



TEXAS
**Department of Family
and Protective Services**

CVS YES Waiver Resource Guide

Youth Empowerment Services

A Medicaid Waiver Program for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance in
the Conservatorship of DFPS

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Background and Basics

What Is the YES Waiver?

The Youth Empowerment Services (YES) is a 1915(c) Medicaid Waiver program that provides community-based services to help children and youth (ages 3 through 18)) with “serious emotional disturbances” live in the community. YES services go beyond the services available through other Medicaid benefits. YES uses a planning process known as *Wraparound* to create a plan specifically for the child. YES services are designed to identify and support the child's or youth's strengths. The Wraparound process builds on support provided by the family and community.

- The YES Waiver is administered under Social Security Act §1915(c), which allows for a child to receive long-term care services within the home and community-based settings.
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has delegated operation of the 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services YES Waiver Program to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), as authorized by Texas Government Code §531.0055.

Overall Goals of the YES Waiver

The goals of the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver are to:

- Prevent or reduce institutionalization of children and adolescents ages 3 – 18 with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED).
- Allow more flexibility in providing intensive community-based services for children and adolescents with SED, and provide support for their families by improving access to services.
- Prevent or reduce inpatient psychiatric admissions for children and adolescents with SED.
- Provide a more complete continuum of community-based services and supports for youth with SED and their families, foster families, kinship families or other licensed care.
- Ensure families have access to parent partners and other flexible non-traditional support services identified in a family-centered planning process.
- Improve the clinical and functional outcomes of children and adolescents with SED.

General Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for YES services, an individual must:

- Be age 3 through 18 and in the managing conservatorship of DFPS;
- If a youth, reside in:
 - A non-institutional setting with the youth's legally authorized representative (LAR), or

- A private residential treatment facility with scheduled discharge date within next 30 days, or
- The youth's own home or apartment, if legally emancipated;
- Be eligible to receive Medicaid, under a Medicaid Eligibility Group included in the Waiver;
- Not be a recipient of other 1915I or 1915(i) Waiver programs.

Clinical Eligibility Criteria

- **Criteria A:** Score within specified range on CANS for developmental domain.
- **Criteria B:** Score within specified range on CANS for specified child risk, caregiver strengths and needs, and life domain functioning
- **Criteria C:** Must have attempted outpatient therapy or partial hospitalization or have documentation by a psychiatrist as to why inpatient care is required.
- **Criteria D:** Must be reasonably expected to qualify for inpatient care under the Texas Medicaid inpatient psychiatric admissions guidelines.
- **Criteria E:** Have a valid Axis I diagnosis as the principle admitting diagnosis.

Protocol

Step One

The CPS caseworker OR medical consentor makes a phone call to the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) YES Waiver Inquiry line associated with their physical address.

To find the appropriate LMHA:

- Copy the following into your browser:
<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/mhservices-search/>
- Select: [YES Waiver Inquiry Line by County](#) (view first).
- Select the county the youth resides in and call the inquiry line.

Step Two

The LMHA calls the caseworker within 24 hours or 1 business day of the inquiry to set up the Child and Family Team meeting intake.

The intake will be scheduled. The youth and medical consentor must attend the intake. CPS strongly encourages the caseworker to attend as well.

The LMHA conducts the Clinical Eligibility Assessment using the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. DSHS then approves or denies eligibility. If approved, the youth is enrolled in YES.

Step Three

After enrollment the LMHA calls the CPS caseworker and asks for the Yes Waiver information enrollment form.

- The LMHA uses this brief form to identify all parties/persons who are invited to the initial meeting.
- This form gives the LMHA any relevant information about family dynamics or other information that may affect the flow of the meeting, such as domestic violence, protective orders or other pertinent information.

Step Four

The initial Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting must occur within 30 days.

The LMHA gives the enrollment form provided by the CPS caseworker to the wraparound facilitator within 7 business days of the request from the LMHA.

The wraparound facilitator coordinates the Child and Family Team (CFT) Initial Meeting.

Required Attendance at Initial CFT Meeting

These individuals are required to attend the Initial CFT Meeting:

- Youth
- CPS caseworker
- Medical consentor
- Foster parent
- Wraparound facilitator:

The facilitator invites all individuals identified on the enrollment form. During the meeting, all members of the CFT will come to an agreement and sign off on the wraparound plan and the IPC (Individual Plan of Care) documents. The wraparound plan and the IPC are flexible and living documents. They can be revised, and service changes can be made at any time if the youth and the team agree.

Ongoing Service Delivery

The Wraparound Facilitator meets with the family on a regular basis. The team meets on a monthly basis. The youth and LAR are encouraged to participate in:

- Weekly meetings with the Wraparound Facilitator
- Monthly CFT meetings
- Weekly attendance of desired YES Services
- Emergency team meetings within 72 hours of crisis

Additional Information

Much of the information in this guide was used with permission from DSHS. For more information about the YES Waiver please follow the links below.

[Health and Human Services](#)

YESWaiver@hhsc.state.tx.us

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/mhsa/yes>