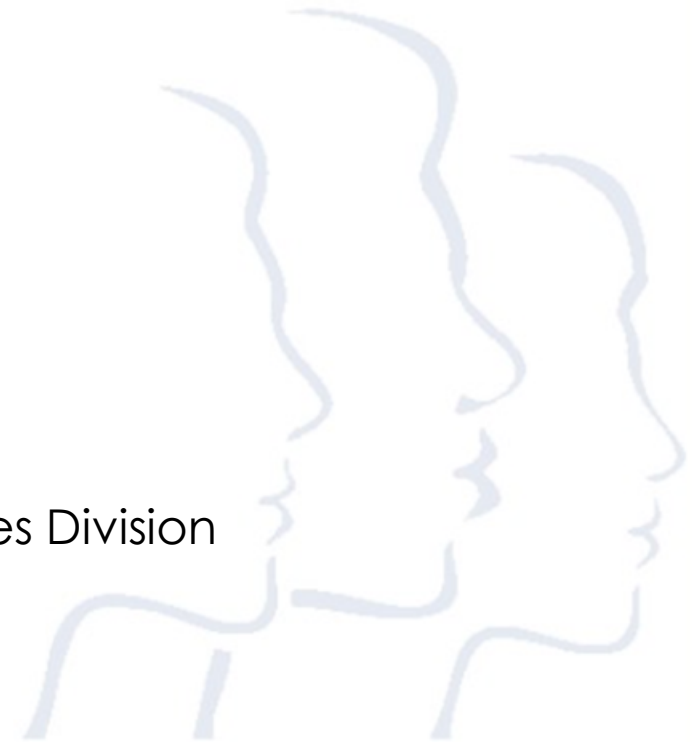


The Integrated Practice Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (IP-CANS)



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Learning Objectives

1

1. Participants will be able to broadly explain what the IP-CANS is and its purpose.

2

2. Participants will learn how to incorporate the IP-CANS into Child and Family Team meetings to better support youth and families.

3

3. Participants will be able to broadly articulate IP-CANS implementation requirements that is part of the [Foster Care Rates Structure](#).

Integrated Practice - Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (IP-CANS)

The IP-CANS is an **information integration tool** that is used to identify the **needs and strengths** of children/youth and their families and solicit **their voices** in a **planning process**.

**Person
Centered**

Collaborative

**Consensus-
Based**

Summarizing the Individual's Story

NEEDS

A characteristic of an individual within an environment that could benefit from external support.

STRENGTHS

A characteristic of an individual within an environment, or an external factor, that provides the individual meaning and wellbeing.



Integrated Practice- CANS

Domains with items for children ages birth thru five, youth six thru 21, and their caregivers.

