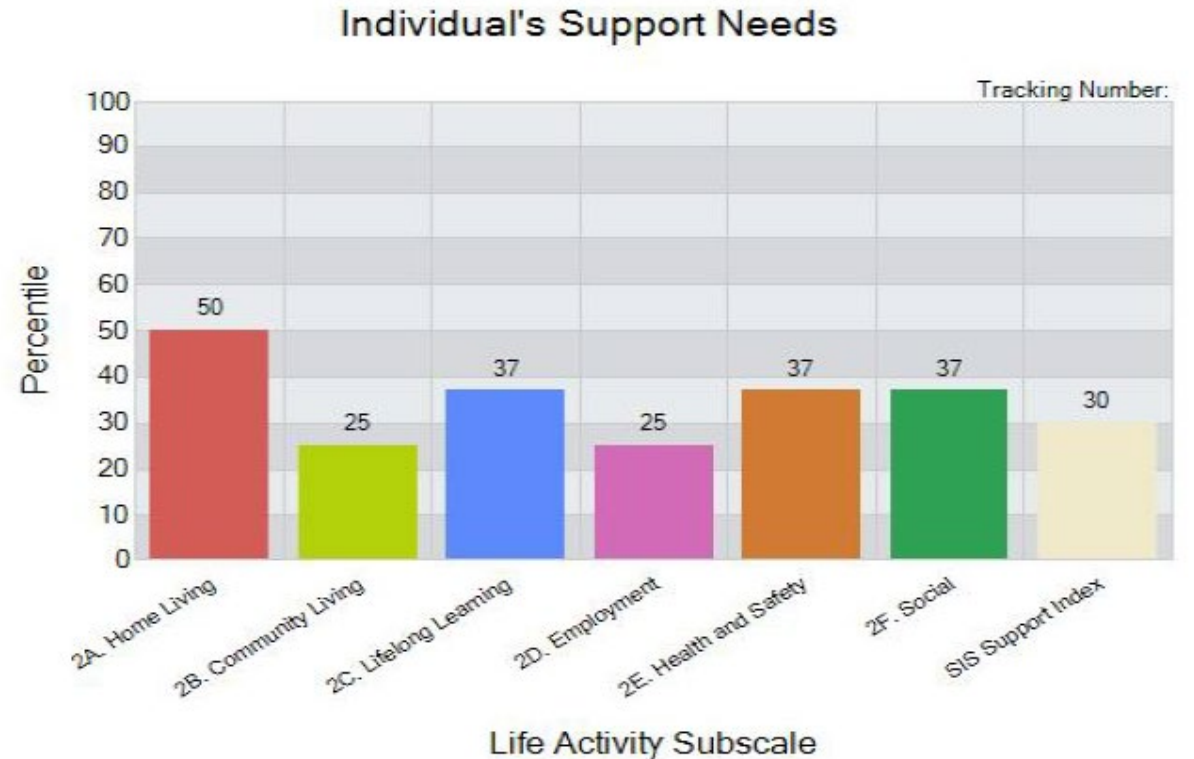
# Support Needs Index

The Support Needs Index is the score that comes from section 2 of the SIS-A.

This score can also be talked about as a percentile. The percentile shows how your score compares to other people who have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

If someone has a score in the 30th percentile, this means they have more support needs than 30 percent of individuals with I/DD.

Activities Subscale	Total Raw Score	Standard Score	Percentile
2A. Home Living	48	10	50
2B. Community Living	42	8	25
2C. Lifelong Learning	48	9	37
2D. Employment	40	8	25
2E. Health and Safety	42	9	37
2F. Social	39	9	37
<hr/>			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>53</b>	
<b>SIS Support Needs Index:</b>	<b>92</b>		
<b>Percentile:</b>	<b>30</b>		



