

**Youth Empowerment Services (YES)** is the children's mental health system of care in Idaho that helps families access services and supports for their children who are at risk for or have serious emotional disturbance (SED).

**Serious emotional disturbance (SED)** is the term used when a child under the age of 18 has the combination of a mental health diagnosis and a functional impairment, as determined by the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. A functional impairment impacts a child's ability to participate socially, academically, and emotionally at home, at school, or in the community.

**The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool** is used in Idaho to identify a child's strengths and needs (including any functional impairment). It is used during treatment planning and service delivery.



## Are YES services coordinated with my child's school?

Most schools do not directly provide services as part of the YES system of care, but school staff may:

- Participate on a Child and Family Team (CFT)
- Help a family complete the CANS with the family's mental health provider
- Support the goals identified on the coordinated care plan
- Provide in-school supports.

How schools choose to get involved and the resources available vary between districts, and families are encouraged to discuss involvement with their local school staff.



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH & WELFARE



## YES Overview

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[yes.idaho.gov](https://yes.idaho.gov)



## About the YES System of Care

### Approach to Services and Supports

The services and supports in the YES system of care prioritize the following values throughout treatment planning, implementation, and evaluation:

- **Family-Centered:** Emphasizes each family's strengths and resources.
- **Family and Youth Voice and Choice:** Prioritizes the preferences of youth and their families in all stages of care.
- **Strengths-Based:** Identifies and builds on strengths to improve functioning.
- **Individualized Care:** Customizes care specifically for each youth and family.
- **Team-Based:** Brings families together with professionals and others to create a coordinated care plan.
- **Community-Based Service Array:** Provides local services to help families reach the goals identified in their coordinated care plan.

- **Collaboration:** Partners families, informal supports, providers, and agencies together to meet identified goals.
- **Unconditional:** Commits to achieving the goals of the coordinated care plan.
- **Culturally Competent:** Considers the family's unique cultural needs and preferences.
- **Early Identification and Intervention:** Assesses mental health and provides access to services and supports.
- **Outcome-Based:** Contains measurable goals to assess change.

### Family Involvement

Families should expect the following from the YES system of care:

- **Engagement:** Youth and families are actively involved in the creation and implementation of their coordinated care plan.

- **Assessment:** Information about the youth and family is gathered to create a meaningful coordinated care plan.
- **Care Planning and Implementation:** The coordinated care plan identifies appropriate services and supports and how families and youth access them.
- **Teaming:** Youth and families are able to collaborate with providers and community partners to create their coordinated care plan.
- **Monitoring and Adapting:** The services and supports in the coordinated care plan are evaluated and updated as needed.
- **Transition:** Type of services, frequency of use, and levels of care change as the youth and family's needs change.