

**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

2 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1251

Kathy Hochul, Governor

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Greg Olsen, Director

***PROGRAM INSTRUCTION***

***Number Revised 22-PI-04***

***Expiration Date***

**DATE:** March 28, 2022

**TO:** Area Agency on Aging Directors

**SUBJECT:** Revised Comprehensive Assessment for Aging Network Community-Based Long Term Care Services (COMPASS) Assessment Tool

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**ACTION REQUESTED:** Review and implement the COMPASS tool for all Cluster I services at initiation of services and at minimum annually, thereafter. Cluster I services include Personal Care Levels I & II, Home Health Aide, Home Delivered Meals, Adult Day Care Services, Case Management, and Consumer Directed In-Home Services.

**RESPONSE DUE DATE:** None

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Program Instruction (PI) is to transmit revised COMPASS content which became available in the statewide client data system on 10/4/21.

**BACKGROUND:** Traditionally the COMPASS tool and the COMPASS instructions have been issued as part of the Reporting Program Instruction (14-PI-02). In 2018, NYSOFA implemented a new review process by which the COMPASS is continually being evaluated and updated. As a result, the COMPASS tool and COMPASS instructions will be issued as separate PIs independent of (14-PI-02). The COMPASS found in 14-PI-02 should no longer be used. This PI contains the most up to date COMPASS tool as it exists in the Statewide Client Data System.

Changes to the COMPASS are made with input from AAA staff, other State agencies and community partners. The COMPASS tool is key to gathering critical information on the individuals being served with a focus on client centered needs. Additionally, the

process of conducting ongoing evaluation and updates provides an opportunity to align the COMPASS with New York State's [Prevention Agenda](#), which is a key component of the Governor's efforts to further embed the [Health in All Policies approach](#) and AARP and the World Health Organization's [8 domains of livability](#) and healthy aging into all aspects of our work.

## **COMPASS Content Changes 2020: Psychosocial Status**

The Loneliness Scale (DeJong Gierveld Loneliness Scale) was added as a screening tool to be used by Case Managers to identify issues with emotional and social loneliness that may impact a person's ability to function in their daily life. The Loneliness Scale tool within the COMPASS became mandatory on August 1, 2020. This Scale offers a reliable metric for measuring social isolation in older adults and guides referrals when appropriate. It also facilitates conversation with older individuals to discuss feelings that they may not self identify as having health impacts. There are six screening questions provided on the Loneliness Scale, and all questions must be answered to be scored.

### **DeJong Gierveld Loneliness Scale**

In this 6-item scale, three statements are made about 'emotional loneliness' and three about 'social loneliness'. Social loneliness (SL) occurs when someone is missing a wider social network and emotional loneliness (EL) is caused when you miss an "intimate relationship".

1. I experience a general sense of emptiness [EL]  
Yes  
More or less  
No
2. I miss having people around me [EL]  
Yes  
More or less  
No
3. I often feel rejected [EL]  
Yes  
More or less  
No
4. There are plenty of people I can rely on when I have problems [SL]  
Yes  
More or less  
No
5. There are many people I can trust completely [SL]  
Yes  
More or less  
No

6. There are enough people I feel close to [SL]

- Yes
- More or less
- No

**To score responses and interpret the results:**

There are negatively (1-3) and positively (4-6) worded items. On the negatively worded items, the neutral and positive answers are scored as “1”. Therefore, on questions 1-3 score Yes=1, More or less=1, and No=0. On the positively worded items, the neutral and negative answers are scored as “1”. Therefore, on questions 4-6, score Yes=0, More or less=1, and No=1.

This gives a possible range of scores from 0 to 6, which can be read as follows:  
(Least lonely) **0** (Most lonely) **6**

*Source: J. De Jong Gierveld and T. Van Tilburg, Research on Aging 2006, 28, 582-598*

**COMPASS CONTENT CHANGES 2021:**

All 2021 content changes have been highlighted in the attached COMPASS tool for ease of reference.

