What is the CANS-IP?

- The CANS-IP is a 50-item measure built upon the most common and useful assessment items in the CANS repertoire.

- The CANS is a communimetric tool. It is designed to be completed collaboratively with the client, caregiver, and other involved stakeholders.

- Collaboration helps the clinical team, and all stakeholders form a shared vision of needs and manner of treatment.

- Speed of administration will improve with experience.

- An additional 12 items have been added to the CANS and are designed to assess the lifetime prevalence of trauma.

Is the CANS-IP a State Requirement?

- The CANS is currently required by the State of California for all clients between the ages of 6 and 21.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH**
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

CANS Quick Guide

Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths

The CANS (**Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths)** is a structured evaluation tool used for identifying youth and family needs and strengths that may form the basis of treatment.

Items are organized in six domains, each of which defines important areas of functioning such as Behavioral/Emotional, Life Functioning, Risk Behaviors, Cultural Factors, Strengths, and Caregiver Resource and Needs.

Administration:

There is a great deal of freedom in CANS administration and no set questions attached to items. The central task is to determine whether the client has discernable needs that are interfering with functioning and/or require immediate clinical intervention. The strength domain describes the youth's resources which can be used to address needs and/or increase functioning. The training reference guide provides additional information about how each item is defined and rated along with examples.

Scoring and Interpretation:

Every item is categorized on a 4-level scale. A specific action is assigned to each item based upon the determined level of need. Typically, a clinician needs to determine whether an item requires intervention. Then, a specific kind of intervention can be determined whether timely or immediate. For the strengths domain, the items are rated in an opposite logical manner with 0 considered a centerpiece strength.

Needs Domains Item Rating	Needs Items ACTION
0 = No evidence of need	**0** = **Nothing**
1 = History or suspicion of a need with no or minimal impact on functioning	**1** = **Monitor,** watchful waiting/prevention/additional assessment
2 = Clear evidence of a need that interferes with functioning	**2** = **ACT to address need**
3 = Clear evidence of a need that is dangerous or disabling	**3** = **ACT Immediately/Intensely to address need**

Strengths Domains Item Rating	Strength Items USEFULNESS/UTILITY
0 = Centerpiece or well-developed strength	**0** = **MAY BE USEFUL** as a protective factor or in treatment planning
1=Evident strength but requires effort to maximize	**1** = **MAY BE USEFUL** in treatment planning but **may require development**
2 = Identified strength but will require significant strength building to be useful	**2** = **POTENTIALLY USEFUL but will require significant development** in order to be used for planning
3 = No current strength identified	**3** = **Currently NOT a STRENGTH,** efforts will be needed to identify and build strength

Certification:

Clinicians must be certified to administer and score the CANS. Yearly recertification is required.