

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths

CANS Assessments

- All children age 0-20 must have a CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) assessment within 60 days of entering foster care.
- ODHS must ensure that children receive the treatment and services recommended by their CANS assessment.
- Level of Care (LOC) scores are based upon the CANS assessment and range from 0-3. This LOC determination can be appealed within 30 days of receiving notice of the assessment.
- Children are to receive updated CANS assessments annually (if their LOC was above 0), as well as any time that a child returns to a certified foster placement after a BRS (Behavioral Rehabilitation Services), or when there are ongoing, observed and documented changes in the child's behavior or functioning. Resource parents and caseworkers can request a re-assessment any time.
- ODHS must create a Supervision Plan within 30 days of approval of the CANS for every child with a LOC above 0, or when any individual category on the CANS assessment has a rating above 1. These plans must be reviewed every 60 days during face-to-face contact in the child's placement, any time the placement changes, and any time the supervision plan changes.

LOC Scores

- CANS assessments cover 7 domains of child needs, history and functioning. Each domain receives a rating of 0–3.
- Generally, a rating of 0 in a domain indicates there is no issue or concern. A rating of 1 means there is a mild level or history of behavior. Ratings 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 LOC is computed through an algorithm. Not all CANS domains factor into the algorithm. The LOC 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 LOC.
- Children with a LOC of 0 require supervision typical for other children their age. Children with elevated LOCs 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

What are LOCs Used For?

- LOCs 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 rated 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 LOCs are intended to assist the resource parents with providing the higher level of supervision and structure needed.
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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 or LOC.