

Hello,

We need your expertise and assistance! This person has applied for services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD). The Division receives funding primarily through the utilization of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers that provide federal matching funds through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to supplement the DD Aid appropriated by the State. A determination of eligibility for DD services is made in accordance with federal and state regulations as well as the statutory definition of developmental disability, (Nebraska Revised State Statute 83-1205).

In order for us to make an eligibility determination we need to ensure that this individual receives a psychological evaluation that assesses the individual's intellectual and adaptive capacity and overall mental health status. If the individual is applying based upon a developmental disability like Autism or Asperger's Disorder, additional assessments will also be needed using standardized assessment instruments appropriate to assist in the diagnosis of these disorders.

When completing an evaluation, it would be helpful to the Division if the following components were included in the report.

**Intellectual Assessment:** Please include a complete summary of all subtests that includes the subtest and composite scaled scores. Below is an example of the information needed from the Wechsler Scales. Of course you may select any Intellectual assessment appropriate for the individual you are assessing but a complete summary would be the most useful for the Division. The Division also recommends that you use a full cognitive test battery and not a brief cognitive test battery as this provides the most comprehensive information for us to make an eligibility determination.

WPS WISC-IV Test Report		ID: 000000001	Page: 2
<b>Individual Subtests</b>		<b>List of Scores</b>	
		<b>Scaled Score</b>	<b>Percentile Rank</b>
Similarities (SI)		12	75
Vocabulary (VC)		14	91
Comprehension (CO)		13	84
Information (IN)		12	75
Word Reasoning (WR)		13	84
Block Design (BD)		8	25
Picture Concepts (PCn)		7	16
Matrix Reasoning (MR)		7	16
Picture Completion (PCm)		8	25
Digit Span (DS)		10	50
Letter-Number Sequencing (LN)		11	63
Arithmetic (AR)		9	37
Coding (CD)		8	25
Symbol Search (SS)		9	37
Cancellation (CA)		10	50
<b>IQ and Index Scores</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Percentile</b>
Verbal Comprehension (VCI)		116	86
Perceptual Reasoning (PRI)		84	14
Working Memory (WMI)		102	55
Processing Speed (PSI)		91	27
Full Scale IQ (FSIQ)		99	47
			<b>Description</b>
			high average
			low average
			average
			average
			average

**Adaptive Assessment:** Again, it would be most useful to include a complete summary of all subtests that includes the composite scores for the composites and scaled scores for subtests. Below is an example of the information needed from the ABAS-II. Of course you may select any valid adaptive assessment appropriate for the individual you are assessing.

**Sum of Scaled Scores to Composite Score Conversions**

Composite	Sum of Scaled Scores	Composite Score	SEM	Percentile Rank	95% Confidence Interval	Qualitative Range
GAC	67	89	1.50	23.0%	86 - 92	Below Average
Conceptual	23	93	2.12	32.0%	89 - 97	Average
Social	18	94	2.60	34.0%	89 - 99	Average
Practical	26	87	2.12	19.0%	83 - 91	Below Average

**Raw Score to Scaled Score Conversions**

Skill Areas	Raw Score	Scaled Score	Qualitative Range
Communication (Com)	52	4	Borderline
Community Use (CU)	37	6	Below Average
Functional Academics (FA)	59	9	Average
School Living (SL)	50	9	Average
Health and Safety (HS)	45	9	Average
Leisure (LS)	40	9	Average
Self-Care (SC)	49	2	Extremely Low
Self-Direction (SD)	55	10	Average
Social (Soc)	50	9	Average

**Autism Spectrum:** The most common diagnosis relative to Developmental Disability eligibility is Autism Spectrum Disorder. It is extremely important that we receive all of the scores for instruments used to make this determination as well as clear supporting language regarding your own observations of the individual in conjunction with the data provided by persons familiar with the individual and that assisted you in coming to your conclusion regarding the diagnosis. This is critical because there are often discrepancies between raters and we need your expertise and professional opinion to make sense of any discrepancies.

**Other impairing conditions:** In addition to an assessment of intellectual or developmental disabilities it will be important for you to assess for other behavioral health conditions and consider these in your diagnostic impressions. Please also comment on the degree to which in your professional opinion these conditions contribute to or are related to the individual’s intellectual or adaptive functioning. Clear written support for your professional opinion assists us in making a determination.

**Impressions:** As is appropriate when interpretive information is provided, your clinical impressions of the assessments’ validity in capturing an accurate picture of the individual’s true capacities is very important. If there are conditions that you believe have impacted the testing results please clearly indicate this. If there are significantly discrepant scores from previous assessments or between raters please also comment on your impressions regarding the nature or cause of these discrepancies. This information is critical in helping us to understand an individual’s skills and abilities particularly given that our reviews do not usually include first hand assessment of the individual.

**DSM-5 Diagnosis:** Finally, it will be important to provide a complete DSM-5 diagnosis (including principal and secondary diagnoses) that includes severity designations for intellectual

disability such as mild, moderate, severe, or profound based on adaptive functioning. In the case that an individual is rendered “untestable” or significant modifications are necessary to complete testing – please provide clear written description of the reason the individual is untestable along with your professional estimate of their cognitive and adaptive abilities.

Thank you for your assistance with our eligibility determination processes.