

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 has been completed after a CANS has been completed.

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.

Placement Complexity Chart

		Placement Options		
Child’s Level of Need (LON)	Provider’s Level Of Certification (LOC) (or its equivalent)	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 out-of-home care can be served by a placement with a certification level (or its equivalent) 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: 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 pre-CANS Foster Care Rate if the payment is to be greater than the basic payment.

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 through the Case/Permanency Plan. The CANS is used as a tool for agencies when planning with the results.

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: 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. 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: 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. The Foster Care Rate cannot be prior to the Effective Date of the CANS or Out of Home Placement.

Note: For emergency placements/receiving home placements, a CANS is not required to document the Foster Care Rate.

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. Once 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: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cans>.