

## **Understanding the service group called “Adolescents with high support needs”**

### **What is this guide intended to do?**

All children need some level of support from their family to stay healthy, safe, and happy. Children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) may need assistance above and beyond what is typical for all children. This guide helps you understand what a service group is, how it is determined, and what to do if you disagree with your child’s service group. No matter what service group your child is assigned to, don’t forget that you will take the lead in deciding what services your child receives.

### **What is the Oregon Needs Assessment?**

The Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA) helps us achieve our vision of a system of supports that is easy to use and responsive to the strengths, needs and direction of people with disabilities and their families.

The Oregon Needs Assessment is a tool used by the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) to get information about what kinds of challenges your child may have if they had no support. It is completed by a person called an Assessor, with help from you, your child, and other people you choose.

The information is used to help you, your child and those you choose to help you with planning, talk about what kinds of supports are best for your child. The Oregon Needs Assessment does not identify how your child will be supported, or what will help your child achieve their goals — that is done during the Individual Support Planning process. You, your child, and others you choose, will decide what supports will best meet your child’s needs and

help them reach their goals. Your child's Oregon Needs Assessment and resulting service group are just one part of the planning process.

### **Why are service groups important?**

If your child receives developmental disabilities services as one of the supports in your child's life, their service group determines the most hours a care provider ("provider") may be paid to support your child each month. Service groups also determine how much a provider will be paid when they support your child.

### **How was my child's service group determined?**

Certain questions in the Oregon Needs Assessment are used to determine your child's service group. This guide will go on to explain exactly how this works.

### **How are service groups organized?**

Service groups are first organized by a person's age, such as infant/toddler (birth to 3), young child (4 to 11), adolescent (12 to 17), and adult (18+). Within each age range, there are different service groups based on support needs.

### **What causes someone to be assigned to the Adolescent: High service group?**

A person may be assigned this service group due to any of the following:

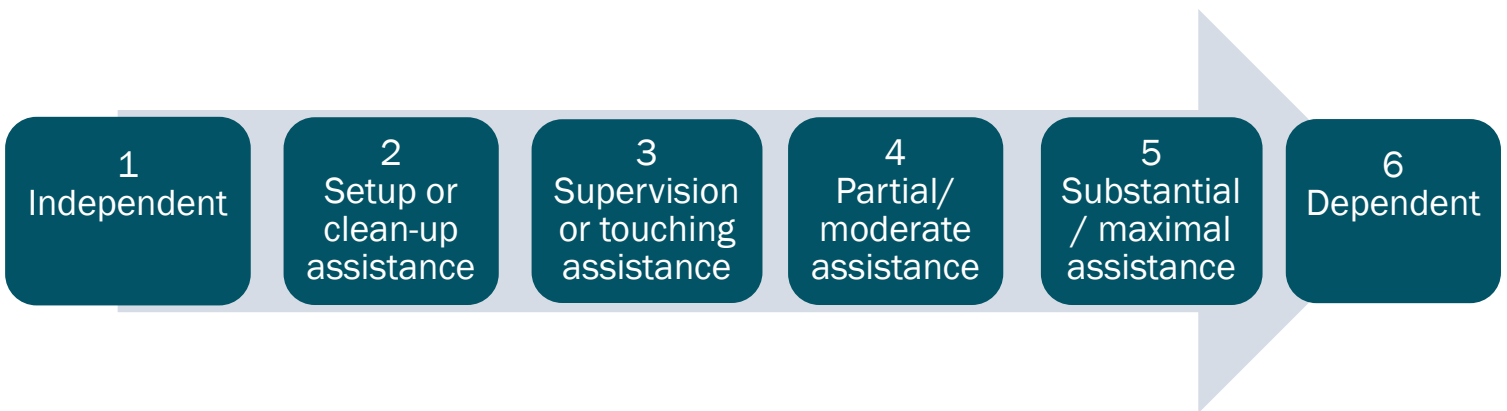
- high general support needs related to your child's disability
- substantial/maximal support for most instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), particularly with more complex activities
- medical and behavioral support needs that do not require extraordinary support

People in the Adolescent: High service group are all unique individuals. They are in the same service group because the type or level of assistance they need is similar.

