

Everything you need to evaluate and plan supports and services for persons with intellectual disabilities, ages 16–72.

# Supports Intensity Scale®

Discover why the United States, Canada, and other countries are adopting and implementing the Supports Intensity Scale to plan services for persons with intellectual disabilities.

The image shows two documents. The top one is the 'Supports Intensity Scale® Interview and Profile Form' for the Adult Version (ages 16 and up). It includes fields for ID/Tracking Number, Name (Last, First, Middle), Date SIS Completed, Address, City, State, Zip, Date of Birth, Phone, Language Spoken at Home, Age, Gender (Male/Female), and a list of Individuals or Organizations Providing Essential Supports. The bottom document is the 'Supports Intensity Scale™ USER'S MANUAL' cover, which features the AAIDD logo and contact information for reordering forms.

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS®) is based on the advanced idea that every person is unique and requires a unique system of supports to prosper.

- Highly reliable tool with fair, accurate, and valid assessment results
- Objective measure to discuss and quantify medical, behavioral, and daily support needs
- Extremely valuable in developing individualized service plans
- Available to individuals and organizations in print and web-based format
- Individualized on-site training available through AAIDD trainers
- Proven use in allocating resources and creating staffing patterns

Learn more about SIS at [aidd.org/sis](http://aidd.org/sis)

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American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

[aidd.org/sis](http://aidd.org/sis)

# Reliable Data—Critical Guidance!

## The Supports Intensity Scale gives you:

- **Direct, reliable, and valid** measurement of supports requirements in 57 life activities
- **Ranking** of support needs in 15 medical and 13 behavioral areas
- **Percentile ranking** of person's needs based on national field test data
- **Solid knowledge** of person's needs, preferences, and goals for life
- **Directions** on resource allocation and financial planning
- **Guidelines** on integrating SIS into person-centered planning process
- **Detailed instructions** on how to score, administer, and interpret the Scale
- **Case studies** to illustrate how to apply SIS in different situations.

With the Web version of SIS, all subscale and final profile data is generated automatically in PDF and/or HTML reports!

**Section 3. Exceptional Medical and Behavioral Support Needs**

Circle the appropriate number to indicate how much support is needed for each of the items below. Subtotal the circled 1's and 2's. Total the subtotals. (See rating key) Complete ALL items.

Section 3A: Medical Supports Needed	No Support Needed	Some Support Needed	Extensive Support Needed
<b>Respiratory care</b>			
1. Inhalation or oxygen therapy	0	1	2
2. Postural drainage	0	1	2
3. Chest PT	0	1	2
4. Suctioning	0	1	2
<b>Feeding assistance</b>			
5. Oral stimulation or jaw positioning	0	1	2
6. Tube feeding (e.g., nasogastric)	0	1	2
7. Parenteral feeding (e.g., IV)	0	1	2
<b>Skin care</b>			
8. Turning or positioning	0	1	2
9. Dressing of open wounds	0	1	2
<b>Other exceptional medical care</b>			
10. Protection from infectious diseases due to immune system impairment	0	1	2
11. Seizure management	0	1	2
12. Dialysis	0	1	2
13. Ostomy care	0	1	2
14. Lifting and/or transferring	0	1	2
15. Therapy services	0	1	2
16. Other(s)—Specify: _____	0	1	2
Subtotal of 1's and 2's _____			
Total (Add Subtotal of 1's and 2's) _____			

Enter Total on the SIS Profile on page 4, Section 3A.  
Support Considerations Based on Exceptional Medical and Behavioral Support Needs, Medior

6 Supports Intensity Scale, Section 3 Copyright © 2004–2012 American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

“The SIS provides an easy-to-read and a clear set of expectations for those involved with providing supports.”

