

*Youth-Recommended Changes to CANS Assessment  
in order to be an effective tool for Tiered Foster Care.*

Challenges	Opportunities
<b>Overall Framing</b>	<b>Reorganize the Assessment</b>
Much like the current ICCA form, CANS takes a behavior-driven checkbox approach.	Lack of context and coping skills undercut this form’s effectiveness for ongoing assessments of youth’s ever-changing needs and growth.
Separating out ACES from behavior removes the environmental / traumatic context.	ACES isn’t listed until page 5. Youth felt that: “Trauma is where it all begins, so this should be first.”
Separating out strengths from behavior undercuts resilience and growth.	Strengths and coping skills should be woven in throughout the form, in each section.

Challenges	Opportunities
<b>Not Trauma-Informed</b>	<b>Include Context and Growth</b>
Behaviors should be paired with context (trauma, precipitating environment)	How did trauma play in? How did environment play in?
Form does not capture growth, progress and development of coping skills.  <i>Current wording: “Please write a rationale for any item in the Behavioral/Emotional Needs Domain and related modules rated actionable (‘2’ or ‘3’).”</i>	A person’s Adverse Childhood Experiences score cannot improve, but they can build developmental assets and developmental relationships.  <i>Change to: “Please add details regarding environmental context, any known triggers and progress/coping skills.”</i>

Challenges	Opportunities
<b>Culture Section is Incomplete</b>	<b>Diversity and Inclusion</b>
Page 5 refers to Cultural Stress or Cultural Differences.	Change the word “Culture” to “Diversity and Inclusion,” and include race, religion, gender as well as culture.
<i>Current wording: “Please write a rationale for any item in the Cultural Factors Domain rated actionable (‘2’ or ‘3’).”</i>	<i>Change to: “Please add details regarding how the current placement is striving to be supportive and inclusive.”</i>