

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths

CANS Assessments

- All children age 0–20 must have a CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) assessment upon entering foster care.
- ODHS must refer children for their initial CANS screenings within 21 days of entering foster care, and those screenings must occur within 60 days of entering foster care.
- ODHS must ensure that children receive the treatment and services recommended by their CANS assessment.
- ODHS must refer children for subsequent CANS screenings 10 months after their first one, and then annually thereafter, as well as any time that a child returns to a certified foster placement after a BRS (Behavioral Rehabilitation Services) placement of 6+ months, or when there are ongoing, observed and documented changes in the child's behavior or functioning.
- CANS scores range from 0–3, and can be appealed within 90 days of the assessment.
- CANS evaluators are trained and certified through ODHS. Results are submitted to Central Office for review, approval and determination of the "effective date."
- ODHS must create a Supervision Plan within 30 days for every child with a CANS score above 0. These plans must be reviewed every 60 days during face-to-face contact in the child's placement.

CANS Scores

- CANS assessments cover 7 domains of child needs, history and functioning. Each domain receives a score of 0–3.
- Generally, a score of 0 in a domain indicates there is no issue or concern. A score of 1 means there is a mild level or history of behavior. Scores of 2 or 3 indicate action items.

Domains:

| Six needs | One strength |
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| Risk factors: Present safety needs | Strengths: Useful strengths are rated 0-1 Strengths to build on are rated 2-3. |
| Traumatic experiences: All traumatic experiences the child or young adult has gone through | |
| Adjustment to trauma: Present symptoms the child exhibits from trauma they have experienced | |
| Life domain functioning: Daily functioning needs | |
| Acculturation: Cultural, identity and language concerns | |
| Emotional and behavioral needs: Mental health needs | |

- The child's overall score is computed through an algorithm. Not all CANS domains factor into the algorithm. The score is primarily based on items related to safety, behavioral, and mental health issues. A child may have exposure to trauma, problems with social/educational functioning, defiance, and/or service needs, but the focus is on behaviors that pose a risk of harm to the child or others. Therefore, a child may have some scores of 2 or 3 in various domains, but may not be eligible for a higher CANS level.
- Children with a CANS score of 0 require supervision typical for other children their age. Children with elevated scores require a higher level of supervision:
 - Level 1 (moderate needs) = Additional support, direction, observation and guidance
 - Level 2 (intermediate needs) = Structured environment, additional support, direction, observation and guidance.
 - Level 3 (high needs) = Highly structured environment, additional support, direction, observation and guidance.

Uses of CANS Scores

- CANS scores are used to determine each child's supervision needs. The information contained in CANS assessments is used for case planning activities such as placement matching, reunification planning, and identifying the service and intervention needs of the child.
 - Action items (domains scored 2 or 3) can be used to identify services the child needs. ODHS must also provide the treatment and services recommended by the CANS assessment.
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- The enhanced rates paid to resource parents of children with elevated CANS scores are intended to assist the resource parents with providing the higher level of supervision and structure needed.
 - The base rate paid to resource parents is \$693 per month for children ages 1-5, \$733 per month for children ages 6-12, and \$795 per month for children ages 13+. For a child with a CANS score of 1, add \$240 per month. For a CANS score of 2, add \$468 per month. And for a CANS score of 3, which requires essentially 24/7 line-of-sight supervision, add \$960 per month.
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- Note that if a child has high medical or health needs, funding to assist with those needs would be provided through a Personal Care Services level (1-4) depending on the child's needs. Personal Care Services rates are not related to the CANS score.