• Information from the assessment is entered into the state database, the Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS).

• The results are available to your Supports Coordinator (SC) three weeks after your interview.

• Your SC shares the results with you and anyone else you choose.

• You use the SIS and PA Plus results to help you develop an ISP.

Where Can I Get More Information?

The PA Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and Families is available to answer questions about the Intellectual Disabilities/Mental Retardation system. For more information, please call 1-866-865-6170 or visit www.TheTrainingPartnership.org.

...so What is the Supports Intensity Scale and PA Plus (SIS and PA Plus)?
What is the Supports Intensity Scale and PA Plus (SIS and PA Plus)?

The SIS and PA Plus is a means of measuring the supports you need to live an Everyday Life. By answering a series of questions with a trained assessor (interviewer), areas of your life are examined to see how much support you need, how often you need support, and what kinds. Some of the topics covered in the SIS interview include home and community living, lifelong learning, and employment. The SIS focuses on what you need in order to have an Everyday Life, not on what you cannot do.

The SIS is a standardized needs assessment, which means you are asked the same questions and receive the same measurements no matter where you live. The PA Plus is nine questions that were developed for Pennsylvania to gather information about areas such as vision, hearing, safety and assistive technology that the SIS does not cover.

Pennsylvania’s Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) wants to ensure assessments will be conflict-free, so they hired Ascend Management Innovations (Ascend), an independent company from Tennessee, to employ and train assessors. Assessors must be Pennsylvania residents, have a four-year college degree, and three years of experience of direct work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their training continues after they are approved in order to maintain their assessor status.

The SIS and PA Plus are used with other sources of information to help you and your team before and during the Individual Support Plan (ISP) planning process.

NOTE: These assessments do not determine your budget or funding in any way.

Who receives a SIS assessment?

- Everyone aged 16-72 enrolled in the Consolidated or the Person/Family Directed Supports Waivers
- People on the Waiting List identified to receive Waiver funding

Who is involved?

- You
- People you choose who know you well and can give good information about your support needs
- An assessor (interviewer) who lives in Pennsylvania and has extensive training

What is the process?

- Assessments are scheduled prior to your ISP review date.
- A scheduler contacts you by telephone.
- The interview takes place at your choice of time and place and with the people you choose to join you.