

How Resource Allocation and the SIS Will Affect Your NOW Services

To better understand the SIS and Resource Allocation process, New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) recipients, families and advocates are encouraged to download and read the *Guidelines for Support Planning*. This document explains the process in detail and can be found on the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) web site at <http://www.dhh.state.la.us/offices/publications.asp?ID=77&Detail=2633>. OCDD answered a few frequently asked questions by our *TriAngle* readers:

What services in NOW are affected by the Resource Allocation System?

The Individual & Family Support (IFS) service for day and night supports in NOW is affected by the allocation system. All other services will continue to be freely accessed through the planning process.

I have been using NOW for a long time and am not sure I can make the change in how I use IFS hours. What options are available to me? I do not want to go back to a group home.

The *Guidelines for Support Planning* Appendix 16 details a phase-in plan for persons who have been using NOW and who may be using more one-to-one IFS hours than recommended for their level membership. OCDD put this phase-in plan into place to keep the transition to the new system as person-centered and responsive as possible. People will need to work actively with their support teams to develop strategies to appropriately use IFS hours. The *Guidelines for Support Planning* discusses strategies for IFS hours planning and management in Sections 5.1-5.10. The implementation of these Guidelines do not require people to turn to institutional care.

I have never used shared supports and am not sure how this will impact me. What are the basics, and where can I find out more information?

The *Guidelines for Support Planning* Sections 6.1-6.10 discusses using shared supports. For people living with family, shared supports is an option, but not a part of the recommendation in the Resource Allocation System. OCDD encourages people living with family to consider using shared supports if it is part of a natural routine (e.g., going out with friends in the afternoons following work, going on vacation with friends, attending a 10 week art class).

For people living independently, most persons (excepting persons who meet criteria that exclude sharing), will be asked to consider how shared supports may be used to meet support needs. People who use few IFS hours and who are fairly independent may consider sharing supports for transportation to events, to go grocery shopping or to run errands. People living independently who have significant support needs and require 24 hour supervision may receive assistance from their support coordinator and IFS provider to explore roommate options (See Section 6.4). Who people share with, how and when they share is based upon consumer choice and is discussed during discovery, planning, and

monthly/quarterly plan review. Roommates are not chosen by a provider or support coordinator. Timelines for setting up shared supports are discussed in Section 5.9 and in Appendix 16.

In the past, persons needed formal documentation to share any type of support. With such a complex system, most people only shared supports with their roommate. For people with or without roommates, the *Guidelines for Support Planning* introduces a new flexible way of using IFS shared supports in casual, everyday situations to participate in community activities (See Section 6.3.). People may want to be roommates, but that does not mean they want to do the same things together all the time. Using casual shared supports, people do things together (go to the same concert, karate class, meeting) or in proximity to afford staffing support (both like going to the park, both need to go grocery shopping). Thus, two people who require support for specified community activities and who want to do very different activities at the same time should not be sharing supports with each other at that time. They may share with another person who wishes to do the same/a related activity or may use one-to-one supports.

For further information an individual may contact their support coordinator or their Regional Waiver Office. Presentations on Resource Allocation will continue to be made in each Region throughout the year.