

# Youth Empowerment Services (YES)

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) is Idaho's children's behavioral health system of care. YES provides opportunities for youth and their families who would benefit from behavioral health services and supports to achieve mental wellness. Magellan Healthcare manages many YES services on behalf of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

## Who is eligible for the YES System of Care?

To access the YES System of Care, a youth must meet all the following:

- Be a resident of Idaho
- Be under the age of 18
- Have behavioral health needs and could benefit from services and supports

Young adults ages 18 to 21 who are eligible for Medicaid can get similar services through Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits. Visit [Magellanofidaho.com](http://Magellanofidaho.com) for more information.

## Understanding YES terms

- **YES System of Care**  
Idaho's full behavioral health system for youth under 18. It helps youth get services through multiple funding options.
- **Medicaid**  
Health and behavioral health coverage for eligible youth and families, based on income and eligibility guidelines.
- **Medicaid's YES Program**  
A type of Medicaid for some youth with Serious Emotional Disturbance (see below), even if family income is higher than usual limits.
  - Requires regular evaluations, Medicaid-paid respite service utilization, and a yearly service plan.
- **Other State Funds (OSF)**  
A funding source that may help pay for YES services if a youth does not qualify for Medicaid.
- **YES System of Care vs. Medicaid's YES Program**
  - System of Care = services available
  - Program = Medicaid eligibility pathway
- **Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)**  
A legal term used when youth under the age of 18 have both a behavioral health diagnosis and a functional impairment as identified by the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) functional assessment tool. See Idaho Code 16-2403(15).
- **Respite (Medicaid-Paid Respite)**  
Short-term care for a youth to give caregivers a break.
- **Person-Centered Service Plan (PCSP)**  
A written plan that outlines a youth's needs, goals, and services. Required for youth eligible through Medicaid's YES Program.

## YES services and supports

YES includes many types of behavioral health services and supports for youth and families.

To view a full list of YES services that are managed by Magellan, visit: [www.Magellanofidaho.com](http://www.Magellanofidaho.com)

Magellan also covers integrated substance use disorder (SUD) services, which means treatment for substance use can be part of a youth's behavioral health care.

## How to get YES services

### STEP 1: Identify the youth's needs

Start by understanding what the youth and family need. This may include mental health concerns, daily functioning challenges, or support needs at home, school, or in the community.

### STEP 2: Does the youth have Medicaid?

Determine whether the youth is currently enrolled in Medicaid.

#### If yes:

- Please see STEP 3.

#### If no:

- Apply for Medicaid by visiting a Medicaid office near you, online at [idalink.idaho.gov](http://idalink.idaho.gov), or by calling **1-877-456-1233**.
  - If approved for Medicaid see above 'If yes' section.
  - If denied Medicaid due to income (over allowed income limits), and/or if you have private insurance, contact Liberty Healthcare at **1-877-305-3469**.
- After contacting Liberty Healthcare:
  - If Liberty determines your child has an SED, please contact Self-Reliance at **877-456-1233**.
    - If your child is still not eligible for Medicaid, please contact Magellan at **1-855-202-0973 (TTY 711)** and ask to speak with the eligibility team to be screened for Other State Funding.
  - If Liberty determines your child does not have an SED, then your child is ineligible for funding through Medicaid's YES Program or Other State Funding. Services will need to be paid for using self-pay or private coverage.

### STEP 3: Start services

Once eligibility is confirmed, families can begin services immediately. You may contact providers directly or access specialized support through the Magellan.

#### Direct access:

- Schedule care: Call your chosen provider to set an appointment.
- Find a provider: Use the search tool at [MagellanofIdaho.com](http://MagellanofIdaho.com).

#### Enhanced care coordination:

For youth with an SED or those involved in multiple systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice, special education), Magellan provides dedicated coordination to bridge gaps in care.

Contact Magellan if you:

- Need care coordination: To align all providers under one Coordinated Care Plan.
- Have complex needs: To manage multiple child-serving systems effectively.
- System of care support: If your family is navigating complex needs, you don't have to do it alone. We are here to coordinate the right services at the right time.

### STEP 4: Develop a person-centered service plan (PCSP) (required for Medicaid's YES Program)

- Some youth may complete additional assessments to determine eligibility for certain services.
- When required, families and providers work together to develop a PCSP to guide services and supports.
- All youth no matter the insurance status *may* develop a PCSP, but a PCSP is *required* to maintain Medicaid's YES Program eligibility.

## Questions?

For assistance, please call the Magellan Member Line at **1-855-202-0973 (TTY 711)**, available 24/7, or visit [MagellanofIdaho.com](http://MagellanofIdaho.com).