

The Long-Term Care Functional Screen

What is the Functional Screen?

- Aging & Disability Resource Centers use the Screen to determine your functional eligibility for services. The Screen does not determine your financial eligibility, residency, and other non-financial requirements for eligibility.
- The Screen collects information about your ability to perform important daily activities.
- A Screener will interview you about the types of assistance you need from others to complete these activities.

How is it used for people transitioning from Medicaid Waivers to Family Care, Partnership, PACE, or IRIS?

- Those individuals who are currently receiving services through one of the Medicaid waiver programs (CIP-I, CIP-II or COP-W) must continue to meet the functional eligibility requirements contained in the Screen in order to be eligible for these long-term care programs. This is called “passing the screen.”
- If you are currently receiving services through the CIP-I, CIP-II or COP-W programs, the County or the ADRC will contact you to conduct the Screen.
- If you disagree with the results of your latest Screen, consider contacting an advocate for assistance.

Below are some tips to help you get ready for your Screen.

1. Be honest.

- Ask questions when you do not understand what the Screener is asking you.
- Speak up if you feel that the Screener has misunderstood you.
- Give the Screener as accurate a picture as possible of your daily activities.
- Don't minimize your needs or exaggerate them. Just tell the truth about how your situation.

2. Describe your typical day.

- The Screener needs to know what your needs are on your best and worst days, and how often you have good and bad days. If you have good and bad days, the screener needs to know how often the amount and type of help you need changes.
- It's natural to want to describe yourself at your best or downplay some of your challenges, but to make sure that your Screen is accurate, so that you qualify for and receive what you need, think of yourself when you need the greatest amount of assistance.
- Even though you may have many "good days" when you can complete an activity independently, the Screener needs to know what your needs are on days when you are having the most difficulty.

3. Break down each task.

- Think about all the steps in daily tasks and how you get them done.
 - *For example*, if you take medication, tell the screen whether someone picks them up from the pharmacy for you, whether someone helps sort them for you, whether anyone reminds you to take them, etc.
 - *For example*, for meals, tell the screener whether someone helps make the grocery list, whether someone else does the shopping, whether someone else puts the groceries away, whether someone else cooks the meals, whether someone helps you eat, whether someone else cleans up, etc.

4. Describe what help you get from other people or what equipment you have that helps you out.

- Be sure to explain all the small ways that other people may help you out.
- Tell the Screener about any adaptive equipment you may use in your home, such as a walker, cane, or bathroom grab bars.

5. Choose a time and place for the interview that makes you comfortable. Invite others to be with you at your Screen.

- If you would prefer to have a friend, family member, or advocate around while you answer questions, tell your Screener about this preference and reschedule the Screen.
- If the Screen is taking a long time and you feel tired, ask the Screener to finish on a different day.

6. Remember that you can always ask for a Re-Screen.

- If you are surprised by the results of your Screen, you can request a new one.
- You may want to contact an advocate or ask a friend or family member to attend the second one to make sure that you are giving the Screener the most accurate picture of how you complete everyday activities.