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# About YES:

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SERVICES

Updated: January 2019

### **What is Youth Empowerment Services (YES)?**

The state of Idaho offers a new system of care for children with serious mental health needs and their families. It's called Youth Empowerment Services, or YES. YES gives families, healthcare providers, educators and counselors new tools to identify children with mental health needs. YES also improves access to the resources families need to improve their child's mental health.

This new system of care is designed to look at the strengths and needs of the child/youth and their caregivers. This means the child/youth and their family drive the decisions of the treatment planning team. The plan is designed to meet the child's and family's needs, with appropriate services and supports located in the child's community.

### **What is Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)?**

A person with serious emotional disturbance, or SED, has a mental, behavioral or emotional issue that limits their ability to participate in family, school or community activities.

Qualifying Diagnosable Mental Illness + substantial functional impairment = SED

A new tool, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) will be used in Idaho to measure functional impairment and to help guide treatment planning and measure effectiveness.

### **What Changes Are Now in Effect with YES?**

- The Medicaid Independent Assessor (Liberty Healthcare) is available to assess children who may have a serious emotional disturbance (SED). This assessment is required for:
  - Families with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) who are not currently eligible for Medicaid but want to apply for Medicaid coverage for their child who potentially has SED; or
  - Families who are currently on Medicaid that wish to access Medicaid-covered respite services for their child with SED. Medicaid will for respite services that are identified on a person-centered plan as one of the service needs of the child. Person-centered service planning is a process directed by the individual and family to identify the strengths, capacities, preferences, needs and desired outcomes of the individual to create a treatment plan. Note: Person-centered service planning is only available to Medicaid members.
- Contracts for providers serving Medicaid and Division of Behavioral Health have been updated to include requirements for using and demonstrating use of the YES Principles of Care and Practice Model.

## What New Services and Supports are now in effective (added in 2018)?

- New Medicaid Reimbursable Services:
  - Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)
  - Child & Family Team (CFT) Interdisciplinary team meeting
  - Case Consultation
  - Crisis Intervention
  - Psycho-education
- Services Updated to comply with the Principles of Care and Practice Model:
  - Skills Building/Community Based Rehabilitation Services (CBRS)
  - Respite Care
  - Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment (CDA)
  - Psychotherapy
  - Treatment Planning
  - Medication Management
  - Psych/Neuro Testing.

## What's coming next?

Additional services and supports are scheduled to be available beginning June 30, 2019. See the YES Services and Supports webpage or [Optum Idaho's website](#) for details.

## What YES Resources and Tools are Available?

### The YES website

[YES.idaho.gov](http://YES.idaho.gov) is a website designed to help parents, youth, providers and other stakeholders understand the new system of care. In the About YES section, you will find **brochures, mental health checklists for families and youth, reports, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents, and more. Training opportunities** and the dates of new and enhanced services will be posted on this site as they are available. Subscribe on the YES website to a monthly update on YES to get the latest news and announcements in your inbox. Visit About YES, YES Opt-In Newsletter page to sign up.

## Who is developing the YES system of care?

YES is being developed by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in collaboration with the Idaho State Department of Education, the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, and community members.

## Contacting YES

Information on who to contact for youth mental health assessment, Medicaid, services and supports, and other YES related questions is on the Contact page of the YES website, [YES.idaho.gov](http://YES.idaho.gov) website.



Visit the YES website for more information:  
[www.yes.idaho.gov](http://www.yes.idaho.gov)



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH & WELFARE

*Empowering the mental wellness of children, youth and their families.*