Maine SIS Program

Maine Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) Assessments:

Review Lifespan Waiver Tour Resources | How to Schedule a SIS-A Assessment | Meet Clinical Assessor, Nicole Powers | Review Resources

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Lifespan Waiver Tour Resources Now Available

In July, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) and Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) conducted a statewide tour to share information about the proposed Lifespan Waiver and gather feedback from providers, individuals, families, advocates, and other interested stakeholders. The tour included in-person sessions across Maine and provided updates on the waiver's development, key program features, and next steps in the federal review process.

The Lifespan Waiver is designed to provide more flexible Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and/or autism, with supports that can adapt as needs change throughout different stages of life. Additional information about the waiver, including project updates and implementation resources, is available on the Maine DHHS Lifespan webpage.

Stakeholders who were unable to attend the July tour can review presentation materials and recordings using the resources below. These are all available on the **HCBS Lifespan Waiver website**.

As of October, 2026, the waiver is under review by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and is pending approval. The next public comment period will be for the proposed Section 24 Rule. Notice for the rule-making process will be distributed by the Office of MaineCare Services, and will be reposted by OADS.

- **Lifespan Overview Presentation (PDF): View Presentation**

- **Lifespan Overview Webinar Recording:** [Watch Webinar Recording]
- **July 2026 Lifespan Tour Presentations and Recordings:** [View Tour Resources]

Schedule a SIS-A With the Maximus – SIS-A Support Team

The SIS-A provides high-quality data that helps inform the Person-Centered Planning process for the individual who takes it. It also provides the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS) with support information for the design of innovative service options through the new Lifespan Waiver.

Contact the Maximus – SIS-A support team to schedule an assessment.

- Call: **833.771.4639**
- Email: **Maine-SIS@maximus.com**

Meet New SIS-A Clinical Assessor, Nicole Powers

We're pleased to introduce the newest member of our SIS-A team. **Nicole Powers** joins us as a Clinical Assessor. In this role, she contacts the Member, Case Manager, family members, guardians, and others to schedule the appointment. Nicole then facilitates the assessment interview with all those attending. Once completed, the results are sent to the Member's Case Manager. The SIS-A results can help the Case Manager with Person-Centered Planning for the Member.



Q&A with Nicole:

Share some background into your professional background.

I have worked in the field of social services and behavioral health for approximately 23 years, gaining experience in a variety of roles and settings. I earned my bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maine and currently hold an LSW license. My first professional position was at a residential home serving teenagers and young adults transitioning to independence. In this role, I worked as a Direct Support Professional as a Certified Residential Medication Aide, as well as the Outreach Coordinator. As the Outreach Coordinator, I helped the residents develop the skills and resources they needed to prepare for life as independent members of their communities.

Following my work in residential services, I joined the Alternative Response Program (ARP), a contracted program that partnered with the State of Maine's child protective services. In this role, I worked with, and assisted, families involved in low to moderate cases of child abuse or neglect to find needed resources and support. I have also served as a Program Supervisor within a Section 28 program, which provides behavioral and adaptive support services to children and youth with cognitive impairments, autism spectrum disorder, and other developmental disabilities.

Prior to joining Maximus, I worked as a Children's Case Manager, supporting children and families in their search for behavioral health services, community resources, and other systems of care. Several years ago, I started pursuing a master's degree in counseling and

social work but ultimately had to put my education on hold for family reasons. I am looking forward to returning to school soon to finish what I started.

What area of the state do you service in your role?
I currently cover the central Maine area.

What is your favorite part of the work you do?
My current role with Maximus is quite different from the roles I have held throughout my career. While I do not have day-to-day direct contact with the individuals we serve, I enjoy taking the time to get to know each person and understand their unique needs. I appreciate the opportunity to have a meaningful role, even in a small way, to their treatment and success.

Have you lived in other places besides Maine?
I have lived in Maine my entire life, growing up in the “county” or Aroostook County. I have also lived in Downeast Maine, as well as southern coastal Maine. I now live in interior central Maine, where I am raising my 4 children.

Toolkit: Learn More About the SIS-A Assessment

There are many resources available about the SIS-A. Several helpful links are located below:

- **OADS Website - "A Path for ME" SIS-A Needs Assessments**
- **SIS-A Assessment Report - AAIDD Sample Report**

You can review this updated guide and other resources 24/7 on the **ME SIS-A Tools & Resources site.**