## What is the general support need criteria for Adolescent: High?

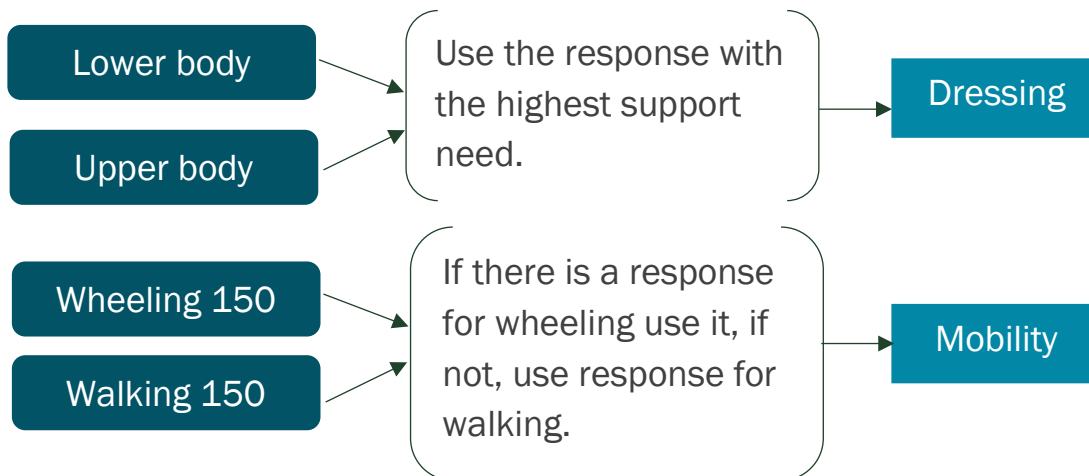
To measure general support need, the focus is on responses to Oregon Needs Assessment questions about activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living (ADLs/IADLs). The ONA asks about many different activities of daily living and how much support a person needs with these activities.

For each question, the responses are on a scale from 1 to 6. The scale for each question looks like:



Responses to certain questions in the ONA are used to create one overall score called the General Support Need (GSN) score.

First, responses about dressing and mobility in the ONA are combined into two items:



Then, dressing and mobility, shown above, is added to the responses to twelve other questions in the ONA. The fourteen responses that are added up are:

Putting on/taking off footwear	Eating	Toilet hygiene	Shower/bathe self
Oral hygiene	Other general hygiene	Housework	Make a light meal
Laundry	Use public transportation	Money management	Light shopping
	Dressing	Mobility	

If you choose not to answer a question from the ONA or the question is not applicable, that response is scored as a 1. If an activity is not attempted due to a medical condition or safety concern, that response is scored as a 6.

The responses to these fourteen questions are added up and will total between 14 and 84. This number is called the GSN score. Adolescents with a GSN score between 54 and 73 are assigned to the Adolescent: High service group. If you would like to see your child's Oregon Needs Assessment to see how it was scored, you can get it from your child's Services Coordinator.

## **If you disagree with your child’s assigned service group**

You, and those in your child’s life, best understand what your child needs to achieve their goals. You have rights and options when you don’t agree with decisions made about the services and supports your child receives.

The links below describe steps you can take if you disagree. These pages define when your child is eligible for exceptions and how to file them, as well as the standard hearings and appeal rights and process.

Request a hearing: <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/idd/Pages/hearings.aspx>

Request an exception:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/idd/Pages/exceptions.aspx>

## **Resources**

### **Where to learn more**

More information about how the service group framework was developed and what steps are next online:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/compass/Pages/service-groups.aspx>