

Child & Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS) and Rate Setting F.A.Q.

Note: For financial workers, reviewing the Pre-Payment report will be crucial to verify that a Foster Care Rate page has been completed after a CANS has been completed.

Q: When does the new service need to be used?

A: A new rate cannot be created for a foster home without using one of the new service types. Therefore, all Out of Home Placements (OHPs) for Foster Homes and Treatment Foster Homes will need to be closed and newly created in order to document a Foster Care Rate that exceeds the Basic rate. This can be done all at once, or over time.

- For smaller counties, it may be a good idea to create the new Out of Home Placements all at once (all children that are placed in foster homes or treatment foster homes). The best way to do this to avoid any issues with payments would be to end the existing OHP as of the last day of the previous month (February 28th, 2011) and create the new OHP with the new service types as of the first of the existing month (March 1st, 2011).
- For larger counties, it is not recommended to create the OHPs all at once, due to workload/volume concerns. It would be better to phase these in as the rate settings come due. The best way to do this to avoid any issues with payments would be to end the existing OHP as of the last day of the previous month and create the new OHP with the new service types as of the first of the existing month.
- It is important to first document the OHP, then the CANS, and then the rate setting.

Q: Does a CANS need to be done on receiving homes?

A: A CANS does not need to be done on receiving home placements so that the associated rate setting can be done. If the placement is less than 30 days, then the provider can be paid via a one-time payment if the payment is to be greater than the basic payment. To avoid cancelling the system-generated payment, it is recommended that the one-time payment be for the additional monies only. Furthermore, these monies should be represented as 'Exceptional' costs.

Q: What is the difference between the Notes on each tab and the notes on the Actionable Items tab?

A: The Notes expandos for each CANS question is to be used to document any supporting information, however this is not required at this time. The narratives documented under the Notes expandos do not copy over to the Actionable Items tab. The Actionable Items tab is not required at this time. However, agencies must address issues raised in case planning, either through the Permanency Plan or case plan. The CANS was built in eWiSACWIS with future planning in mind and to be used as a tool for agencies when planning with the results. Workers are encouraged to document actionable items for good case planning.

Q: Can more than one worker work on the same CANS?

A: Yes, more than worker can work on the same CANS. However, two workers cannot work on the same CANS at the same time (workers will lose information if both are trying to save).

Q: What does the CANS do?

A: The CANS does a number of things:

- Determines the child’s assessed level of need (LON). It also compares the child’s LON with the provider’s level of care/certification (LOC). After the child’s assessed level of need is determined, you can identify the associated level of care the child needs and the type of placement that is most appropriate. The placement complexity chart identifies the child’s level of need and the appropriate placement types. See the placement complexity chart below.
- Provides a mental health screen and determines whether or not there are immediate needs and if the child needs to be seen by a mental health professional.
- Determines the supplemental portion of the foster care rate, and therefore replaces the former Foster Care Rate Setting page.

Placement Complexity Chart

		Placement Options		
Child’s Level of Need	Provider’s Level of Care	Foster Home	Group Home	Residential Care Center
1/2	1	Child-Specific		
	2	Basic		
3	3	Moderate Treatment	Group Home	
4	4	Specialized Treatment		
5	5	Exceptional Treatment		Residential Care Center
6	6			

	Step-down level to be used for transition planning to a less restrictive placement setting.
	Placement of children at this level is not appropriate.

Note: A child in foster care can be served by a foster home with a certification lower than the child’s level of need if an exception has been granted and documented in the child’s electronic case record by the placing agency and the agency shows what services and supports will be provided to meet the child’s needs.

Q: Can I make a CANS as made in error?

A: Yes, an approved CANS can be made in error. Any associated rate settings will also be made in error. A CANS can be made in error if the associated Out of Home Placement is made in error. Additionally, a CANS can be made in error via the approved CANS page.

Q: Can I copy a CANS?

A: Yes, you can copy only the most recent CANS. If a CANS is made in error, that CANS can also be copied, only if there are no other approved CANS. If the most recent CANS is made in error and previous CANS exist, you will not be able to copy the Made in Error CANS.

Q: I copied over a CANS but why are some of my questions not copying over?

A: If the child ages up from age 4 to 5, a new series of questions are asked (some of them are the same). Therefore, some new questions need to be answered.

Q: My child turned 5, where did my associated CANS go?

A: Since there is a different series of questions that are asked for children/youth birth to 5 than those 5 to 17, a new CANS must be completed when a child turns 5. When the new CANS is created for a 5 year old, any of the like items on the birth to 5 version and the 5 to 17 version will copy over.

Q: My child went Missing from Out of Home Care [or is on a Trial Reunification]. When I select 'Yes' to the question, "Did the child return the child to the provider he/she most recently went missing from?" I receive a message, "The provider does not have an active license and/or is missing the necessary active service." Why am I receiving this message?

A: The Out of Home Placement prior to the Missing from Out of Home Care [or Trial Reunification] was most likely set up using the old service types. In order for the CANS and rate setting to properly work, the Out of Home Placement into a foster home following the Missing from Out of Home Care [or Trial Reunification] placement will need to be created using the new service types. You may need to follow up with your foster care coordinator to verify the service types are active for the foster home.

Q: Do I have to have an approved CANS completed in order to do the Foster Care Rate?

A: Yes, a CANS must be complete in order to do the Foster Care Rate page. The Foster Care Rate cannot be prior to the Effective Date of the CANS or Out of Home Placement.

Q: Who gets the CANS tickler?

A: When an Out of Home Placement is documented, the primary case worker will receive the 30 day CANS tickler. When a CANS is approved, the primary case worker will receive the 6 months CANS tickler.

Q: Where do I find additional information about the CANS?

A: See the associated webcast (with policy and eWiSACWIS information) and additional levels of care information on the web: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/levels_of_care/.