

## Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Fact Sheet

Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) has chosen the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) as the standardized assessment tool to identify the support needs for individuals receiving CLDS services in Manitoba.

### **What is the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)?**

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) is a valid and reliable assessment tool, specifically designed to measure the type of support, frequency of support, and intensity of support an individual needs to fully participate in community life. The SIS was designed primarily to support the person centered planning process.

### **What does the SIS measure?**

The SIS measures support needs in the areas of home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, health and safety, and social activities. It also looks at how an individual protects and advocates for themselves and extra support needed to deal with exceptional medical and behavioural needs. It can be used in combination with other assessment tools as determined necessary. The assessment is done through an interview with the individual and those who know the person well.

### **Why is the SIS different?**

Traditionally, an individual's level of developmental disability has been measured by the skills the individual lacks. The SIS focuses on what supports people with developmental disabilities need to live as independently as possible in the community.

### **Who developed the SIS?**

The SIS was developed over a five year period by a team of experts from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). This team included self advocates, family members, and professionals in the field of developmental disabilities.

### **How did Manitoba choose the SIS?**

CLDS originally identified the need for a new assessment process a number of years ago during a comprehensive review of the program. The new assessment tool needed to support person centered planning and provide information for cost effective and equitable distribution of funding. During this time a number of assessment tools were extensively researched and through this process SIS was considered the most promising for Manitoba. SIS was selected for an initial pilot in Manitoba as it met the following key criteria:

- The tool must be reliable and valid
- The tool must be standardized for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Be designed for person centered planning
- Be able to measure the type, frequency and intensity of an individual's support needs
- The tool has been successfully implemented in other provinces

### **How did CLDS decide to expand SIS to other areas of the province?**

CLDS completed an evaluation of the SIS Pilot in July 2013. Based on the feedback of SIS the decision was made to begin a province wide roll out in early 2014. The evaluation process included feedback and information from participants, families and agencies along with CLDS staff.

### **What training is required for CLDS to administer the tool?**

In order to ensure the integrity of the tool, inter-rater reliability and overall consistency, AAIDD requires that individuals administering the tool are fully trained by certified SIS trainers. CLDS staff completed SIS training beginning in February 2014.

### **Who will be assessed?**

Individuals will be initially prioritized for assessment based on the following;

- Age of Majority entering the system at age 18
- New Transitional Youth entering CLDS Day Services for the first time
- Individuals transitioning from MDC
- Individuals with changing or increasing support needs
- Individuals receiving funded residential services and/or day services

The goal is to eventually have SIS administered to all CLDS participants receiving funded services over the next three years.

### **What can I expect?**

CLDS staff certified to administer the SIS will arrange a face to face interview with the individual and family members, friends, service providers, or others that know the individual

well. The interviewer will describe a number of life activities and ask the group to rate the

amount of support the individual would need to successfully participate in each of the activities.

The assessment generally takes between 2-3 hours to complete.

### **What is the anticipated benefit to Manitoba?**

SIS along with other areas of re-development work that the program has been undertaking will help create a more fair and equitable system. SIS will assist in ensuring that individuals are funded at an appropriate level that is directly linked to their unique support needs. This will result in greater transparency and increased confidence in how service and funding decisions are made.

### **How do individuals receive their SIS results?**

CLDS staff will review the SIS results with the individual and key members of the support team (family, support network, agency staff, etc.) and provide a copy of the assessment.

### **More helpful information on SIS can be found here:**

<http://aaid.org/sis>