# RATING NEEDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RATING</th>
<th>LEVEL OF NEED</th>
<th>APPROPRIATE ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No evidence of need.</td>
<td>No action needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Significant history or possible need that is not interfering with functioning.</td>
<td>Watchful waiting/prevention/additional assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Need interferes with functioning.</td>
<td>Action/intervention required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Need is dangerous or disabling.</td>
<td>Immediate action/Intensive action required.</td>
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http://yes.idaho.gov
KEY PRINCIPLES
Each item uses a 4-level rating system that translates into ACTION.

Rating should describe the youth, not the youth in services.

Consider the youth’s culture and development prior to establishing the action levels.

CANS is about the “what” not the “why”.

GUIDANCE
REMEMBER: Different action levels exist for needs and strengths.

REMEMBER: If an intervention is present that is masking a need but must stay in place, this should be factored into the rating consideration and would result in a rating of an “actionable need” (i.e. “2” or “3”).

REMEMBER: Cultural sensitivity involves considering whether cultural factors are influencing the express of needs and strengths. Ratings should be completed considering the youth’s developmental and/or chronological age, depending on the item. Alternatively, school achievement should be considered within the framework of expectatons based on the child/youth’s developmental age.

REMEMBER: CANS is a descriptive tool, and is not intended to identify cause-effect relationships.

RATING NEEDS: Guidance

Basic core items — grouped by domain — are rated for all individuals. A rating of 1, 2 or 3 on key core questions triggers extension modules.

Each CANS rating suggests different pathways for service planning. There are four levels of rating for each item with specific anchored definitions.

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RATING 0

No action needed.

RATING 1

ACTION

Watchful waiting or “wait and see”.

Prevention.

More assessment needed.
level of need

0

What to look for:
No evidence of need in this area.

level of need

1

What to look for:
There is significant history of a need in this area.
There is a possible need that is not interfering with functioning.
RATING

2

ACTION

- Action is required.
- Intervention is required.

RATING

3

ACTION

- IMMEDIATE or INTENSIVE intervention is required.
LEVEL of NEED

2

What to look for:

Any need that is interfering with a youth’s functioning.

LEVEL of NEED

3

What to look for:

A need that is DANGEROUS.

A need that is DISABLING.
ABOUT YES

The State of Idaho offers a new system of care for children with serious mental health concerns and their families. The Youth Empowerment Services (YES) system of care is designed to help children with serious emotional disturbance (SED).

Youth Empowerment Services gives families, healthcare providers, and counselors new tools to identify children with mental health needs. One of the tools YES uses is called the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS).

YES also improves access to the resources families need to improve their child's mental health.

ABOUT CANS

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is a multi-purpose tool used in children's mental health services to support care planning and level of care decision-making. It is also used to facilitate quality improvement initiatives and allows for the monitoring of service outcomes. It was designed to help link the assessment process and the design of individual service plans.

ABOUT THIS REFERENCE GUIDE

These flash cards are designed for providers to use when facilitating a CANS to act as prompts and visual aids for the ratings and actions indicated for each rating level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ABOUT YES  http://yes.idaho.gov
ICANS/CANS  http://icans.dhw.idaho.gov
OPTUM IDAHO  https://optumidaho.com