

**SIS identifies  
what support individuals need  
to be active  
in their communities**

### **When will I get my SIS Interview?**

The tool is being used statewide. You may be contacted sometime in the future to participate.

### ***Tips for a successful SIS Interview***

#### **Before the Interview:**

- Learn more about the SIS (see back panel).
- Think about your support needs
  - What type of support do you need?
  - How often do you need it?
  - How much time is needed for support?

#### **During the Interview:**

- Keep an open mind about things you don't do now but may do in the future.
- If you disagree with anything that is said, say so.
- If you don't understand a question, say so.
- If you need a break, say so.

#### **After the Interview:**

- Contact your case manager or care manager if you want a copy of the SIS report

### **Do you have questions?**

Visit Iowa's SIS Information webpage on the DHS website  
<http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA> or call one of the SIS staff at 1-877-563-6972.

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**Your case manager may also have information on your Support Intensity Scale (SIS) Interview.**

Accessible formats are available upon request.

**A collaboration of the  
Iowa Department of Human Services  
Mental Health and Disability Services,  
Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, and counties.**



# **Supports Intensity Scale**



## **Getting Ready For Your Support Needs Interview**

# Supports Intensity Scale Interview

The State of Iowa is now interviewing Iowans with developmental disabilities to better understand individual support needs. The Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS) interviews, also known as assessments, are used to gather information for state and county agencies that fund services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities in Iowa. The information from the interviews helps agencies develop individual supports for people in the community.

## Who should be there?

A trained interviewer will use the SIS to measure your individual support needs. Your interview will take 2 – 3 hours and include:

- Yourself
- Your guardian, family member or advocate
- Your case manager or social worker
- An individual(s) who currently supports you

## Where will it be?

Your interview will be held in a location that offers you privacy and comfort, such as your home, place of employment, day service site, or some other place in your community.

## What is the purpose of the interview?

The state and counties will use the interview responses to assess services and see if the services are:

- **Sensible** - Directly related to your individual support needs.
- **Portable** - Your needs are met in the same individual way when you move or change providers.
- **Fair** – Everyone with similar needs gets similar treatment.



## Why is Iowa using SIS?

- SIS identifies what supports individuals need to be active and successful in their communities.
- SIS has been tested in other states and countries and found to be helpful in better understanding and meeting needs of individuals.

## What kinds of questions will be asked?

Questions will cover home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, social life, health and safety, protection and advocacy, exceptional medical supports, and exceptional behavior supports. Each of these broad topics will include specific life topics.

The interview will include multiple questions about each life area. The interviewer will want to know:

- What type of support is needed?  
*Observe, Remind, Assist, or Do For*
- How often is support needed?  
*Weekly, Daily, or Hourly*
- How much support is needed?  
*Minutes Per Day*

## Does this replace my ICP meeting?

No. Your individual comprehensive plan (ICP) meeting happens every year. The SIS interview will be done every three years or more often if your support needs change.

Ask your case manager or care manager for a summary of your interview results. The SIS results may have useful information for the ICP and other person centered planning processes.

