



What is SIS-A, 2nd Edition?

The SIS-A®, 2nd Ed. (Supports Intensity Scale-Adult Version®, 2nd Edition) is a tool to identify the support needed to engage in everyday adult activities in the community for **adults (16 years and older) with intellectual or developmental disabilities**. Instead of focusing on what a person cannot do, SIS-A is strengths based and considers how support can help the individual to live an independent and productive life. For more information about the SIS-A tool, visit the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) website: <https://www.aaidd.org/sis/sis-a>.

Why Use the SIS-A?

In May 2023, Montana passed a law to invest \$300 million in improving services for people with behavioral health conditions and developmental disabilities. From this, the **Behavioral Health System for Future Generations (BHSFG) Commission** made twenty-two (22) recommendations to address problems like service gaps, worker shortages, and access issues. One of their recommendations was to use the SIS-A to measure how much support people need and to **update funding for 0208 Waiver services to better match individual needs**. The Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) worked with families and providers to choose the SIS-A because it:

- Measures the help a person needs for daily tasks and managing medical or behavioral challenges.
- Promotes discussions about the person's needs, preferences, and goals.
- Collects information about the supports a person needs and values.
- Offers a fair and consistent way to match funding with the level of support a person needs.

When Will I Have a SIS-A Assessment?

Starting in 2026, the DDP will use the SIS-A to inform a plan for services and budgets for adults in Montana's 0208 waiver. It will eventually replace the current MONA assessment and reassessments will happen every 3-5 years. The change will happen in steps:

- **Over the next 8 months, a SIS-A pilot program will include some of the people currently receiving 0208 Waiver services.**
- Children and new adults entering the waiver program won't be part of the pilot group.
- After the pilot, **assessments will continue for others on a rolling basis.**

DDP staff will contact people in the pilot group to schedule their assessments.

What is the Purpose of the SIS-A, 2nd Ed. Pilot?

The pilot program will gather data to **help the DDP create new funding rates for 0208 Waiver services**, and the SIS-A will inform this process. These rates will better match the level of support people need. The pilot will include 500 people from across the state with different needs to ensure the data is accurate. **The new rates won't start until late 2028.**

Who Will Do the SIS-A, 2nd Ed.?

Qualified and recognized interviewers from AAIDD (American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) will facilitate SIS-A assessments during the pilot program.

What Can I Expect During the Assessment?

The SIS-A interview is focused on the **individual and includes their family, guardian, and others who know them well**. The interview can be **done in-person or virtually**, can take up to 3 hours, and requires at least two people who know the individual well and can describe support needs for different situations. Before the interview, individuals and families will get detailed information about what to expect. After the interview, results will be shared with DDP staff, the rate vendor, case managers, individuals, and families to help with service planning.