

# Olmstead Quality of Life Second Follow-Up Survey FAQs

## What is Minnesota's Olmstead Plan?

Minnesota is required to develop and implement an Olmstead Plan as a part of a court agreement. An Olmstead Plan is a way for government entities to document their plans to provide services to individuals with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual.

The goal of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan is to make Minnesota a place where people with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated setting.

## What is the Quality of Life Survey?

Minnesota's Olmstead Plan requires a periodic survey of people with disabilities to help measure the state's progress on the plan. The survey is used to measure changes over time in the lives of people with disabilities. The survey measures:

- How well people with disabilities are integrated into and engaged with their community;
- How much autonomy people with disabilities have in day-to-day decision-making; and
- Whether people with disabilities are working and living in the most integrated setting that they choose.

## Who is conducting the survey?

Multiple entities are involved in conducting the survey.

- The Improve Group, an independent research and evaluation consulting firm located in St. Paul, administers the survey.
- The Olmstead Implementation Office assures the "Promise of Olmstead" becomes a reality by making sure the state carries out the time-sensitive tasks of the plan and achieves the plan's vision and goals.
- The Olmstead Subcabinet is made of representatives of state agencies and implements Minnesota's broader Olmstead Plan.

## Who will be surveyed?

A sample of people with disabilities who receive services in certain day and residential settings in Minnesota were invited to participate in the 2017 baseline survey. During this follow-up survey The Improve Group will attempt to talk with the individuals who completed the survey in 2017. This year, they will also be inviting a new sample of people who receive services in the eligible day and residential settings and who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. This will ensure that the information in the survey is truly representative of the population of people with disabilities throughout the State.

## How many surveys will be conducted?

The Improve Group will conduct 550 surveys during the second follow-up. This includes 500 surveys with baseline participants and 50 surveys with people who receive services in the eligible day and residential settings and who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

## Where will surveys be conducted?

Because of COVID-19, the survey cannot be completed in person. The Improve Group will conduct the survey by phone or video call. The survey interviewer will work with participants, their caregivers, and providers to figure out the best plan for participation.

## How can I participate without putting myself at risk of COVID-19

The Improve Group will conduct all surveys by phone or video call in order to abide by social distancing recommendations.

## How long will the survey take?

The survey takes about 45 minutes to complete. This includes time for the person to get comfortable with the interviewer and the video calling technology before starting the survey.

## When will people be surveyed?

The Improve Group will conduct interviews from July through September 2020.

## How will the results be used?

The Olmstead Implementation Office will use this survey to learn about the lives of people with disabilities. Minnesota is making some changes and they hope that people's lives will get better. The survey will help the state know if people's lives are getting better or not.

## How did you get my name?

Minnesota keeps the names of people that live, work, or receive services in certain settings. The Improve Group is using that list to contact people to see if they want to participate. They won't give your name to anyone else and they won't contact you for any other reason.

## Where can I find the results from the previous surveys?

You can find the report for the 2017 baseline survey online here:

**<https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/olmstead/documents/pub/dhs-299299.pdf>**

You can find the report for the 2018 follow-up survey online here:

**<https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/olmstead/documents/pub/dhs-307971.pdf>**

## Where can I find more information?

You can find more information about the survey and contact information online here:

**<http://bit.ly/qolsurvey20>**