

## **CANS Desk Guide**

The purpose of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the needs of each child placed in out-of-home care. Wisconsin has chosen a comprehensive version of the CANS that provides an opportunity to assess a child's strengths and needs across several life domains. In addition to looking at the child, the Wisconsin version of the CANS assesses the child in relation to the Current Caregiver and the Identified Permanent Resource(s). The information is used to inform placement decisions, to identify services that may need to be put into place, or to identify specific items that may need to be planned around.

### Six Key Principles of the CANS

The CANS is based on six key principles that guide its use and implementation:

- 1. Items were selected because they are all relevant to service and treatment planning.
- 2. Each item uses a four-level rating system. These levels are designed to *translate immediately into action levels*.
- 3. The ratings should describe the child, not the child in services. If an intervention has been put into place that masks the need but must stay in place to ensure that level of functioning, this is factored into the rating and would be considered an actionable need.
- 4. Culture and development must be considered prior to establishing the action levels. Cultural sensitivity includes considering whether *cultural factors* are *influencing the expression* of needs and strengths.
- 5. The CANS is a descriptive tool: it is about the 'what,' not about the 'why.'
- 6. A 30-day window is used for ratings to ensure that the assessment is relevant to the child or youth's present circumstances. This 30-day window is arbitrary and can be overridden if it is the best interest of the child to include information that occurred prior to the 30-day window.

### What is the CANS Used For?

The algorithms and information gathered in the CANS are to be used:

- 1. To communicate information about the needs and strengths of the child and child's family.
- 2. To assist with determining the child's service needs and developing the child's case plan.
- 3. To determine a level of need for the child.
- 4. To inform decisions regarding a placement at a level of care that is appropriate to meet the child's level of need.
- 5. To evaluate the match between the knowledge, skills, and abilities of an out-of-home care provider and the needs and strengths of the child.
- 6. To assist in the development of services and supports needed for a specific child and out-of-home care provider to promote the stability of the placement.
- 7. To provide a mental health screen to all children entering out-of-home care.
- 8. When a child is in foster care, to determine any supplemental payments under s. DCF 56.23 (2) Admin. Code.

#### **Timeframes**

Placement	Initial CANS	Re-determination
Setting		
Unlicensed	Within 30 days of placement	Every six months*
Provider		
Foster Home	Within 30 days of placement	Every six months*
<b>Group Home</b>	Prior to placement unless an emergency placement – then within 30 days of placement	Every six months*
RCC	Prior to placement unless an emergency placement – then within 30 days of placement	Every six months*

<sup>\*</sup>The out-of-home care provider, licensing agency, or tribe may request a redetermination at any time.

The individual completing the CANS must gather pertinent information from the child's family team and must share the results with the child's family team; tribe, if applicable; and the foster care licensing agency.

### **Current Caregiver and Identified Permanent Resource**

The current caregiver is whomever the child is living with at the time the CANS is completed, whether that be parents, foster parents, relatives, group home or Residential Care Center setting.

The Identified Permanent Resource is defined as the person identified in the Permanency Plan as the child's permanent resource. In the CANS, there is the ability to identify concurrent and considered Permanent Resources, although there cannot be a concurrent Identified Permanent Resource without a primary Identified Permanent Resource.

## **Algorithm Calculations**

The two tables on the pages that follow illustrate the items that are included in the calculations for the algorithms for the Supplemental portion of the foster care rate, as well as Adoption Assistance and Subsidized Guardianship payment.

### **Algorithms**

The CANS provides results based on three algorithms. Not every item rated is used for each algorithm. The results for each algorithm will be calculated by eWiSACWIS and the results will be shown either on the CANS Results tab or the Foster Care Rate page.

**Level of Need (LON):** The recommended placement level for the child based on their identified needs and strengths. The LON does not prescribe a placement for a child but makes recommendations (please see the Placement Complexity Chart).

