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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

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Supports

Intensity Scale

(SIS) Fact Sheet

What is the Supports Intensity Scale[®] (SIS[®])?

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) is an interview tool that measures the support a person with developmental disabilities needs to fully participate in the community. The SIS was written to enhance the person centered planning process.

What does “support” mean?

“Support” means the help a person needs to do something successfully. Supports could be paid or unpaid.

What does the SIS measure?

The SIS measures the help a person needs in many areas of home and community living.

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Who developed the SIS?

A team from the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) developed the SIS. This team included self-advocates, family members, and others in the field of developmental disabilities.

How is Arizona planning to use the SIS?

Arizona is conducting a Pilot Study to determine whether the SIS would be helpful in improving identification of the supports needed by its members.

Who will receive a SIS assessment during the Pilot Study?

Members who live in group homes or individually designed living arrangements may be interviewed. Each member is asked the same questions.

Who participates in the interview?

An interviewer will lead the interview. Participants include: the member, their guardian (if applicable), their support coordinator and other people who know the member well. Members may choose who they would like to participate.

Participants must have known the member for at least 3 months. They must be able

to talk about the help a member needs in various areas of one's life.

Who is the SIS Interviewer?

People who have been trained by AAIDD.

What is the role of the interviewer?

The interviewer will explain the process and lead the discussion. They will also record the answers.

Do all of the questions in the SIS interview need to be answered?

Yes. All questions must be asked and answered.

What do I need to do to prepare for the interview?

Be prepared to stay for 2 to 3 hours. Come ready to share your ideas and answer questions.

Does the SIS replace the ISP?

No. It does not.

How do individuals receive their SIS results?

Your Support Coordinator will share at your next meeting.