Regis Obijiski, Executive Director, New Horizons Resources, Inc., New York

## SIS Measures All These Support Needs:

- **Home Living.** Preparing food, dressing, bathing, housekeeping, operating home appliances
- **Community Living.** Visiting friends and family, accessing public buildings, participating in community activities, shopping, transportation
- **Lifelong Learning.** Using problem-solving strategies, interacting with others in learning activities, using technology for learning
- **Employment.** Learning and using specific job skills, interacting with co-workers, completing work-related tasks with acceptable speed
- **Health and Safety.** Taking medications, maintaining a nutritious diet, avoiding health and safety hazards
- **Social.** Socializing within the household, making and keeping friends, using appropriate social skills
- **Protection and Advocacy.** Advocating for self, managing money and personal finances, protecting self from exploitation
- **Medical.** Respiratory care, feeding assistance, skin care, and exceptional medical care
- **Behavioral.** Self-directed destructiveness, prevention of emotional outbursts, maintenance of mental health treatments

“We have found the Supports Intensity Scale to be a very useful tool to help us allocate resources to people with developmental disabilities. Just as importantly, SIS covers such a breadth of topics that it helps providers and family members stay focused on the easily overlooked fact that clients can still grow, change, and learn.”

John Stern, former Program Director,  
Washington State Aging and  
Disability Services Administration

# A one-of-a-kind planning tool— combining new approaches with tried-and-true scientific validity and reliability.

## Here's what makes SIS unique...

### Positive and Supports-Oriented

With SIS, for the very first time, you start the assessment with the needs and goals of a person and evaluate the kinds of supports the individual needs to fulfill them.

### Person-centered Team Approach

The focus of SIS is the person with the disability and his or her needs and goals. Therefore the SIS interview engages a variety of stakeholders, including the person's family members, friends, and professionals, and the process fosters a spirit of cooperation with an emphasis on community resources.

### Practical and Easy-to-use

The SIS measures daily behavioral, medical, and support needs of a person and results obtained from the assessment are practical and ready-to-use in an individualized support plan and other person-centered activities. The SIS results clearly indicate the frequency of supports needed (none, at least once a day), the amount of support needed (none, 30 minutes), and the type of support needed (gesturing, verbal) by the person. The *SIS User's Manual* makes it easy to score and interpret the instrument, and the web-based version of SIS automatically produces reports on assessment results. The *User's Manual* also contains three case studies on persons with varying degree of needs.

### Availability in Electronic Format

SIS is available like no other planning tool in a web-based format called SISOnline. Rich in data storage and aggregation capacities, SISOnline is fast becoming the system of choice for states and large organizations due to its ease-of-use and the convenience associated with a web-based system. Apart from its ease-of-use, SISOnline makes it easy to share assessment data between various stakeholders. Read more on the features and benefits of the SISOnline at [aaid.org/sis](http://aaid.org/sis).

### Who can use SIS?

Case managers, support coordinators, transition coordinators, social workers, nurses, private and school psychologists, psychiatrists, occupational therapists, nutritionists, physicians, trainers, supervisors, special educators, and service directors.

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“For years, I begged for a tool that wasn't deficits-driven, and now we have one....SIS causes providers of services to look at people with developmental disabilities as being genuine parts of the general population, rather than less than the general population.”

Greg Kirk, Director of Professional Counseling Services,  
Americus, Inc., Georgia

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### Dynamic Scoring System

Apart from a practically-oriented rating key of frequency, amount, and type of support needed, the SIS assessment reveals results in a several ways. You get a subscale standard score indicating which daily activities require most support; a quick visual overview of a graphical plot with the Supports Needs Profile showing high versus low support areas; and the SIS Needs Index provides a single score indicating the overall level of supports needed. A percentile ranking indicates how the person compares to others nationally. The electronic versions of SIS also allow you to store additional optional information on the person being assessed.

### Scientifically Valid and Reliable

A recent study put the inter-rater reliability co-efficient of SIS at .87, which is in the “excellent” range based on conventional standards for adaptive behavior scales. The SIS was field tested extensively for 2 years on 1,306 persons with a variety of adaptive skills; levels of intelligence; living and working arrangements, ages, and ethnicities living in the U.S. and two Canadian provinces. You can use this highly reliable and rigorously-developed tool with confidence to plan services for persons with intellectual disabilities.