**Client Information Section**

- 1. A. Person’s Name:
  - 1. Added Preferred Name.
  - 2. Added Gender Pronouns.
- 2. G. Gender Identity: (previous title, Sex)
  - 1. Original gender identity question was revised to the following:
    - 1. What is your current gender identity?
  - 2. More gender identity selections are available including:
    - 1. Gender-Non-Binary,
    - 2. I am not sure of my gender identity,
    - 3. I do not know what this question is asking, and
    - 4. Transgender, gender nonconforming.
- 3. H. Sex: (previous title, Transgender-Gender Identity or Expression)
  - 1. Original sex question was revised to the following:
    - 1. On your original birth certificate, was your sex assigned as Female or Male?
- 4. I. Gender: (previous title, Birth Date)
  - 1. This question is an Administration for Community on Living (ACL) requirement.
  - 2. This populates from the Client Profile.
- 5. K. Race: (previously J)
  - 1. Updated selections.
    - 1. Previous selections included White-Hispanic and White-Not Hispanic, now listed as White,

2. Omitted selections for other race and two or more races, and
  3. Made multiselect available to allow for more than one race to be identified.
6. L. Sexual Orientation: (previously K)
    1. Original sexual orientation question was revised to the following:
      1. Which of the following best represents how you think about yourself?
      2. Selections were updated to combine lesbian or gay as one selection and the terms heterosexual and homosexual were omitted.
  7. M. Creed: (previously L)
    1. The selections remained the same but were reordered for logical sequence.
  8. O. Primary Language: (previously N)
    1. Added four languages (Yiddish, Bengali, Arabic, and Polish).
    2. Reordered the selections to reflect highest to lowest prevalence in New York State.
  9. P. Communication: (new title, previously O)
    1. Capitalized "OR" in the following question for emphasis.
      1. Client does not speak English as their primary language and has ONLY a limited ability to read, speak, write OR understand English.
  10. V. Military Service:
    1. New question.
      1. Have you or a member of your family served in the US military?

### **Technology Section**

11. New section added immediately following Housing Status Section.
12. Includes four questions and a comments area:
  1. Do you have any computer experience?
  2. Do you have Internet connectivity?
  3. Do you have the following? Modern Computer (5 years old or less), iPad or Tablet, Microphone, Webcam, Smart Phone
  4. Do you have a person to help you use your device or the Internet as needed?
  5. Comments

### **Psycho-Social Status Section**

13. G. Thoughts of Self Harm:
  1. The original question was revised to the following:  
Client has thoughts that they would be better off dead or of hurting themselves in some way?

## **Training Resources and References**

### **Loneliness Scale:**

Network Training Call March 19, 2020 Topic: Loneliness Scale

Description: Presentation on use of the Loneliness Scale, facilitated by Becky Preve, Executive Director of the Association on Aging in NY and Carrie Frey, Director of Account Services with PeerPlace.

Link to recording: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/5382153804228538881>

### **Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI), Military, and Technology Content:**

Local Program Call September 27, 2021 Topic: 2021 COMPASS Content: Overall Updates

Description: Presentation to provide an overview of the revised COMPASS content which included Sexual Orientation Gender Identity (SOGI) recognition, Military Service inquiry and a Technology focus; provided by COMPASS Workgroup Co-Leads.

Link to recording: [LPO September Program Call-20210927 1400-1](#)

### **Military Service**

Local Program Call November 18, 2021 Topic: Veterans' Benefits

Description: Training provided by Ben Pomerance, Esq., Deputy Director for Program Development at the NYS Division of Veterans' Services regarding statewide veterans' services and how to engage veterans' and their family members with use of the newly added question on Military Status in the COMPASS to assist with access to all needed services and supports.

Link to recording: [LPO November Program Call-20211118 1501-1](#)

## **SOGI**

Network Training Call January 19, 2022 Topic: SOGI Focus

Description: Training provided by Meredith Nicolson, ACRIA Centers at GMHC, regarding how best to support the unique needs of LGBTQ+ older adults.

Link to SOGI recording: <https://youtu.be/GDe8AUa3cwc>

## **ATTACHMENT:**

2021 Blank COMPASS Assessment Tool

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED:**

- Title III-B
- Title III-C-1
- Title III-C-2
- Title III-D
- Title III-E
- CSE
- WIN
- Energy
- EISEP
- NSIP
- Title V
- HIICAP
- LTCOP
- NY Connects
- Unmet Needs
- Other:

**CONTACT PERSON:**

AAAs' designated Aging Services Representatives (ASRs)