

## **ICAP SUMMARY FOR IPADDUnite**

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### **WHAT IS ICAP?**

ICAP stands for Inventory for Client and Agency Planning. According to the developers, used correctly, the ICAP can provide an unbiased basis for determining level of care requirements as well as assisting in forecasting service delivery costs. The ICAP Service Score, which ranges from 0 to 100, is indicative of the service intensity required by an individual, considering both adaptive and maladaptive behavior. A severely handicapped child with many serious problem behaviors would require intensive supervision (a Service Score below 20). A non-handicapped adult with no behavior problems would live independently without supervision (a Service Score of about 90 or more). So the lower the score, the more intensive level of support and supervision needed; the higher the score, the more independent a person is without supports and supervision needed.

### **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

I have learned this week that the ICAP score is the single most important determinate of an individual's CILA rate, or put another way, the amount of money that is awarded to your individual for CILA supports and services. You want the score to be as accurate and unbiased a description of the individual's capabilities as possible. My own view on this? Artificially high scores could result in not enough supports being built into the CILA rate; artificially low scores could result in the individual having fewer choices because a provider may feel unable to support the individual or to successfully integrate them into current CILA openings. Everyone benefits from the ICAP score being an accurate reflection of the support needs of our son or daughter.

### **HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS?**

If your loved one already has Home Based Waiver funding, then your son or daughter has had this assessment completed and scored by the agency you selected as your Service Provider or SDA. If you do not recall participating in the assessment previously, and if you are exploring CILA as a possibility for the first time, I strongly recommend you ask your current Service Provider or ISSA from your ISC agency to see the ICAP on file to confirm it represents a true picture of your son or daughter's current strengths and support needs. Would also highly recommend, if you have questions or concerns that functioning levels are not noted appropriately, that you request an update be completed which includes your son or daughter, parent or guardian participation in the assessment. The updated ICAP can then be submitted to the state as part of a CILA packet to ensure the information being shared is as accurate, unbiased and realistic a picture as possible.

If you recently received a Ligas/PUNS letter inviting you to choose between Home Based and CILA services, and do not currently have Home Based from a previous Waiver selection, then your son or daughter may be going through the ICAP assessment for the first time. Ask the ISSA from your ISC agency for information about the ICAP and how much time to set aside for its completion. Plan to participate in the process.

#### **WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

*An agency executive shared this: My message to families is that the ICAP is not the time to brag about your child or give them the benefit of the doubt. **The biggest thing families should understand is that the instructions direct you to rate the person's ability to complete a task "completely without help or supervision."** Imagine your son or daughter in their house or apartment completely alone, and THEN rate their ability to complete tasks or make decisions. I think when you really evaluate an item in this light, many individuals cannot perform the task without some support or supervision i.e. reminders, prompts, verbal or physical assists, etc. from family or staff supports.*

*A parent shared this: Answer as if you were leaving instructions for a first time caregiver in your home; you would not overestimate your child's ability, for example, to independently cross the street if they had a tendency to run into traffic unless you put out a hand to stop them, or called out a reminder to stop at the curb, look both ways, etc. Answer the ICAP questions from the same perspective. You are telling a stranger what supports or services your child needs in order to be safe, as if they were alone in the house with no one to tell them what to do or when to do it. Do not lie, but be brutally honest.*

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=56665>