**Mental Health Screen:** States whether or not the child needs to be seen by a mental health professional. <a href="http://wcwpds.wisc.edu/cans/resources/MHS\_ALGORITHM\_11-22-10.pdf">http://wcwpds.wisc.edu/cans/resources/MHS\_ALGORITHM\_11-22-10.pdf</a>

**Supplemental Rate:** Calculates the supplemental portion of the foster care rate based on ratings of '2' or '3' on specific items. The supplemental portion of the foster care rate is calculated by adding up the items rated a '2' or '3' and multiplying them by the supplemental rate multiplier.

				<b>U-5</b>	Version				
Supplemental Portion of Fost	er Ca	are Ra	ite		Adoption Assistance/Subsidized Guard	dians	hip F	ayme	ents
TRAUMA	0	1	2	3	CHILD RISK FACTORS	0	1	2	3
Sexual Abuse					Birth Weight				<u> </u>
Physical Abuse					Pica			_	-
Neglect					Prenatal Care				
Emotional Abuse					Length of Gestation				
Medical Trauma					Labor and Delivery				-
Natural Disaster					Substance Exposure				
Witness to Family Violence					Parent/Sibling Problem		-		
Witness to Community Violence					Maternal Availability				
Witness / Victim to Criminal Activity									
Adjustment to Trauma	0	1	2	3	CHILD RISK BEHAVIORS	0	1	2	3
Affect Regulation			Ī		Self-Harm	Ť	1		
Re-Experiencing the Trauma					Aggressive Behavior	H	旹		╫
Avoidance					Social Behavior	H	╁岩		
Increased Arousal				Ħ	Social Bellaviol	ш	<b>Н</b>		
				1	CHILD / YOUTH AND FAMILY				
Numbing Responsiveness			_	Ι-	CULTURAL FACTORS	0	1	2	3
					Language	П			
LIFE FUNCTIONING	0	1	2	3	Identity	H	╁Ħ		
Family - Nuclear		Ė			Ritual	H	╁Ħ	╅	╁┾
Family – Extended					Cultural Stress	H		븀	H
Living Situation					Knowledge Congruence	H	ᅡH	+H	H
Developmental				Ħ	Help-Seeking Congruence	H	╁岩	╁岩	H
'			=	-	Expression of Distress	H		+H	H
a. Cognitive				-	Expression of Distress	Ш		Ш	
h Austiana Chaastuuna									
b. Autism Spectrum			-		CHILD / VOLITH CTDENCTHS	^	1	2	2
c. Communication			Ē	Ē	CHILD / YOUTH STRENGTHS	0	1	2	3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living					Relationship Permanence	0	1	2	3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living Medical					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear	0		2	3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living Medical a. Life Threat					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended			2	3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal				3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability				3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence				3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity				3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence				
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency				
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE				3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care				
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance				
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility				
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior				
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement	<b>0</b>			
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers	<b>0</b>			
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating					Relationship Permanence Family – Nuclear Family – Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement	<b>0</b>			
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical  a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers	<b>0</b>			3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination c. Sensory Reactivity					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers  CHILD BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL NEEDS	0 0 0			
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination c. Sensory Reactivity d. Emotional Control					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers  CHILD BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL NEEDS Attachment	0 0 0			3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination c. Sensory Reactivity d. Emotional Control  Communication					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers  CHILD BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL NEEDS Attachment Failure to Thrive				3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination c. Sensory Reactivity d. Emotional Control					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers  CHILD BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL NEEDS Attachment Failure to Thrive Depression (Withdrawn)	0 0 0 0			3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination c. Sensory Reactivity d. Emotional Control  Communication					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers  CHILD BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL NEEDS Attachment Failure to Thrive Depression (Withdrawn) Anxiety	0 0 0 0	1 		3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination c. Sensory Reactivity d. Emotional Control  Communication					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers  CHILD BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL NEEDS Attachment Failure to Thrive Depression (Withdrawn) Anxiety Atypical Behaviors	<b>O O O O O O O O O O</b>			3
c. Communication d. Self-Care/Daily Living  Medical a. Life Threat b. Chronicity b. Diagnostic Complexity c. Emotional Response d. Impairment in Functioning e. Treatment Involvement f. Intensity of Treatment g. Organizational Complexity  Physical  Dental  Daily Functioning  Social Functioning  Recreation/Play  Regulatory a. Eating b. Elimination c. Sensory Reactivity d. Emotional Control  Communication					Relationship Permanence Family - Nuclear Family - Extended Interpersonal Adaptability Persistence Curiosity Resiliency  PRESCHOOL/CHILD CARE Preschool/Child Care a. Attendance b. Compatibility c. Behavior d. Achievement e. Relation with Teachers f. Relation with Peers  CHILD BEHAVIORAL / EMOTIONAL NEEDS Attachment Failure to Thrive Depression (Withdrawn) Anxiety	0 0 0 0	1 		3

