



## Welcome to the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) Newsletter!

The BDS Newsletter highlights information about the work we do to benefit individuals and families.

The first (Summer 2022) issue highlights the work of BDS and stakeholders to identify opportunities to modernize the developmental services system. This work includes reviewing updates to the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver (the structure most BDS services are funded through), the reimbursement rates for services, and information technology systems critical to operating the service delivery system and supporting access for to services for individuals.

Do you know anyone who would like to receive this newsletter? Please ask them to send an email to [ddsystemswork@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:ddsystemswork@dhhs.nh.gov) and request to be added to our mailing list.

## BDS Transformation – Work to Date

### Waiver Enhancement

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in partnership with stakeholders, is working to better define service definitions and explore adding additional services to the DD Waiver. These changes promote enhanced consistency and availability of services.

### Residential Services Highlights

Under the planned waiver changes, the DD Waiver will likely include more than the services that are currently available. This expansion allows individuals more options that will support their choice in where and with whom they live.

- **Chore Services**
  - Includes informal support aimed at helping a person live as independently in possible – in their own house or apartment.
  - Includes support with general house keeping activities to ensure a safe and clean environment for the person accessing supports.
  - Supports individuals who need limited hands-on supports in their home. Adding this service definition is an opportunity to expand access to independent living options for people across the state.
- **Transition Assistance**
  - Supports people transitioning into new residential settings. In this service, individuals can purchase household items such as a bed or pots and pans to help them successfully transition into a new home or apartment.
  - Meant to help best position the individual for a successful transition into their home while reducing the financial hardships to the person or provider in accessing new residential supports.

These are just some examples of services being reviewed.

Learn more by visiting: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disability-care/developmental-services/bds-systems-work-stakeholder-engagement>



## Other Summer 2022 Activities

A **Supports Intensity Scale –Adult (SIS-A) assessment sample** will be collected this Summer and early Fall to gather data about the supports people need. This information will be used in the development of updated rates.

- You can find additional information about the SIS-A sample process at the BDS website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disability-care/developmental-services/bds-systems-work/systems-work-summer-2022>.
- The SIS-A is a nationally recognized assessment tool used to gather information on the supports a person needs to live and engage successfully in their communities.
- DHHS is interested in using the SIS-A as a way to align the service reimbursement rate with the level of support someone needs.

### Upcoming Public Events

- **September 9:** Rate Work Group
- **September 15:** Advisory Committee

Find more Zoom information at:  
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disability-care/developmental-services/bds-systems-work-stakeholder-engagement>

### Resources

- Family Forum Recaps [Click Here](#)
- SIS-A Sample [Click Here](#)
- FAQs about BDS Systems Work [Click Here](#)
- All resources can be found at :  
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/disability-care/developmental-services/bds-systems-work>

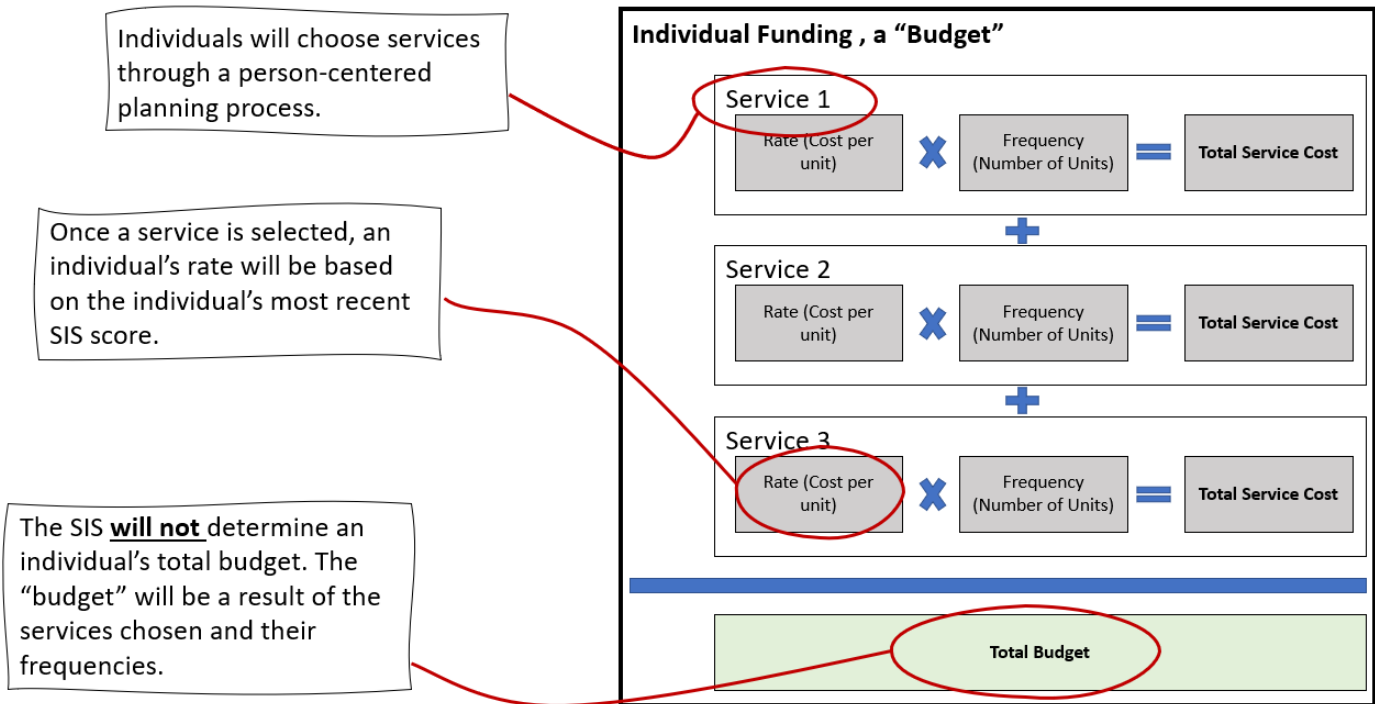




## Deep Dive: Will the rate structure changes impact my budget?

**Overview:** New Hampshire’s rates have not been updated in over ten years and are likely one of the factors contributing to challenges in service availability and workforce recruitment and retention. Service costs are also rapidly increasing. As a result, **DHHS is developing new service reimbursement rates.**

### How it works:



### What it means:

- **An individual’s total budget will not be impacted by a change in service reimbursement rates alone.** It may be updated depending on changes in the services they select and/or the frequency they receive these services based on their individual support needs.
- **New rates aligned with the current cost of providing services will allow for a more accurate budget calculation** that better reflects the unique needs of each person using a standardized assessment process.
- **The Department intends to avoid any disruption in services** for people who are currently receiving services, a service name may change, but access will not be taken away upon implementation of these new rates.