### Diverse Management Uses

While SIS was created to measure and plan supports and services for persons with intellectual disabilities, the tool has proved valuable for additional management purposes. These include matching SIS scores to funding services for persons with intellectual disabilities; identifying staffing needs at agencies based on assessment results; descriptive analysis for population projections and program planning; aggregating data (with the electronic version of SIS) to gauge trends in service delivery; developing individualized service plans and tracking decrease or increase in support needs over time; helping plan supports for persons during critical transition ages; and measuring the effectiveness of program planning over time.

We combine a progressive outlook on disability with cutting-edge technology to present a state-of-the-art electronic option in supports assessment.

# SISOnline

## SISOnline FEATURES

- Based on latest technology standards and universally accessible through password protected site
- Simple and intuitive with online screens that replicate paper version of SIS
- Drop down menus and mouse over descriptions of each item facilitate ease of use
- Assessment results calculated within seconds and stored in historical database
- Instant access to comprehensive, 4-page reports in PDF or HTML formats
- Stores data on 25 optional questions on respondent in addition to items scored by SIS
- Comprehensive help and Q&A features serve as reference and troubleshooting aids
- Password-protected site that allows for administrative and user levels of access
- System and data backed up every 24 hours and fully HIPAA compliant

SISOnline is the world's first web-based planning tool for persons with intellectual disabilities and is fast becoming the system of choice for state. As a user, you can log in worldwide at [www.siswebsite.org](http://www.siswebsite.org) and complete the 85 items ranked by the Scale electronically. Within seconds of completing the assessment, you get a report in Adobe PDF or HTML format, with information on raw scores, standard scores, a percentile ranking, and a graphic plot of the areas assessed by the Scale.

## Who can buy SISOnline

### States, counties, large organizations

SISOnline can be fully integrated into existing legacy systems of states, counties, or large organizations.

### Professionals and small practices

SISOnline is also available to smaller organizations of up to five persons and individual users on a subscription basis.

Contact [help@sis-online.org](mailto:help@sis-online.org) for pricing information.

## SISOnline BENEFITS

- Allows fast, convenient, and easy access to assessments stored in centralized location.
- Gives you access to valuable, historical database of key assessment information on each client.
- Run aggregate reports across your organization or state's user database and get a global snapshot of support and service trends.
- Share information between multiple users and streamline data gathering and business operation.
- Eliminates lost assessments and time taken to deliver assessments to other parties.
- Comes with 24 hours/7 day system support and daytime hotline help for technical questions.
- Capable of being integrated into existing legacy systems with customized look and feel.

## NEW FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENTS TO SISOnline®

**SIS Venture:** A software data entry module that can be installed on desktops, notebooks, or tablet PCs that allows the user to enter assessment data without being connected to the Internet. The entered assessment data can then be uploaded to the SISOnline website securely using the Internet and a SSL certificate for encryption.

**Quality Module Enhancements and Customization:** Maintaining the quality of the SIS interviewers' ratings is one of the most challenging areas for states to manage. The IRQR module helps state SIS program managers by automatic scoring and saving, monitoring, and tracking interviewers' IRQR records. Specifics include Customization of Training History Records, Customized Tools, Custom Exports, Custom Reports, Custom tables and charts.

**Assessment Quality Review:** This application provides two functions: downloading of assessments onto your local site and enabling use of these downloads for Quality Review purposes.

### Quality Assurance and Reliability

**Module:** AAIDD's Interviewer Reliability Qualification Review (IRQR) Training History Module details how to properly enter and administer IRQR records through the SISOnline Website.

**Nightly Batch Reports:** A state may choose to have data uploaded to a sFTP folder on a nightly basis to obtain data from any assessment that was changed since the previous report. The data can be used for determining the person's individual budget and then get the funds to the appropriate spot quickly.

