



# Iowa Department of Human Services

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## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1616

**DATE:** February 12, 2016

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Targeted Case Managers and Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Workers

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Core Standardized Assessment (CSA) Implementation of SIS-C® Assessment for Children

**EFFECTIVE:** March 1, 2016

In accordance with the BIP, Iowa Medicaid utilizes a CSA for persons served through the Intellectual Disability Waiver and Intermediate Care Facilities for the Intellectually Disabled (ICF/ID). Since August 2014, an edition of the Supports Intensity Scale– Adult Version® was implemented for adults in Iowa. Recently the Supports Intensity Scale– Child Version® (SIS-C) became available from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. There are separate versions of the assessment for adults and children, the SIS-A and SIS-C.

Effective March 2016, the SIS-C will be used to assess children ages 5-16 years served through the Intellectual Disability Waiver and ICF/IDs. The SIS standardized assessment was selected for this program as the functional assessment to determine if an applicant meets the level of care criteria for waiver enrollment. The assessment will also be used as a service planning tool to assist in identifying the supports and services members need to live successfully in the community.

The SIS-C provides measures specific to the support needed by children in age-appropriate environments. The IME independent vendor conducting the assessments is Telligen. Telligen will begin conducting the SIS-C on selected members in March 2016. The timing of the assessment corresponds to the member's level of care anniversary. Not all children will be selected the first year. Interim or Off-Year Assessments will be utilized for children not selected to have a SIS-C. See [Informational Letter 1420](#)<sup>1</sup> for more information on the Off-Year Assessment.

Telligen will reach out to case managers, service workers or managed care designees to schedule and conduct assessments. This will be a good opportunity for case managers, service workers, managed care designees and members to gain firsthand experience with the SIS-C.

More information on the implementation of CSAs can be found on the [Core Standardized Assessment](#)<sup>2</sup> web page. Questions and inquiries may be submitted to [CoreStandardizedAssessments@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:CoreStandardizedAssessments@dhs.state.ia.us).

<sup>1</sup> [https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1420%20Intellectual\\_Disability\\_Waiver\\_Off-Year\\_Assessments-final%20version%20for%20LH%20%282%29%20%282%29.pdf](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1420%20Intellectual_Disability_Waiver_Off-Year_Assessments-final%20version%20for%20LH%20%282%29%20%282%29.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA>