



Office of Children and Family Services

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Informational Letter

Transmittal:	22-OCFS-INF-09
To:	Local Departments of Social Services Commissioners Executive Directors of Voluntary Authorized Agencies
Issuing Division/Office:	Division of Child Welfare and Community Services
Date:	August 16, 2022
Subject:	CANS-NY and CALOCUS-CASII Information Sheets
Suggested Distribution:	Directors of Local Departments of Social Services Directors of Social Services Legal Staff Finance Staff Child Welfare Supervisors Foster Care Supervisors CONNECTIONS Implementation Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	See section IV.
Attachments:	<i>CANS-NY Information Sheet</i> <i>CALOCUS-CASII Information Sheet</i>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	NYS Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
21-OCFS-ADM-17		18 NYCRR 439.2	P.L. 115-123		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to provide local departments of social services (LDSSs) and voluntary authorized agencies (VAs) with additional information regarding the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)-NY and the Child and Adolescent Level of Care/Services Intensity Instrument (CALOCUS-CASII) assessment tools.

II. Background

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was enacted as part of the federal Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123) on February 9, 2018. FFPSA reforms federal financing to prioritize family-based foster care, preferably with kin, over residential care by limiting federal reimbursement for certain residential placements. FFPSA created a congregate care setting known as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).

FFPSA requires that a qualified individual (QI)¹ must assess a child in foster care who is considered for placement in a QRTP to determine the appropriateness of a QRTP placement. A QI must assess the strengths and needs of a child using a federally approved, age appropriate, evidence-based, validated, functional assessment tool. OCFS has selected the CANS-NY and the CALOCUS-CASII for this purpose.

III. Program Implications

As of September 30, 2021, a child in foster care who is considered for placement in a QRTP must be assessed by a QI for appropriateness of placement² in a QRTP using either the CANS-NY or the CALOCUS-CASII. These tools serve as a guide to support decision-making concerning level of care and service planning, specifically for children and adolescents with complex needs and presenting problems including behavioral needs, medical needs, developmental disabilities, and juvenile justice involvement.

Recently, stakeholders have inquired about various features of the CANS-NY and the CALOCUS-CASII. In response, OCFS has created the attached information sheets to provide additional background, including how the tools score the child's level of need or appropriate service intensity. These information sheets are intended to assist LDSSs, VAs, and family court practitioners to become more familiar with the CANS-NY and the CALOCUS-CASII, and the role of such tools in assessing the appropriateness of a QRTP placement in meeting the child's needs.

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¹ The term "Qualified Individual" means a trained professional or licensed clinician acting within their scope of practice who has current or previous relevant experience in the child welfare field. See [21-OCFS-ADM-17](#).

² 18 NYCRR 439.2.

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