### Integrating SISOnline into a Case

**Management System:** Combining an existing case management application and SISOnline creates a comprehensive information source that builds on the strengths of the current case management system's processes, procedures and familiarity and adds to it the capabilities of the AAIDD's SISOnline.

**Database Replication Service:** This feature provides a real-time copy of a state's SIS data in their own designated data center. The database can be updated on demand.

**Archiving Assessments:** This feature provides an "archive" column to the SIS record for archiving an assessment.

**Family Friendly Report:** This report makes it easy to provide a family with assessment information. Data is presented in a logical way without lots of numbers and graphs. It is very understandable and as the title conveys—family friendly!

### SISOnline Configuration Options/Set Up

**Parameters:** This allows a State to change and individualize SISOnline setup requirements and parameters to meet their needs.

**Supplemental Items:** Individual states have requested supplemental questions that provide a specific solution, and sometimes a state may combine several solutions for its site.

For additional details on these features, please visit [aaid.org/sis](http://aaid.org/sis)

Help desk services are available for users to operate the system effectively. Assistance is available Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Central Standard Time. Email [help@sis-online.org](mailto:help@sis-online.org)

# Rely on the Supports Intensity Scale to determine the real needs of people, not deficits.

## With SIS, you can:

- Assess which supports are needed
- Plan for supports that will improve independence and quality of life
- Monitor progress and changes and adjust support needs
- Align available resources to match individual needs

## Here's why these states are having success with SIS!

*"The Supports Intensity Scale is the first assessment that doesn't fix blame and find what is wrong with the person. Instead, SIS helps us determine the supports necessary for someone to succeed. Someday, almost every state will require SIS to determine the real support needs of these citizens with developmental disabilities. No longer will case managers or others who write individual service plans have to guess what goal or objective to write in order to meet the individual's support needs."*

**Steven Hall, Director, Georgia Office of Developmental Disabilities**

*"People are very pleased with SIS—from providers to people with disabilities to families. People are happy that finally, the right questions are being asked to understand how to best support them. The focus of SIS is support needs, not deficits. The SIS is central to what people's needs are and that's what life is about."*

**Jim LeVelle, State Director of Psychological Services of Louisiana**

## Customized SIS Training Workshops now available!

Looking to train your staff on the use of SIS? Let AAIDD trainers do it for you! Our popular training workshops produce reliable and confident interviewers and/or staff trainers, so you can base your service decisions on reliable assessment results! Email [sis@aaidd.org](mailto:sis@aaidd.org) for a training quote! Here's what past training attendees had to say:

*"The difference in my understanding of SIS before and after the AAIDD training workshop was like night and day."*

**Johnathon Crumley, Regional Supervisor,  
Georgia's Middle Behavioral Services**

*"The most valuable part of the training was trying out the interviews and getting feedback from the instructor on the scoring and which questions worked. Because of the need to have the instructor give feedback on interviews you conduct, the advanced training is essential to ensure proper administration of SIS."*

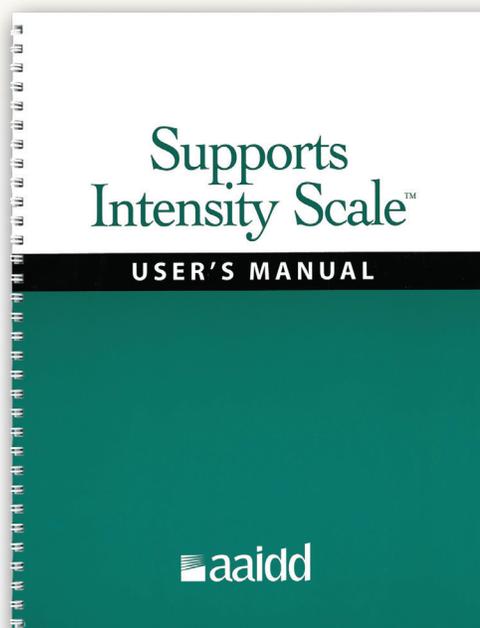
**Steve Mason, Chief Operating Office,  
Hillsborough ARC (HARC), Tampa, Florida**

Visit [aaidd.org/SIS/training](http://aaidd.org/SIS/training) for more training information.

