

DODD Waiver Modernization: Assessment FAQ

July 2025

Assessment Background

One of the major initiatives within Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)'s Waiver Modernization initiative is to use a new, nationally-recognized and standardized assessment tool. This will help us at DODD make sure that **people with developmental disabilities get the right supports**. This tool will not take the place of the person-centered planning process.

We looked at different assessment tools and talked with people in the community to find the best one for Ohio. We chose the **interRAI-ID and InterRAI ChYMH-DD assessment tools to replace the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) and Acuity Assessment Instrument (AAI) assessments**.

The new assessment will help us reach these goals:



Better **assess the support someone needs**



Create an **assessment process that is the same for everyone**



Build rates to pay providers that **accurately reflect the support people need**



Make it **easier to plan and approve spending** for services

We know that people have a lot of questions on what the new assessment tool means for them. Below is a list of common questions and answers (FAQ) to help people who get services, their families, providers, and County Boards understand the changes.

Assessment FAQs

What is the purpose of a needs-based assessment tool and why does it help people served?

A needs-based assessment tool is used to find out what help a person needs to live safely at home or in their community. These tools usually ask questions about daily tasks, health, communication, and other needs. The assessments are important because they help make sure Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs work well for everyone.

For the IO waiver in Ohio, a needs-based assessment tool helps determine how much money you get for your services.

Why is DODD using a new assessment tool?

Right now, Ohio uses a tool called the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) to decide how much money a person can get for services if they have the IO waiver. After listening to people with developmental disabilities, their families, providers, and the County Boards as well as studying how the ODDP works, we found that it does not always show the real cost of the help a person needs.

That's why we wanted a new tool that is simple, understandable, and thorough. The new tool is called interRAI. It will do a better job at finding out what kind of help a person needs, like help with talking, medical needs, and more. It has been tested and used in many other states and works well.