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Supplemental Portion of Foster Care Rate

Adoption Assistance/Subsidized Guardianship Payments

TDAUMA					OUR D //YOUTH DELIAN/OPAL /				T
TRAUMA	0	1	2	3	CHILD / YOUTH BEHAVIORAL /	0	1	2	3
Sexual Abuse					EMOTIONAL NEEDS				
Physical Abuse					Psychosis				
Neglect					Impulsive / Hyperactivity	╁			
Emotional Abuse					Depression				
Medical Trauma					Anxiety				
Natural Disaster					Oppositional				
Witness to Family Violence					Conduct			_	
Witness to Community Violence					Anger Control			_	
Witness / Victim to Criminal Activity					Substance Use				
		1 -			Somatization			-	
Adjustment to Trauma	0	1	2	3	Behavioral Regression				
Adjustment to Trauma					Affect Dysregulation				
Traumatic Grief / Separation							1 -	I _	1 -
Intrusions					CHILD / YOUTH RISK BEHAVIORS	0	1	2	3
Attachment			_		Suicide Risk			_	
Dissociation					Self-Injurious Behavior			_	
	_	1 -	_	_	Other Self Harm			_	
LIFE FUNCTIONING	0	1	2	3	Exploited			_	
Family - Nuclear			] [		Danger to Others				
Family – Extended					Sexual Aggression				
Living Situation					Delinquent Behavior			_	
Developmental					Runaway				
a. Cognitive					a. Frequency of Running				
b. Autism Spectrum					b. Consistency of Destination				
c. Communication					c. Safety of Destination				
d. Self-Care/Daily Living					d. Involvement in Illegal Acts				
Medical					e. Likelihood of Return on Own				
a. Life Threat					f. Involvement of Others				
b. Chronicity					g. Realistic Expectations				
c. Diagnostic Complexity					Intentional Misbehavior				
d. Emotional Response					Fire Setting				
e. Impairment in Functioning					Bullying				
f. Treatment Involvement									
g. Intensity of Treatment					CHILD / YOUTH STRENGTHS	0	1	2	3
h. Organizational Complexity					Relationship Permanence				
Physical					Family - Nuclear				
Dental					Family – Extended				
Daily Functioning					Positive Peer Relations				
Social Functioning - Adult					Optimism				
Legal					Decision-Making				
a. Seriousness					Well-Being				
b. History					Educational				
c. Arrests					Recreational				
d. Planning					Vocational				
e. Community Safety					Talents / Interests				
f. Legal Compliance					Spiritual / Religious				
g. Peer Influences					Community Life				
h. Parental Criminal Behavior					Youth Involvement with Care				
(Influences)					Natural Supports				
i. Environmental Influences					Resiliency				
Eating Disturbance					Resourcefulness				
Sleep					Life Skills				
Sexual Development					Expectant Parent or Parenting				
COMMUNICATION CONTRACTOR	<u> </u>	1			Expediant Faicht of Faichting	1			

Achievement				
Relation with Teacher(s)				
CHILD / YOUTH AND FAMILY CULTURAL FACTORS	0	1	2	3
Language				
Identity				
Ritual				
Cultural Stress				
Knowledge Congruence				
Help-Seeking Congruence				
Expression of Distress				

**SCHOOL** 

Attendance Behavior

# **Placement Complexity Chart**

		Placement Options				
Child's Level of Need (LON)	Provider's Level of Certification (LOC)	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			Center		

This level of care may be used in transition planning for youth who were previously placed in a higher level of care.

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.

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Division of Safety and Permanence at 608-266-8787. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.