



IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES BASICS

In-Home Supportive Services is a program through the Adult Services branch of the Orange County Social Services Agency that is overseen by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to fund care providers so that people can live safely at home (own home or family home). This includes those who would be able to return home from a hospital, nursing facility, or board and care. IHSS is an alternative to out-of-home care.

IHSS provides personal care services; protective supervision; domestic services; paramedical services; and transportation/accompaniment to medical appointments.



To be eligible, a person must

- have a disability, vision impairment (blind), or be elderly (age 65+) AND
- be unable to live safely at home without help AND
- meet the financial need requirement (must be receiving SSI benefits and/or Medi-Cal)

Includes children on full-scope Medi-Cal through “Institutional Deeming” (HCBS DD Waiver)

Medi-Cal may require some people with higher incomes to pay a share of cost

Orange County IHSS Office - 1505 East Warner Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: (714) 825-3000 ♦ <http://ssa.ocgov.com/elder/ihss>



IHSS BASICS



The IHSS Social Worker uses a functional index ranking to determine how much help you need to complete each function (or activity of daily living) using the following criteria:

- the recipient's physical/mental condition or living/social situation
- the recipient's statement of need
- the available medical information
- other information social service staff consider necessary and appropriate to assess the recipient's needs

The ranking system is based on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 meaning the recipient is independent (no impairment) and 5 meaning the recipient can't perform the task, with or without human assistance.



Protective Supervision consists of observing recipient behavior and intervening as appropriate in order to safeguard the recipient against injury, hazard, or accident. Protective Supervision is available for observing the behavior of people who are non-self-directing; confused; mentally impaired; or mentally ill, only. At the time of the initial assessment or reassessment, a need must exist for 24 hours per day of supervision in order for the recipient to remain at home safely. County social workers should always assess an IHSS-eligible minor for mental functioning, as well.

Protective Supervision focuses on three core areas: memory, orientation, and judgment.

After the initial assessment or reassessment, you should receive a Notice of Action that includes:

- a description of each task for which need was assessed
- the number of hours authorized for the completion of the task
- specification of hours for tasks increased or decreased and the difference from previous hours authorized



You have appeal rights!

- Aid Paid Pending – Your current IHSS hours will remain the same until the hearing is concluded, if you file for an appeal 10 calendar days before the Notice of Action is effective
- Fair Hearing – You must file for fair hearing within 90 calendar days if you want to appeal the County's decision.



The hearing will include the presentation of evidence about your needs in the various service categories (daily living activities).

