

**Decision Support Model based on the
Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)**

CHILD/YOUTH ASSESSED LEVEL OF NEED

The algorithm for a child’s assessed Level of Need (LON) shall be used to inform decisions, supports, and services for children in out-of-home care. The algorithms for each LON are described here. The LON correlates with placement settings that should be able to provide for the child’s assessed LON. The Placement Complexity chart shows how the LON of a child is used to make placements in foster home, group home, and residential care center settings.

A description of the items rated to determine each LON are contained next. For each LON that contains groups of items together to make a LON determination, there are tables describing the necessary groupings of items to establish the LON determination. When a table contains multiple columns, that section of the determination is made when a child meets the criteria for one of the columns. There may be multiple criteria and this is delineated by the word “AND” between tables. For users with access to the eWiSACWIS database, the system will perform the calculations for you to arrive at the LON of the child.

Level of Need 1

Child-Specific. Foster Care with a child specific relation option.

All children are assumed appropriate for regular foster care with a child specific relation, if they do not meet decision criteria for any other level of care and have an identified caregiver(s) who has a specific prior relationship with the child.

Level of Need 2

All children are assumed appropriate for regular foster care without a child specific relation, if they do not meet decision criteria for any other level of care but do not have an identified caregiver(s) who has a specific prior relationship with the child.

Level of Need 3

A rating of at least one '2' or '3' on one of the following:

Psychosis
Impulsive/Hyperactive
Depression
Anxiety
Oppositional
Conduct
Anger Control
Attachment Difficulties
Adjustment to Trauma
Substance Use
Affect Dysregulation
Behavioral Regression
Somatization

AND

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:

Rating of '3' on at least one of the following:	Rating of '3' on at least one of the following:	Rating of '2' or '3' on at least one of the following:
Communication	Delinquent Behavior	Suicide Risk
Regulatory Problems	Intentional Misbehavior	Self-Injurious Behavior
Substance Exposure	Sexual Development	Other Self Harm
Developmental		Danger to Others
Self-Care/Daily Living		Runaway
		Sexual Aggression
		Fire Setting
		Delinquent Behavior
		Intentional Misbehavior
		Bullying

Level of Need 4

Rating of at least one '2' or '3' on one of the following:
Psychosis
Impulsive/Hyperactive
Depression
Anxiety
Oppositional
Conduct
Anger Control
Attachment Difficulties
Adjustment to Trauma
Substance Use
Affect Dysregulation
Behavioral Regression
Somatization

AND

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:		
Rating of '3' on at least one of the following:	Rating of '3' on at least one of the following:	Rating of '2' or '3' on at least one of the following:
Communication	Delinquent Behavior	Suicide Risk
Regulatory Problems	Intentional Misbehavior	Self-Injurious Behavior
Substance Exposure	Sexual Development	Other Self Harm
Developmental		Danger to Others
Self-Care/Daily Living		Runaway
		Sexual Aggression
		Fire Setting
		Delinquent Behavior
		Intentional Misbehavior
		Bullying

AND

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:			
Rating of '1', '2', or '3':	Rating of '1', '2', or '3':	One of the following Risk Behaviors is rated a '3':	This condition exists ('1', '2', or '3'):
Sexual Aggression	Fire Setting	Suicide Risk	Pregnant/Parenting
		Self-Injurious Behavior	
		Exploited	
		Other Self Harm	

OR

Level of Need 4

Rating of at least one '2' or '3' on one of the following:

Medical

Physical

Level of Need 5: Foster Home Placement

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:	
Rating of at least two or more '3' among the following needs:	A rating of three or more '2' among the following needs:
Psychosis	Psychosis
Impulsive/Hyperactive	Impulsive/Hyperactive
Depression	Depression
Anxiety	Anxiety
Oppositional Conduct	Oppositional Conduct
Attachment Difficulties	Attachment Difficulties
Adjustment to Trauma	Adjustment to Trauma
Substance use	Substance use
Anger Control	Anger Control
Affect Dysregulation	Affect Dysregulation
Behavioral Regression	Behavioral Regression
Somatization	Somatization
Developmental	Developmental
Physical	Physical
Daily Functioning	Daily Functioning

AND

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:	
Rating of at least two or more '3' among the following needs:	A rating of three or more '2' among the following needs:
Suicide Risk	Suicide Risk
Self-Injurious Behavior	Self-Injurious Behavior
Other Self Harm	Other Self Harm
Danger to Others	Danger to Others
	Runaway
	Intentional Misbehavior

AND

Rating of '0' or '1' on every one of the following Risk Behaviors:
Sexual Aggression
Fire Setting
Delinquent Behavior
Bullying

OR

Level of Need 5: Foster Home Placement

Rating of '2' or '3' on Medical and at least one rating of '2' or '3' on any of the following Health Module items:

Intensity of Treatment

Organizational Complexity

Level of Need 5: Residential Care Center (RCC) Placement

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:	
Rating of at least two or more '3' among the following needs:	A rating of three or more '2' among the following needs:
Psychosis	Psychosis
Impulsive/Hyperactive	Impulsive/Hyperactive
Depression	Depression
Anxiety	Anxiety
Oppositional	Oppositional
Conduct	Conduct
Attachment Difficulties	Attachment Difficulties
Adjustment to Trauma	Adjustment to Trauma
Substance use	Substance use
Anger Control	Anger Control
Affect Dysregulation	Affect Dysregulation
Behavioral Regression	Behavioral Regression
Somatization	Somatization
Developmental	Developmental
Physical	Physical
Daily Functioning	Daily Functioning

AND

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:	
Rating of at least two or more '3' among the following needs:	A rating of three or more '2' among the following needs:
Suicide Risk	Suicide Risk
Self-Injurious Behavior	Self-Injurious Behavior
Other Self Harm	Other Self Harm
Danger to Others	Runaway
Sexual Aggression	Sexual Aggression
Delinquent Behavior	Fire Setting
Fire Setting	Intentional Misbehavior
Bullying	Bullying

Level of Need 6

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:

Rating of at least two or more '3' among the following needs:	A rating of three or more '2' among the following needs:
Psychosis	Psychosis
Impulsive/Hyperactive	Impulsive/Hyperactive
Depression	Depression
Anxiety	Anxiety
Oppositional	Oppositional
Conduct	Conduct
Attachment Difficulties	Attachment Difficulties
Adjustment to Trauma	Adjustment to Trauma
Substance use	Substance use
Anger Control	Anger Control
Affect Dysregulation	Affect Dysregulation
Behavioral Regression	Behavioral Regression
Somatization	Somatization
Developmental	Developmental
Physical	Physical
Daily Functioning	Daily Functioning

AND

At least one of the following criteria (columns) are met:

Rating of '2' or '3' on Medical and at least one rating of '2' or '3' on any of the following Health Module items:	Rating of at least two '3' among the following needs:	Rating of three or more '2' among the following needs:
Intensity of Treatment	Suicide Risk	Suicide Risk
Organizational Complexity	Self-Injurious Behavior	Self-Injurious Behavior
	Other Self Harm	Other Self Harm
	Danger to Others	Runaway
	Sexual Aggression	Sexual Aggression
	Delinquent Behavior	Fire Setting
	Fire Setting	Intentional Misbehavior
	Bullying	Bullying