

Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment Level of Need Chart (CANS-LON)

What is a Level of Need (LON)? *The CANS Level of Need score is a complexity measure that tracks patterns of needs across dimensions, or more simply how many 2s and 3s are rated across multiple sections. For example, more 3s in the trauma section may lead to higher complexity of needs. A significant mental health diagnosis combined with behavioral needs at school, home, with peers, and juvenile legal involvement will generally require additional coordination of supports.*

How does a Level of Need score help guide services? *The LON score helps to guide decisions on what interventions will be most effective. Historically services have been put in place based on what is available, convenient, or what has always been done in the past. Research has shown that overserving or underserving youth can actually do more harm. The LON score and suggested interventions have been designed and determined by multiple experts in the field of child psychology to better aid in developing an intervention plan. The CANS Level of Need score is not intended to be an expert system, but rather a decision support system to help you think about how to best serve the kids you work with.*

Level of Need	Suggested Clinical Services Descriptions	Placement Equivalent (CPS/JJ)
LON 1	Youth & Family do not qualify for CCS at this level. Youth and Family may benefit from accessing natural and community supports. Family may explore individual and/or family therapy through primary insurance for additional support	Family Home Child specific regular foster home/kin home/family friend.
LON 2	Youth & Family may not qualify for CCS at this level. Youth and Family may benefit from individual and/or family therapy through primary insurance and accessing natural and community supports. If enrolled in CCS, develop discharge/transition plan.	Family Home Child specific regular foster home/kin home/family friend.
LON 3	Youth & Families at this level may benefit from individual and/or family therapy with basic skills development 1-2 times a week and wellness and recovery support services to develop natural support network and maintain therapeutic gains. 1 treatment coordination meeting per month is recommended for continuity of care.	Family Home Experienced Basic Foster Home
LON 4	Youth & Families at this level may benefit from weekly specialized individual and/or family therapy with skills development services multiple times per week to practice therapeutic skills in the home and community settings. Treatment coordination meetings should occur at least once per month for continuity of care.	Family Home Treatment Foster Care Group Home
LON 5	Youth & Families at this level may benefit from specialized individual and family therapy at least weekly with skills development services near daily to practice therapeutic skills in the home and community settings. Treatment coordination meetings should occur at least bi-weekly for continuity of care.	Family Home Experienced Treatment Foster Care Residential Care Center (possibly)
LON 6	Youth & Families at this level of need generally require an exceptional level of treatment often provided by a residential facility. Youth & Family may need near constant daily therapeutic supports. Treatment coordination meetings should occur at least once per week for continuity of care.	Residential Care Center Exceptional Treatment Foster Care

** Clinical Service standards of practice by level of need adapted from Norin Dollard PhD, et al in "Service Process Adherence to Needs and Strengths", University of Southern Florida.*

***Placement recommendations based upon Wisconsin Department of Child and Family Services*