

Learn More about the SIS A®

Supports Intensity Scale -Adult Version (SIS-A)

Are you a person who gets Developmental Services?

The money for your services comes from the state. This money pays for staff to help you.

The state has a list of questions. The questions ask what help you need. For example:

1. When you are at your job, how much help do you need to learn something new?
2. If you take medication, how much help do you need to take it on time?

Someone talks to you and asks you the questions. This is called an interview. You can have other people with you. You pick who will help you answer the questions.

Ask someone you trust. It can be:

- your family
- a staff person
- your case manager
- or a friend

Another name for the questions is **SIS A**. The state is using the **SIS A** to figure out how much help you should get. The SIS A focuses on what you are good at. It gives you information to make a plan to reach your goals and dreams.

This is NOT a test. You cannot fail.

Why is the State using the SIS A?

The state believes every person must have choice and control in their life. The SIS A helps the State to make sure people are getting the services they need.

The SIS A is also used in other states. People with disabilities around the country answer these questions. The government must be fair when it gives out money for services. For example,

- Jason lives in Burlington. He answered the questions with his mother. He got staff for 20 hours a week to help him work at McDonald's.
- A few years later, Jason moves to Brattleboro. He gets the same job at McDonald's. He still needs help to work. He is getting services from a new agency. He answered the questions again. He gets staff to help him 20 hours a week. He gets the same help in Brattleboro as he got in Burlington.

It is important that the same questions are used all over the state. That will make it fair. We want people to get the help they need no matter where they live. For example, Antoine and Levi live in different towns. They both need help shopping. They should get help to shop no matter where they live.

When it is your turn to do the SIS A, it is important that you do the interview. Your answers will help the State get information about the services you need. You have to do the SIS A once every three years to keep getting services.

Who will ask you the questions?

The State hired a company called “Public Consulting Group” or “PCG” to ask the questions. They will interview people all over Vermont. The people asking the questions live in Vermont.

PCG can do the interviews in person. But because of COVID, it might not be safe to meet in person. PCG can use computers to meet with people. For example, it is like talking to someone on Zoom. You can choose how you want to do your assessment.

PCG is not an agency. They do not provide services.

People from your agency can help you answer the questions. They can be with you. You decide who will help you.

The person from PCG will ask the questions. They do not work for your agency. The government has a rule that the person asking the questions can NOT be from your agency. This helps to keep things fair. PCG will be meeting with people and their teams and families all over the state.

When will I do the SIS A?

The state is just starting to use the SIS A. Here is what is happening now:

- PCG is doing interviews now. Everyone has to have an assessment.

- What you say during the interview might change your services. You might need more services. You might need less services. You might not have any changes.
- No changes will happen until 2025.
- There will be a way to ask for more supports if you need them.
- You can appeal a decision about your services if you don't agree.
- The state will look at an interview to see what a person needs. They will look at what services a person gets. This will help the state plan for the future. The state must be fair when they give out money for services.
- People who did the SIS A sample project will take the SIS A again. The sample score won't change your services.

What happens when it's my turn to do the SIS A?

1. A person from your agency will let you know if it's your turn to do the SIS A. This could be your Case Manager or someone else.
2. You get to say when you are ready.
3. A person from PCG will call you, or someone you know well. It could be your staff, your parent, or your Case Manager.
4. The interview will get scheduled.
5. The interview could be in person. Or you will use a computer or tablet to do the interview. This is your choice. We want to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is the interview like?

- The interview takes about 2 hours. It can be longer or shorter if it needs to be.
- It is **okay** to ask to take breaks.
- At least 2 other people who know you should be there. You can have your family, case manager, a friend, or your staff with you. The people should know you well so they can give information. Pick people you have known for at least 3 months.
- It is okay to have help to communicate. You can use a communication device and/or a person to support you during the interview.
- The interview questions will be about different things that you might do in a day. Like shopping at the grocery store.
- There will also be questions about your health and any medical needs you may have.
- You may not like some of the questions, but it is important that they are answered. It is okay if you ask someone else to answer for you.
- It is okay to ask for help to answer a question. You decide who will help you.
- It is okay to ask for privacy. If you are uncomfortable with a question, you can ask people to leave the room when you answer.

- It is okay to leave the room. If you are uncomfortable with a question, you can ask someone to answer it for you.

How do I get ready for the SIS A?

1. Click on the link to see a sample [SIS-A report](#).
2. Click on the link to watch this video on YouTube. It is called "[What is the SIS-A](#)".
3. Click on the link to watch this video on YouTube. It is called "[What is the SIS-A Report](#)".
4. Click on the link to get a copy of the [SIS-A Handbook](#).
5. Think about what you want to say.
6. Talk to your team, family, and friends.
7. Remember this is not a test. You cannot fail.
8. Visit the website aaidd.org/sis/sis-a for more information.