



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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

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To those receiving services and their families,

Changes are coming to how your disability-related needs are assessed and who does that work. These changes will make information about how your 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 you live at home, or the amount of funding a provider organization gets to support you in a foster home or a group home.

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

Another change is who will do your 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 your 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 services coordinator will let the services coordinator focus on helping you plan for your future.

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

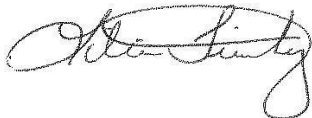
Your services coordinator and assessor will work together to support you through the process. Your services coordinator can be with you for your assessment. You are welcome to invite others who can help you answer questions during your assessment. If you have questions, please let your services coordinator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

If you want a copy of your assessment, please ask for it. Results from your 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 needs or you have questions?

- You can talk with your 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 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lilia Teninty".

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.