

Waiver Alert

News You Need to Know

New Support Planning Process

Developmental Disabilities

Support Needs Matrix – August 2010



The Challenge

States across the country, including North Carolina, are facing the challenge of increasing requests for developmental disability services during a time when funding is very limited. PBH is responding to this challenge by developing an improved system to allocate funding for services in a way that is efficient, fair and equitable. The new system is the **Support Needs Matrix**. The Support Needs Matrix is a tool to standardize funding among persons who have similar support needs. This tool will be an important part of the New Support Planning Process.

Why Create the Support Needs Matrix

PBH studied the Individual Budget system that was currently in use in the Innovations Waiver and determined that there was not always a link between the amount of funding someone received and their support needs. People with less support needs sometimes received more funding and people with greater support needs at times received less funding. PBH studied waiver funding systems in other states, and found that some states had linked support needs to funding using the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS).

Support Needs Matrix

The Support Needs Matrix establishes funding categories for individuals who receive NC Innovations funding as well as for individuals who receive B(3) Deinstitutionalization (DI) funding.

The Support Needs Matrix is based on:

- Where someone lives, either at home (non-residential) or in a residential facility (residential)
- The person's age: child (age 21 and under) or adult (age 22 or over)
- The person's assessed support needs

These factors are used together to determine funding categories. There are four separate matrices (groupings):

- Children Living at Home
- Children Living in Residential
- Adults Living at Home
- Adults Living in Residential

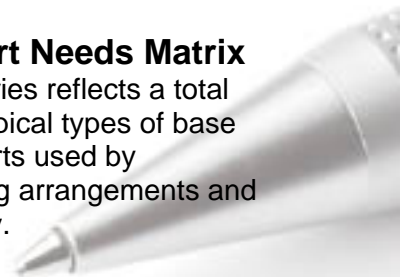
Each matrix has seven categories (groups) of people who have similar support and funding needs. If the person's needs change, there are ways within the system to request additional funding to meet short and long term needs. There are always exceptional situations. To ensure that everyone receives the funding that they need, there will be an eighth category for individuals with unique behavioral, safety and medical needs whose needs are significantly different from individuals in their assigned Matrix Category. This category will be called Intensive Review.

Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

Everyone receiving NC Innovations and B(3) DI services has participated in an assessment of their support needs by PBH staff. The tool used is the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS). The SIS is an assessment of individual support needs developed by the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). The SIS is a valid, reliable instrument for assessing the level of an individual's support needs in major areas of daily living as well as behavioral and medical needs. PBH has used the SIS for five years to develop Person-Centered Plans.

Funding and the Support Needs Matrix

The funding within the categories reflects a total amount that would fund the typical types of base budget services and/or supports used by individuals of similar age, living arrangements and support needs in that category.



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Additional funding is assigned to persons within the Intensive Review category due to their needs being significantly different from individuals in their assigned Matrix Category. There are also processes for individuals to request additional funding if there is a short term or long term need that cannot be met within the assigned funding category.

Base Budgets and Non-Base Budgets

The categories fund Base Budget services. These are habilitation or support services in the waiver. Persons may also receive Non-Base Budget "Add On" services. These are services designed to prevent crisis, provide education on a disability specific issue or provide equipment to make people more independent.

The services in the Individual Base Budget and the Non-Base Budget cannot *together* total more than the Waiver Cost Limit of \$135,000 per year.

Current Base Budget Services	Base Budget Services effective 1/1/11
Community Networking	Community Networking
Day Supports	Day Supports
Home Supports	In-Home Intensive Supports
Residential Supports	In-Home Skill Building
Respite	Personal Care
Supported Employment	Residential Supports
	Respite
	Supported Employment

Non-Base Budget Services are:

Assistive Technology: Equipment and Supplies
Community Guide
Community Transition
Crisis Services
Financial Support Services
Home Modifications
Individual Goods & Services
Natural Supports Education
Specialized Consultation Services
Vehicle Modifications

Support Needs Matrix Implementation

PBH has implemented the Support Needs Matrix with new participants entering the waiver or the B(3) DI Service Array in July 2010. Current participants in NC Innovations or current participants in the B(3) DI Service Array will be gradually transitioned to their new budget. PBH is working with a stakeholder group of families and providers who are assisting in developing the transition plan. Once a final decision is made regarding the transition process and effective date, individuals/families will be notified.

Additional Information/Questions

Further Waiver Alerts and other materials will be made available for participants, family members, provider agencies and other stakeholders. Information sessions have been scheduled for these groups. If you have any questions, please ask your Care Coordinator, the Provider Relations Network Manager or the PBH Access Department at 1-800-939-5911.