



# THE SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE® (SIS®):

## AN ADVANCED WAY TO ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is implementing the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) statewide. The SIS is used in many other states around the country and around the world. The SIS is:

- An individualized assessment
- A positive, strength-based approach
- A way to measure types of supports

### What kind of questions will be asked?

Topics that are common to anyone's quality of life, including: medical and behavioral supports, home and community living, social activities, lifelong learning, employment, health, safety, protection and advocacy.

The SIS Assessor will identify

- What types of supports would you require to be successful?
- How frequently would you need these supports?
- How much time would the supports be needed daily?

### Who will be there?

A valid assessment requires the participation of at least two respondents who have known the individual for at least three months, preferably the individual and two people who are knowledgeable about the individuals' daily life skills. It is optimal that respondents are from diverse areas of the individual's life, such as one family member and one professional, or one residential professional and another from the Work/Day setting.

Since some topics can be sensitive, the individual (and/or Guardian) should feel free to openly discuss topics in front of all respondents in attendance.



### Where will it be?

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

### How long will the SIS Assessment take?

We value everyone's time, but respondents should plan for the SIS to take up to three hours.

### What will the SIS be used for?

The SIS will paint a picture of an individual's support needs and can be used for service planning.

*The Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS®) is a registered trademark of the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).*

For more SIS Information visit <http://tinyurl.com/ma-dds-sis>