

FAQs about interRAI Functional Needs Assessments

interRAI Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (ChYMH-DD)

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is working with Myers and Stauffer LC to evaluate the appropriateness of implementing the interRAI ID and interRAI ChYMH-DD.

The following is a list of frequently asked questions to assist participants, families, and providers in navigating these proposed changes. When you have specific questions about a participant, contact DDD at (402) 471-8501 or dhhs.DDDCommunityBasedServices@nebraska.gov.

1. What is the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD?

The [interRAI ID](#) and the [interRAI ChYMH-DD](#) are functional needs assessments owned by the [interRAI organization](#). The organization is a network of researchers and practitioners who are dedicated to improving health and social outcomes for individuals with disabilities, who are aging, or who have a medical complexity.

Like all functional needs assessments owned by the interRAI organization, the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD are validated, standardized assessments. This means the data and results from these assessments are accurate for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities across different populations.

2. What is Nebraska DDD using the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD for?

Nebraska DDD is considering replacing the Developmental Index (DI) and the Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP) with the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD.

The DI and the ICAP are assessments currently used for these DDD programs:

- The Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) Waiver;
- The Developmental Disabilities Adult Day (DDAD) Waiver; and
- The Family Support Waiver (FSW).

The following table outlines current and potential future assessments, and their uses.

Current Assessments	Current Assessment Uses	Future Assessments	Potential Future Assessment Uses
DI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of care (LOC) eligibility determinations. 	interRAI ID interRAI ChYMH-DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of care eligibility determinations. • Identifying an appropriate waiver to enroll (needs assessment). • Person-centered planning. • Participant individual budget amounts.
ICAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-centered planning. • Participant individual budget amounts. • Some waiver service rates. 		

3. What age ranges can the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD be used with?

The interRAI ID is recommended for use with individuals aged 18 and over.

The interRAI ChYMH-DD is recommended for use through the age of 18 but may be used through the age of 21.

DDD is working with Myers and Stauffer to determine appropriate cut-offs for age groups to limit confusion on which assessment is to be used when conducting LOC determinations for participants aged 18 to 21 years.

4. What do the interRAI assessments review?

The interRAI assessments review a wide range of areas, including but not limited to the sections below:

interRAI ID	interRAI ChYMH-DD
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community and Social Involvement• Strengths, Relationships, and Supports• Lifestyle• Communication and Vision• Cognition• Health Conditions• Independence in Everyday Activities• Mood and Behavior• Medications• Supports and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health Indicators• Behavior• Cognition and Executive Functioning• Independence in Daily Activities• Communication• Hearing, Vision, and Motor• Health Conditions• Family and Social Relations• Medication• Prevention, Service Utilization, Treatments• Education

The interRAI assessments were selected for their alignment with Nebraska’s LOC criteria and utility for person-centered planning.

5. What is the concurrent assessment period?

Myers and Stauffer will help DDD conduct concurrent assessments between September 2024 and January 2025. During this time, DDD staff conducting initial assessments and redeterminations for the three DDD waivers will administer the DI, ICAP, and one of the interRAI tools (based on the age of a participant) to determine if the interRAI ID and ChYMH-DD may be appropriate replacements to implement in Nebraska.

Only a sample of participants will be included in the concurrent assessment period. The data gathered during the concurrent assessment period will be used as evidence that the interRAI tools would not act as a barrier to waiver eligibility. DDD will use the data collected to identify if changes to the tool or scoring criteria may be needed to match current LOC criteria.

All eligibility determinations and person-centered plans will still be informed by results from the DI and ICAP during the concurrent assessment period.

6. How am I affected by the concurrent assessment period?

No additional action will need to be taken by participants, family members, or guardians. Only a sample of participants will be included in the concurrent assessment period. Participants included in the sample will be assessed using the DI, ICAP, and one of the interRAI tools (based on the age of the participant) at the usual time of initial or redeterminations assessments.

All eligibility determinations and person-centered plans will still be informed by results from the DI and ICAP during the concurrent assessment period.

7. How long do the interRAI assessments take to complete?

interRAI assessments are estimated to take one hour to complete, although this time is subject to variation based on factors like the participant's team and the amount of information that can be collected through documentation prior to the assessment. Initial assessments are expected to take longer than redeterminations to complete.

8. Who can participate in the interRAI assessments?

One of the strengths of the interRAI assessments is a person-centered focus, placing the participant at the center of the process. Whenever possible, the participant provides the information gathered by the assessment. Members of the participant's support structure are also welcome as interviewees. This includes but is not limited to caregivers, family, friends, providers, and school supports. Assessors administering the interRAI assessments are trained to reconcile differences in opinion between different interviewees.

9. How can participants who have difficulty communicating actively participate in the interRAI assessments?

The interRAI places the participant at the center of the assessment process. Participants who have difficulty communicating should have access to alternative communication methods and adequate time to respond during the assessment administration. If necessary, participants should receive items ahead of time to allow them to prepare answers. The participant's level of communication should be clearly documented within the assessment process. In addition to the participant interview, the interRAI takes many different sources of information into account, including observation, document review, and interviews with different members of the participant's support team.

10. Where does information from the interRAI assessments come from?

Information sources include but are not limited to participant interview, medical records, individual education plans (IEPs), and the participant's support team (such as caregivers, natural supports, providers, social workers, teachers or school support staff).

11. Has research shown the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD to be effective?

The interRAI ID and interRAI ChYMH-DD assessments were developed and tested using extensive trials to ensure that the instruments are valid and reliable. The assessments were also studied longitudinally by examining care outcomes to test the assessments in real life settings. More information on the development and research of interRAI instruments can be found [here](#).

12. When will DDD start using the interRAI ID and the interRAI ChYMH-DD?

There will be several steps taken prior to the implementation of the interRAI ID and interRAI ChYMH-DD. After data is collected in the concurrent assessment period ending January 2025, Myers and Stauffer will work with DDD to develop a scoring method to align with Nebraska's LOC and to provide decision support for potential waiver services for participants. Data will be evaluated to see if adjustments need to be made to the interRAI ID and interRAI ChYMH-DD to ensure that the assessments meet the needs of participants and stakeholders.

Prior to any change to assessment tools, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) approval is needed. A timeline for the implementation of the interRAI ID and interRAI ChYMH-DD will be determined based on these steps.

13. Will DDD share more information with stakeholders?

DDD will continue to share information with stakeholders regarding the timeline of interRAI implementation and information collected during the concurrent assessment period.