

Understanding the service group called “Infant/Toddler supports”

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. If your child needs agency residential services, their service group determines how much residential providers will be paid to care for them.

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 Infant/Toddler service group?

All individuals under the age of 4 are assigned to the Infant/Toddler Supports service group. Infants and toddlers are expected to require substantial support in all aspects of their lives, as is typical for children under 4 years old.

Infants and toddlers in this group may also have:

- minimal to moderate general support needs related to your child's disability
- one or more complex medical conditions that require daily extraordinary support

- have behavioral challenges that require extraordinary support

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>