



## Youth Empowerment Services (YES)

### ♦ Introducing access to a new system of care for Idaho children with SED

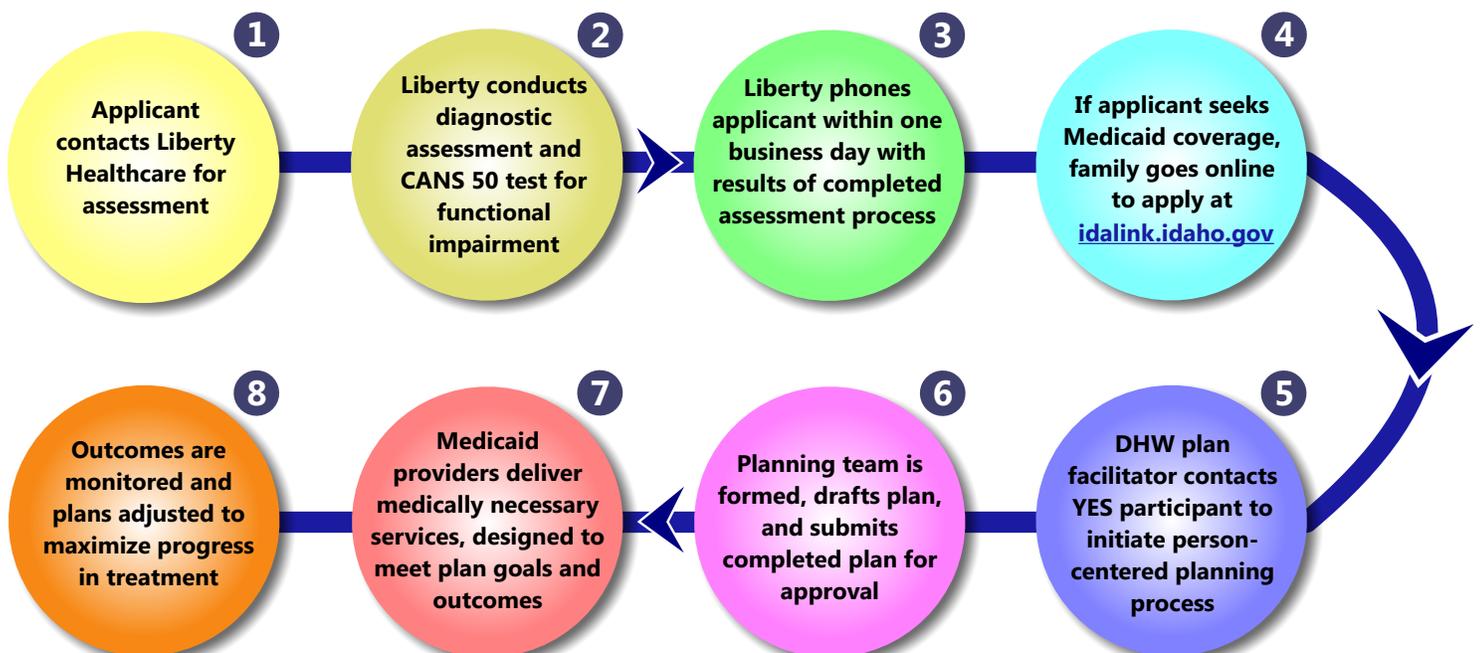
Starting in 2018, Idaho children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) can take a new path to Medicaid, thanks to the launch of the Youth Empowerment Services program, or YES. Spearheaded by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), YES introduces a family-centered, strengths-based system of care focused on improving outcomes for children and youth with SED.

The path to accessing the YES program is best defined by examining two populations: 1) participants currently enrolled in Medicaid; and 2) individuals who are not currently on Medicaid.

- 1) Medicaid participants under 18 years old can access services in the YES program as they are implemented through their Medicaid State Plan benefit. Participants in this group will be required to have a Liberty Healthcare independent assessment only if they want access to respite care.
- 2) Individuals not currently enrolled with Medicaid due to income limits must go through the independent assessment process with Liberty Healthcare to verify SED. After SED has been confirmed by Liberty Healthcare and the individual's approved application for Medicaid confirms Medicaid eligibility, the participant will have access to all Medicaid-funded services for the YES program, including respite.

The diagram below shows how children with SED become eligible to receive Medicaid YES services. For additional information about YES, please visit [yes.idaho.gov](http://yes.idaho.gov).

**To get started, call Liberty Healthcare today at 1-877-305-3469 to schedule an assessment!**



# Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program

## Applying for Medicaid Online through Idalink

Parents can visit [idalink.idaho.gov](http://idalink.idaho.gov) to register for an Idalink account and apply for Health Coverage Assistance. Medicaid enrollment is not required for participation in the YES program.

### Note regarding Families with Incomes that Exceed Traditional Medicaid Limits

The YES program allows families whose incomes exceed traditional eligibility limits to qualify for Medicaid, once the child's SED is confirmed by Liberty Healthcare through an independent assessment.

Families who have received confirmation their child has been determined to have SED by Liberty Healthcare and who want to apply for Medicaid are advised to ignore any preliminary eligibility determinations displayed online during the application process. It may take up to five business days to receive the Medicaid notice of eligibility, because manual review is required to verify SED status and to apply the higher income limits.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the YES Program

- ◆ **What is Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)?** Per Section 16-2403, Idaho Code, SED is “an emotional or behavioral disorder, or a neuropsychiatric condition which results in a serious disability ... [and] causes substantial impairment of functioning in family, school or community.” Applicants for the YES program are determined to have SED when they have both a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) diagnosis and substantial functional impairment, as identified by the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool.
- ◆ **What is the CANS?** Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is a functional assessment tool that captures information about a child or youth's needs and strengths. This information will guide the planning team in developing an effective, individualized person-centered plan for the child. The child will also undergo periodic CANS assessments, which help measure the effectiveness of the implemented treatment plan and can pinpoint necessary adjustments to the person-centered plan.
- ◆ **Once enrolled, can the child receive any YES or Medicaid service?** It's entirely the family's choice whether to apply for the YES program, for Medicaid, or both. If the child is enrolled in both Medicaid and the YES program, the child is eligible to receive any medically necessary YES Medicaid service whose need is properly documented on an approved person-centered plan. If the family needs to access YES supports such as respite care, an independent assessment will also be required. Prior authorization requirements or limitations may apply to specific services and supports.

### Resources for Further Information

Medicaid Eligibility (Self-Reliance).....	1-877-456-1233
Medicaid YES Helpline .....	1-866-681-7062
Optum Idaho, Idaho Behavioral Health Plan.....	1-855-205-0973
Liberty Healthcare, Independent Assessor.....	1-877-305-3469



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