

Background: Organizations that provide supports to people with disabilities need to have measures available that allow them to determine the effectiveness of the supports they provide and the outcomes of quality improvement efforts. These measures need to be accurate, person-centered, and able to be used across time. The University of Minnesota's **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on HCBS Outcome Measurement** (RTC/OM) has developed 13 outcome measures for people with disabilities receiving home and community-based services (HCBS). The measures (see graphic at right) were prioritized and developed based on input from national stakeholder groups composed of representatives of provider agencies, people with disabilities, and family members. To date the measures have undergone extensive expert review, feedback from people with disabilities, and piloting. *More info at: rtcom.umn.edu*

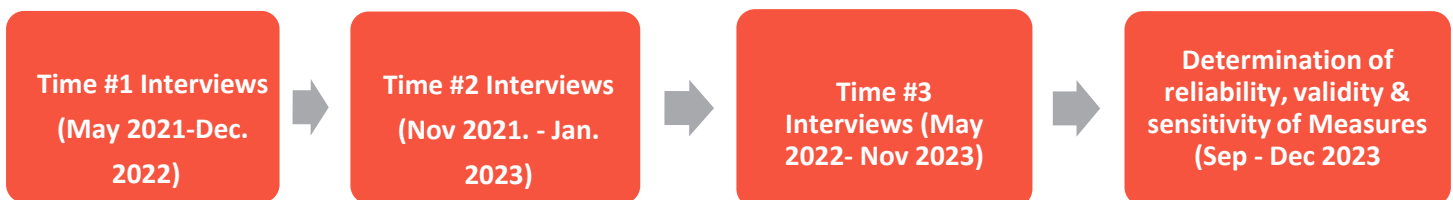


Our Current Work: At this time, we are undertaking a national study designed to test the quality of the measures that we have developed when used with people with intellectual and developmental, physical, age-related, and psychiatric disabilities as well as acquired/traumatic brain injury. The study involves people with the noted disabilities completing the measures via a HIPAA compliant Zoom Meeting interview or in-person if they prefer at three separate times approximately 4-6 months apart. This study will allow us to assess the reliability (i.e., consistency), **validity** (i.e., accuracy), and **sensitivity to change** of the measures developed.

We Need Your Support: The support of organizations that provide HCBS to people with disabilities is critical to our determining the extent to which the measures that have been developed provide accurate, reliable information that providers need to demonstrate the impact of their services. At the conclusion of the study, final versions of the measures as well as online training in their use will be available **at no cost** to all participating agencies.

We are currently recruiting participants with disabilities to interview for the study through the support providers that serve them. Individuals with disabilities who complete interviews (lasting 60-90 minutes) will receive a \$10 gift card for each interview they complete. Proxy versions of all measures are also being tested for people who are unable to respond to questions on their own. All individuals with disabilities (and their guardians/conservators when appropriate) will be guided through an informed consent process and can withdraw from the study at any time. Due to the current pandemic, all current activities associated the study (including consent and data collection) are online.

Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of the study timeline.



For More Information: Please contact: Matt Roberts at robe0290@umn.edu at the University of Minnesota's **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on HCBS Outcome Measurement**.