

Learn More about the SIS-A® 2nd Edition

Q What is the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS-A 2nd Edition)?

- A The Supports Intensity Scale for Adults (SIS-A) is a strength-based, person-centered assessment tool used to assess the needs of individuals. Developed and maintained by the Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the SIS-A measures support needs in the areas of home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, health and safety, and social activities. The results of the assessment can help you and your team determine the services that may best benefit you.

Q Who will ask the interview questions during the assessment?

- A Assessors from Public Consulting Group (PCG) will ask the questions. PCG is contracted with the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) to conduct the SIS-A assessments.

The assessors interviewing you live in New Hampshire. PCG usually completes assessment interviews in person, but you have the option to be interviewed virtually if you choose, using Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

Your service coordinator, staff, friends, or family can attend the meeting and help you answer the questions.

Q When will I do the SIS-A?

- A PCG has started doing interviews for people who need them. They will complete SIS-A assessments every five years or more often if you experience big life changes.

Q What is the interview like?

- A **The interview takes about three hours**, it can be longer or shorter if needed. It is okay to ask to take breaks, or to stop the interview.

We want to meet you. For the assessment to be valid, PCG needs to meet you. Even if it's just for a quick second!

At least two other people who know you well should be there. That could be someone in your family, service coordinator, a friend, or your staff. These people should know you well so they can help you answer questions. Choose people you have known for at least three months.

We want to be sure that you can communicate in your preferred way. 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. Some of the questions may be hard to talk about, but it is important that they are answered.

It is okay to ask for help to answer a question, and 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 if you do not stay for the whole interview if there are two other people that you invited who you are comfortable answering the questions for you.



Q What happens when it's my turn to do the SIS-A® assessment?

A **Inform**

Your service coordinator will let you know when it's your turn for a SIS-A.

Schedule

Someone from PCG will work with your service coordinator or area agency to schedule the assessment. All respondents will be included in the interview invitation. A respondent is someone who has known you for at least three months.

Meet

It is recommended that the assessment be conducted virtually or in person at the area agency or service coordinator's office. PCG can accommodate in-person assessments in your home. Your service coordinator **or** one of your staff must be present for in-home assessments.

Q What happens after the SIS-A interview?

A The assessment results will be shared with your service coordinator, who will ensure you and your guardian, if you have one, receive the information. The PCG assessor will send an optional satisfactory feedback survey link to the respondent team to provide the assessor feedback about the overall experience of their assessment.

Q How do I get ready for the SIS-A?

- A**
- Think about what you want to say.
 - Talk to your team, family, and friends.
 - Remember this is not a test. You cannot fail. The SIS-A is about helping you succeed.
 - **Check out these resources:**
 - Read a memo on the release of the SIS-A 2nd Edition by [clicking here](#).
 - Read a plain text summary of the memo on the SIS-A 2nd Edition, by [clicking here](#).
 - Read the Frequently Asked Questions about the SIS-A 2nd Edition by [clicking here](#).

For more information, contact the NH DHHS Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) at BDS@dhhs.nh.gov or call (603) 271-5034.