# Model or framework options with SIS-A Support Needs Index Standard Scores

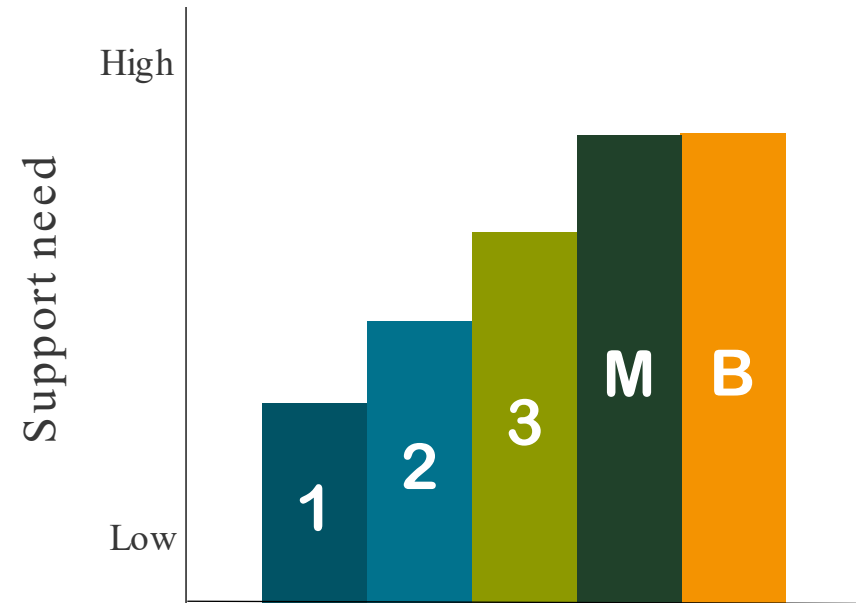
## 5-LEVEL FRAMEWORK CRITERIA

Level	Support Needs Index Standard Score
Level 1	Up to 73
Level 2	74 – 93
Level 3	94 and higher
Level M	[TBD]
Level B	[TBD]

## 6-LEVEL FRAMEWORK CRITERIA

Level	Support Needs Index Standard Score
Level 1	Up to 71
Level 2	72 – 88
Level 3	89 – 106
Level 4	107 and higher
Level M	[TBD]
Level B	[TBD]

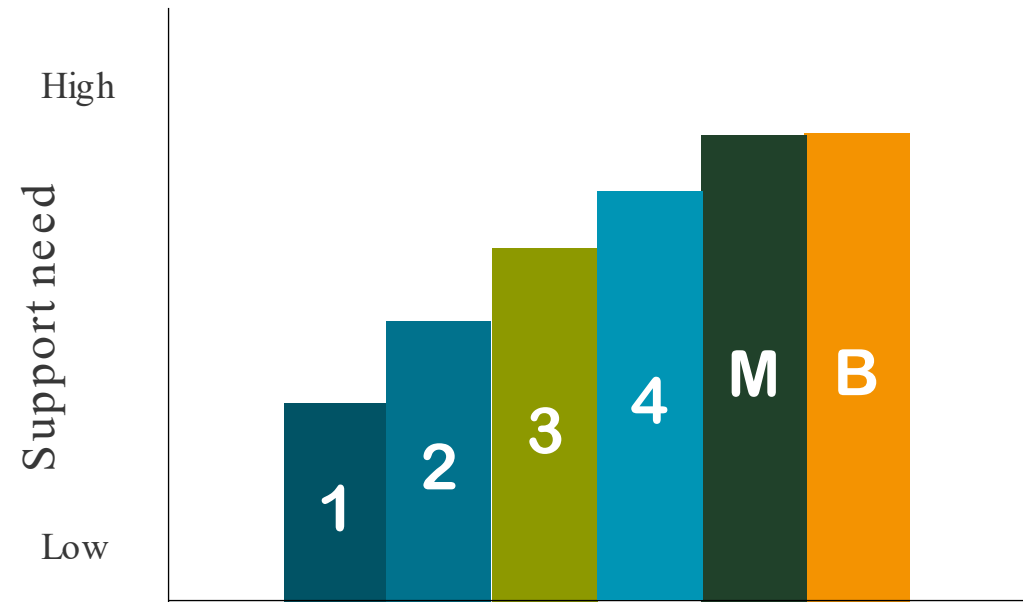
# 5-Level Framework



- 1** Low general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 2** Moderate general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 3** High general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- M** Extraordinary medical support need
- B** Extraordinary behavioral support need



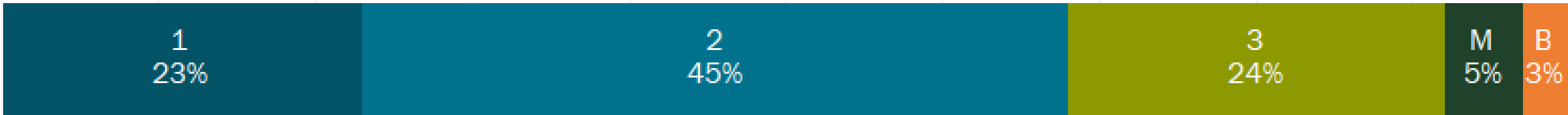
# 6-Level Framework



- 1** Low general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 2** Moderate general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 3** High general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- 4** Very high general support need, no extraordinary medical or behavioral needs
- M** Extraordinary medical support need
- B** Extraordinary behavioral support need

# Framework choices (based on Vermont sample)

## 5-level framework\*



## 6-level framework\*



# Considerations in comparison of frameworks

- Either 5 levels or 6 levels can be used, there is no wrong choice
- Both frameworks are easy to understand (e.g., low, moderate, high)
- 5-level framework places a lot of people in the moderate needs group
- 6-level framework has more people in the higher-needs groups, and a small number of people with very high needs group

# We need your feedback

- Should Vermont have 5 or 6 levels of support?
- Do you have feedback about what words to use instead of levels of support?  
Example: Groups of similar needs, Types of support needs,
- Do you have feedback about how to talk about the 5 or 6 different levels of support?  
Example: minimal needs, moderate needs, more needs.