

# What You Need to Know About the Application for Adult Developmental Services & Supports (ADSS) and the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

## Overview

- ADSS is the new province-wide application and assessment process for adult developmental services and supports, funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS).
- ADSS and SIS will assess the individual needs of each applicant to determine services and supports required.
- Unlike traditional assessments, ADSS and SIS do not look at a person's deficits, but at what supports an individual needs to live a successful life.
- The application package using SIS is done directly by talking with the individual and the persons who know him/her best.
- SIS sparks discussion and ideas on how an individual might grow and flourish in ways not considered in a typical assessment.

## The Process

- You will be contacted to arrange a convenient time to start this process; however, being prepared for your ADSS/SIS is important as it will allow for a smoother, faster and easier process for you and your respondents.

### ***Part 1: Application for Adult Developmental Services & Supports (ADSS)***

- The Application is split into seven sections.
- Two of these sections can be mailed out to you for your completion at home.
- The other sections cover basic information;
  - current life circumstances
  - personal planning
  - current supports
- The application process will take approximately two hours to complete.
- The SIS Interview will then follow within the next two-week period.

## The Process (continued)

### **Part 2: Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)**

- A qualified interviewer meets with at least two people who know the individual well (respondents). The individual may themselves be an active respondent if they are able to communicate about their support needs; it is recognized that in certain circumstances the individual may not wish to, or may not be able to, be a part of this process.
- Questions will cover things like;
  - home living
  - community living
  - lifelong learning
  - employment
  - social life
  - health and safety
  - protection
  - advocacy
  - exceptional medical and/or behavioral supports
- The interview will include multiple questions about each life area.
- The interviewer will want to find more about: the type of support that is needed and how often, and the level of support to meet individual needs.
- Each item is described and clarification of what type of support is needed for that person to be a successful member of their community is decided upon, how frequently they need the support and how much total support time each day they require.

The SIS Interview will take approximately three hours to complete.

## Getting Ready for SIS

- Select two people that know you well to act as your respondents (they must have known you for at least three months).

## During the Interview

- Don't underestimate your support needs.
- Keep an open mind about things you don't do now but may wish to in the future.
- Don't rush the process. The goal is to determine the best supports for you, so take your time when answering questions.
- If you disagree with anything that is said, let your interviewer know.
- If you don't understand a question, ask for clarification.
- If you need a break, then say so.

## Highlights

- It does not matter what tests you have done in the past. The Application and the SIS Assessment process provide a clean start to finding the level of support you need.
- The process is the same province-wide, and it is repeated every five years or sooner if you have a significant change in your circumstance.
- It focuses on what supports are needed for you to be successful.
- Interviewers are fully trained and supported on an ongoing basis.
- It is not a diagnostic tool as it does not diagnose intellectual disabilities but rather focuses on what can be done to improve the life of an individual already diagnosed with a developmental disability.

## Benefits

- Increasingly positive life expectations for people with developmental disabilities.
- A move away from labeling and diagnosis to understanding what support a person needs to be successful with other adults in their community.
- The development of person directed services and supports that respond to a person's needs and preferences (versus being accommodated in a program).
- The creation of support networks (with paid staff investing time in creating and nurturing a person's network of support).
- Could inform the PDP process (Person Directed Planning).