**The LA PLUS Assessment and Resource Allocation**

* The LA PLUS is an assessment that looks at support and supervision needs, service needs, risk areas, and medical/behavioral health conditions. It is used in all adult waivers in OCDD to help with support planning.
* In the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), it is also used for resource allocation. Resource allocation is a way of providing services (and funds) in a fair way, among all the people who need them. For the New Opportunities Waiver, we are making a change in the resource allocation system: We will no longer use the Supports Intensity Scale assessment and will only use the LA PLUS assessment for resource allocation.
* While the LA PLUS does have a part in figuring out types of services or amount of hours you should get to meet your needs, it is only the beginning of the planning process. It does not say what your goals will be, how you should spend your time, who you can spend your time with or live with, or what you will do/can do during the day.

**What Stays the Same?**

* Support planning is still done using a person-centered planning process.
* The Tiered Waiver Process: You can still move up to the next waiver if you have unmet needs that can be met by a higher tier waiver.
* The original LA PLUS assessment: The LA PLUS has not changed, and it is still done for all new adult participants (with the Supports Waiver offer) as part of the planning process.
* Levels 2-6 in the NOW: The support/service recommendations, descriptions of ‘profiles’, etc. stays the same.
* Amount of hours recommended for each level stays the same
* Extra hours (beyond the max hours in a level) can still be requested in NOW

**What is Different?**

* Only one assessment (LA PLUS) is now used in the support planning process.
* Original SIS Levels 1A & 1B are now combined = LA PLUS Level 1
* Checklist added to LA PLUS: *Routine Supports for Medical/Physical and Behavioral Health Needs Checklist* – similar to SIS section for specialized needs, but made to fit Louisiana service system. Looks at support provided by staff/family to help with medical, physical, nutritional needs, or behavioral health needs. Scores on this checklist decide if someone goes into the “specialty” medical/behavioral levels (Levels 4, 5, or 6).

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| **Current NOW Participants**  | ***All* Initial/New Participants** |
| * If you are happy with your hours and your level, and don’t need any change, you don’t have to do anything!
* Keep using your current amount of hours if it meets your needs
* Stay with your current level (old “SIS” level)
* If your needs change and you need more hours, you can ask for a re-assessment
* Your LA PLUS will be updated or a new LA PLUS will be done
* You will get a new “LA PLUS” level - (same as SIS levels). The LGE assigns the level.
* You can still ask for more hours (over your new level) if needed. This is reviewed by the LGE.
* The information from the assessment should be used to help write the support plan.
 | * LA PLUS will be done when you get your Supports Waiver offer
* It is done for all new adults who are coming in to the waiver
* The information should be used to help write the support plan, even if you are in the Supports or ROW waiver
* If you ask to go into the NOW and this gets approved, your level will be assigned when you get approved for the NOW.
* You will get a “LA PLUS” level. The State Office assigns the level for new NOW participants
* You can still ask for more hours (over your new level) if needed. This is reviewed by the LGE.
* The information from the assessment should be used to help write the support plan.
* If you get into the NOW:
* If your needs change later and you need more hours, or if you think your LA PLUS level is not accurate anymore, you can ask for a re-assessment
* Your LA PLUS will be updated with the new information
* You may or may not get a different level than you had before. The LGE assigns the level.
* You can still ask for more hours (over your level) if needed. This is reviewed by the LGE.
* The information from the assessment should be used to help write the support plan
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