



Empowering the mental wellness of children, youth and their families

**LEARN MORE**

Online: [YES.idaho.gov](http://YES.idaho.gov)

E-mail: [YES@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:YES@dhw.idaho.gov)

## **Youth Empowerment Services Talking Points**

### **Youth Empowerment Services (YES)**

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) is a new system of care that is being developed for Idaho children and youth with serious emotional disturbance (SED). This new system of care will be rolled out in phases between 2018 and 2020. It will provide a new way for families to find needed mental health care for their children that is strengths-based and family-centered. Planning and treatment will incorporate a team approach that focuses on providing individualized care for each youth.

### **Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)**

A person with serious emotional disturbance, or SED, is defined as having a qualifying diagnosable mental illness and a substantial functional impairment. 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.

### **The YES System of Care**

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. This change to the children's mental health system in Idaho is outlined in the settlement agreement of the Jeff D. class action lawsuit that was mediated and settled in 2015. Parties to the lawsuit are the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections and the Idaho State Department of Education. Under the Settlement Agreement, any child in Idaho under the age of 18 who is determined to have SED is considered to be a Class Member to the lawsuit and may choose to receive services through the YES system of care.

### **Changes effective January 1, 2018:**

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 pay for respite services that are identified on a person-centered plan as one of the service needs of the child. Person-centered 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.



Empowering the mental wellness of children, youth and their families

## LEARN MORE

Online: [YES.idaho.gov](http://YES.idaho.gov)

E-mail: [YES@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:YES@dhw.idaho.gov)

### What's coming next?

New and enhanced services are scheduled to begin rolling out on July 1, 2018 as part of the YES program. Families and child-serving providers will have a checklist to help identify children in Idaho who may have undiagnosed SED and assist them in getting the help they need.

### 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. Resources and informational materials on the website include, brochures, 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.

### 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

For more information about YES, how to qualify, how to reach regional children's mental health offices or a mental health provider, please visit the [YES.idaho.gov](http://YES.idaho.gov) website or refer to the YES Contacts list.

	<p>Visit the YES website for more information:</p>	
	<p><a href="http://www.yes.idaho.gov">www.yes.idaho.gov</a></p>	<p>IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; WELFARE</p>
<p><i>Empowering the mental wellness of children, youth and their families.</i></p>		