

Your new needs assessment

The way your child’s needs are assessed and who does that work has changed.

The Oregon Needs Assessment, or ONA is being used to assess support needs. A new person may also be doing your child’s assessment. They are specially trained on this new tool.

The assessor

The assessor will make sure everyone is getting assessed the same way. The assessor is also trained to be objective when doing assessments. They are one of the people who will talk with you and your child about your child’s needs.

The services coordinator

Your child’s services coordinator will still talk with you and your child about your child’s life, goals, challenges, and the role you and your child would like DD services to play in supporting you. Here is an example of the differences between the services coordinator and the assessor:

Services coordinator:	Assessor:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps you plan and problem solve • Helps you and your child identify your goals and what services and supports you might need to reach them • Answers questions about your child’s services • Identifies resources • Follows up to make sure your child’s plan is working for you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts your child’s ONA

Why an assessment is needed

The federal government requires everyone be treated equally when

accessing services, so a uniform assessment is needed. The assessment helps to document the kinds of things you might want help with in your child's daily life. But you and your child will take the lead in deciding how to receive services to help you and your child achieve your child's goals.

How to get a copy of the results

You may ask for a copy of the results from the services coordinator or assessor. The results are not available right away. If you ask for a copy, they will be sent to you when they are ready.

What to do if you have questions or you think the ONA results don't accurately reflect your child's needs

- Please let the services coordinator or assessor know.
- You have the right to file a complaint if you or your child disagrees or has concerns. Your services coordinator or assessor can show you how. You can also follow the steps at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/File-a-Complaint.aspx>

What can you expect next?

At some point, the ONA may change the number of hours of service you receive if your child lives at home, or the amount of funding a provider can get to support your child in a foster home or a group home.

Your services coordinator will help you and your child make your plan, or update the plan along the way.

The following website will have additional updates and information if you are interested in reading about the changes that are taking place with assessments: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/compass-project.aspx>

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Office of Developmental Disabilities Services at 503-945-5811. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.