## SIS Committee Members

The Supports Intensity Scale was developed over five years by a team of ten experts in disabilities and psychological testing.

**James R. Thompson, PhD**  
**Brian R. Bryant, PhD**  
**Edward M. Campbell, PhD**  
**Ellis M. (Pat) Craig, PhD**  
**Carolyn Hughes, PhD**  
**David A. Rotholz, PhD**  
**Robert L. Schalock, PhD**  
**Wayne P. Silverman, PhD**  
**Marc J. Tassé, PhD**  
**Michael L. Wehmeyer, PhD**



## SIS User's Manual Table of Contents

- Chapter 1.** The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS): Context, Purpose, and Overview
- Chapter 2.** Administration of the SIS
- Chapter 3.** Scoring and Interpreting the SIS
- Chapter 4.** Using the SIS to Develop Individualized, Person-Centered Support Plans
- Chapter 5.** Potential Analyses Using Aggregate SIS Data
- Chapter 6.** Technical Properties of the SIS

# ORDER FORM

**Your Information** (No post office boxes, please.)

Priority Code: BS57

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Quan.	Number	Title	Price	Amount
	250	Supports Intensity Scale, Manual/25 Interview Forms	\$150.00	
	251	Supports Intensity Scale, 25 Interview Forms	\$46.50	
	252	Supports Intensity Scale, 100 Interview Forms	\$184.00	
	253	Supports Intensity Scale, Manual only	\$115.00	

SISOnline—email [help@sis-online.org](mailto:help@sis-online.org) for a price quote

## Payment Method

- Check or money order enclosed, made payable to AAIDD.  
 Bill my:  MasterCard  VISA  AMEX

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Active AAIDD Member No: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Shipping</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>

## Domestic Shipments

### UPS Ground shipping rates

Up to \$50.....	\$10
\$51-\$100.....	\$15
\$101-\$200.....	\$20
\$201-\$300.....	\$25
\$301-\$400.....	\$30
\$401-\$500.....	\$35
\$501-\$600.....	\$40

Pricing above \$600 goes up by increments of \$10 per \$100. All domestic shipments are sent UPS Ground unless otherwise specified.

### Rush Orders\*

UPS 2nd day air = UPS ground charges per table above + \$15 for shipping costs + \$15 rush fee  
UPS next day air = UPS ground charges per table above + \$25 for shipping costs + \$15 rush fee

## International Shipments

USPS International Air (*most cost effective option*)  
Orders up to \$300 .....20% Total Product Cost  
Orders \$301 and above ..... 15% Total Product Cost  
International air delivery takes approximately up to 4-10 days.

### International Rush Orders\*

Can be sent via UPS or DHL. Cost depends on weight of package. All Rush orders must be placed by 12 noon Eastern Standard Time and orders will be shipped the same day.

To place an international Rush order, call 1+ 301-604-1340 or email [aaidd@brightkey.net](mailto:aaidd@brightkey.net) to inquire about shipping options.

- \* All Rush orders will be charged a fee of \$15.
- \* Please note that UPS does not ship to P.O. Boxes.

## 4 WAYS TO ORDER!

**Mail:** AAIDD Publications, 501 Third St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001

**Phone:** 202.387.1968 **Fax:** 202.387.2193

**Online:** [aaidd.org/publications/bookstore-home](http://aaidd.org/publications/bookstore-home)



American Association  
on Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities

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“The Supports Intensity Scale is one of the most significant tools to come along in my entire 35 years of service in the disability field, and I cannot say enough about the critical need for such an instrument in determining service needs, setting rates, and supporting the planning process for persons with developmental disabilities.”

**Ron Wisecarver, President/CEO**  
Peoria ARC, Illinois