



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Department of Human Services**  
Office of Developmental Disabilities  
Services

500 Summer St. NE E-09

Salem, OR 97301-1073

Voice: 503-945-5811

Fax: 503-373-7274

TTY: 800-282-8096

November 24th, 2021

To those receiving services and their families,

Changes are coming to how your child's disability-related needs are assessed and who does that work. These changes will make information about how your child's needs are assessed more objective and understandable.

Why this change? The federal government requires everyone to have an assessment to receive services. The Oregon State Legislature told the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) to create and use a single assessment. Right now, we have five different assessments. Having one assessment will help make access to supports less confusing. The new assessment is called the Oregon Needs Assessment, or ONA.

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 organization gets to support your child in a foster home or a group home.

The ONA results will document the kinds of things your child might want help with in their daily life. But you and your child will take the lead in deciding how you want to receive services to help your child achieve their goals, and what services will best meet their needs.

Another change is who will do your child's assessment. For many people, the services coordinator did them in the past. Now a separate person who is specially trained to do the ONA assessment will do the assessment.

- Assessors make sure everyone is getting assessed the same way.
- Assessors will be trained to be objective when doing assessments.

Having someone do assessments who is not your child's services coordinator will let the services coordinator focus on helping you and your child plan for the future.

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*

The services coordinator and assessor will work together to support you and your child through the process. The services coordinator can be with you for the assessment. You are welcome to invite others who can help answer questions during the assessment. If you have questions, please let your child's services coordinator or assessor know.

If you want a copy of your assessment, please ask for it. Results from the assessment will not be ready right away. The assessor or services coordinator can give you a copy when it is completed.

Who do you talk to if you think the ONA results do not accurately reflect your child's needs or you have questions?

- You can talk with your child's services coordinator; the services coordinator can follow up with the assessor.
- You may talk with the assessor directly.
- You have the right to file a complaint if you disagree or have concerns. Your child's 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>

Respectfully,



Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services  
Department of Human Services

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.