

**Youth Empowerment Services (YES)** is the children’s mental health system of care in Idaho that helps families access services and supports for their children with serious emotional disturbance (SED).

**Serious emotional disturbance (SED)** is the term used when a youth under the age of 18 has the combination of a mental health diagnosis and a functional impairment, as determined by the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. A functional impairment impacts a child’s ability to participate socially, academically, and emotionally at home, at school, or in the community.

**The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool** is used in Idaho to identify a child’s strengths and needs (including any functional impairment). It is also used during treatment planning and service delivery.



## If your child does not qualify for Medicaid

Contact your local Children’s Mental Health Office for help accessing mental health services in your area. Visit the Contact page on [yes.idaho.gov](http://yes.idaho.gov) for more information.



## Medicaid FAQs

October 2020

[yes.idaho.gov](http://yes.idaho.gov)



## Accessing the YES System of Care Through Medicaid

### If your child already has Medicaid

Youth with Medicaid already have access to all mental health services and supports except for Medicaid covered respite.

Contact the **Idaho Behavioral Health Plan Managed Care Provider** to find a mental health provider in your area to schedule an assessment.

Ask for a mental health evaluation to be completed using the CANS tool.

### Idaho Behavioral Health Plan Managed Care Provider

Optum Idaho  
855-202-0973  
optumidaho.com

### If your child does not have Medicaid or you want Medicaid covered respite

Youth with SED may be eligible for Medicaid after meeting with an **Independent Assessor**.

The Independent Assessor helps identify youth who have SED. Not every youth needs to meet with the independent assessor, but it may be useful in the following situations:

- Your child does not have Medicaid. Youth who are determined to have SED are eligible for Medicaid at a higher income level, up to 300% of the federal poverty guideline (FPG).
- Your child already has Medicaid, but you would like to access Medicaid covered respite services for them.

### Independent Assessor

Liberty Healthcare  
877-305-3469  
idahoias.com

**Please note:** If a youth is eligible for Medicaid coverage after visiting the Independent Assessor, annual independent assessments and eligibility redeterminations are required to maintain eligibility. In addition to annual reviews, youth who visit the Independent Assessor complete a person-centered service plan as part of their coordinated care planning process with their Child and Family Team (CFT).