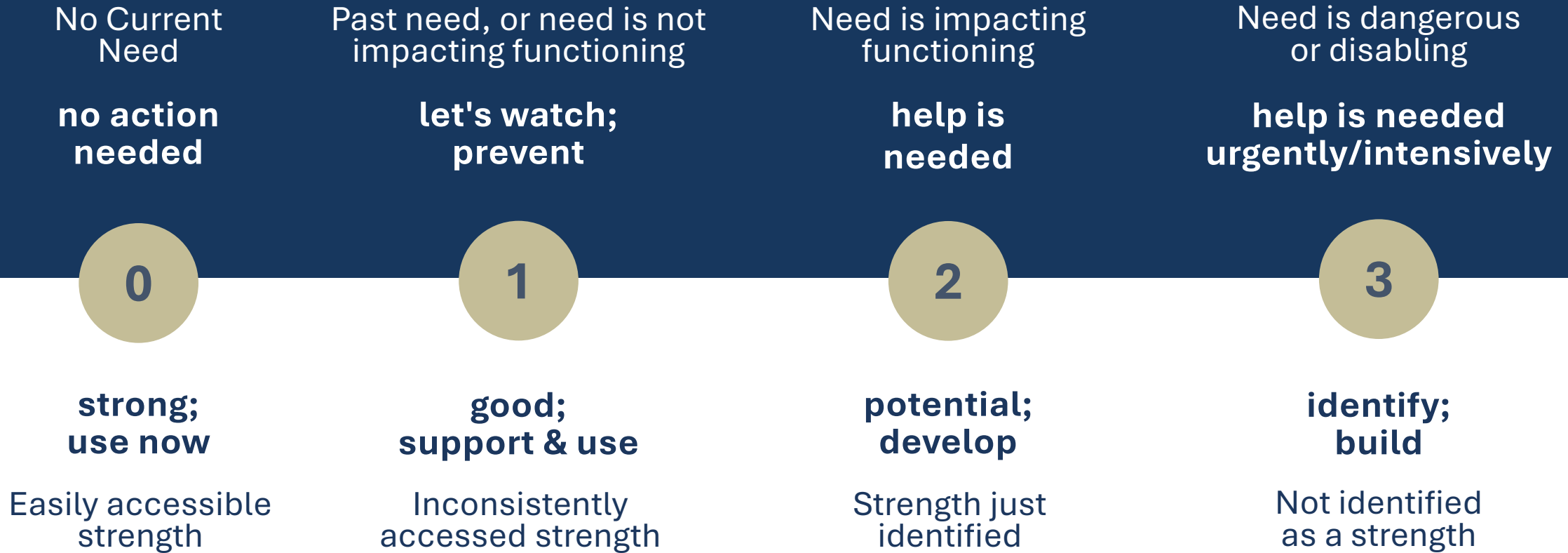
Ages 6-21

- Behavioral/Emotional Needs
- Risk Behaviors
- Life Functioning
- Cultural Factors
- Strengths
- Trauma Exposures
- Caregiver Resources and Needs

Ages birth - five

- Challenges
- Functioning
- Risk Behaviors & Factors
- Cultural Factors - Family
- Strengths
- Trauma Exposures
- Dyadic Considerations
- Caregiver Resources and Needs

Needs: Monitor or Address



Strengths: Use or Develop

What Can I Expect to See if I Receive a Copy of the IP-CANS?

TCOM Operationalizes the ICPM

Transformational

Personal change is the reason for intervention.

Collaboratives

A shared visioning approach is key -- no one person's perspective.

Outcomes

The measures we use should be relevant to the decisions about the approach or proposed impact of our interventions.

Management

The information gathered – about the people we help – is used in all aspects of managing the system, from planning for individuals and families, to the supervision of the workforce, and in supporting program/system operations.



Communitrics

Measurement as a Form of Communication



What is the Function of the IP-CANS?

- Uses
- Creates a common language to help choose actions to support the youth and family.
- Required to be finalized collaboratively within the Child and Family Team (CFT) and inform case-planning.
- Supports communication and action planning at CFT meetings.
- Outcome measures from the IP-CANS inform Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts.
- High fidelity IP-CANS implementation begins July 1, 2025.
- Beginning July 1st, 2027, the IP-CANS will inform the foster care rate.

Supporting System Integration by Using the IP-CANS in the Child and Family Team (CFT)

-The IP-CANS is completed collaboratively with input from the CFT.



The Child and Family Team (CFT) is the vehicle for collaboration on assessment, case planning, and placement decisions.

Places youth and families at the center of care

The CFT process is a team-based activity that ensures that youth families, and Tribes in the case of an Indian child are involved in and central to their care.

Brings the youth and family's important people together

In addition to the youth and family, and Tribes in the case of an Indian child, the CFT team includes extended family and other natural supports, professionals, tribal representatives, and other formal supports that are identified with the family.

A meeting and a process

The CFT meeting is a place for all of those on the team to look at the child and family's needs and strengths and decide what to do to address those needs. It is a process based on collaboration and shared decision making among the team members.

Tailored to youth and families

Each CFT is unique and will build upon each youth and family's strengths, values, and goals. In addition, the CFT process must also reflect the culture(s) and preferences of the youth, family, and Tribe(s).

Who is On The Team?

The placing agency reaches out and engage people who will be on the team with input from the family. Each member provides input into the IP-CANS action planning.

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Required:

- Child or Youth/Nonminor Dependent
- Family Members
- Current Caregiver(s)/ Resource Parent(s)
- Skilled and Trained CFT Facilitator
- Child Welfare Social Worker and/or Probation Officer

Required as Applicable:

- Child's Tribe
- Behavioral Health Staff
- Community and Tribal Service Providers
- FFA Social Worker or STRTP Representative
- Regional Center Staff
- School Staff
- Child/Youth's Educational Rights Holder
- CASA

Additional Team Members:

- Friends/Neighbors
- Youth Partners
- Parent Partners
- Faith Based/Spiritual Supports
- Coaches
- Child Care Providers
- Community Members
- Other Natural Support

CFTs Are Dynamic – Just Like Families

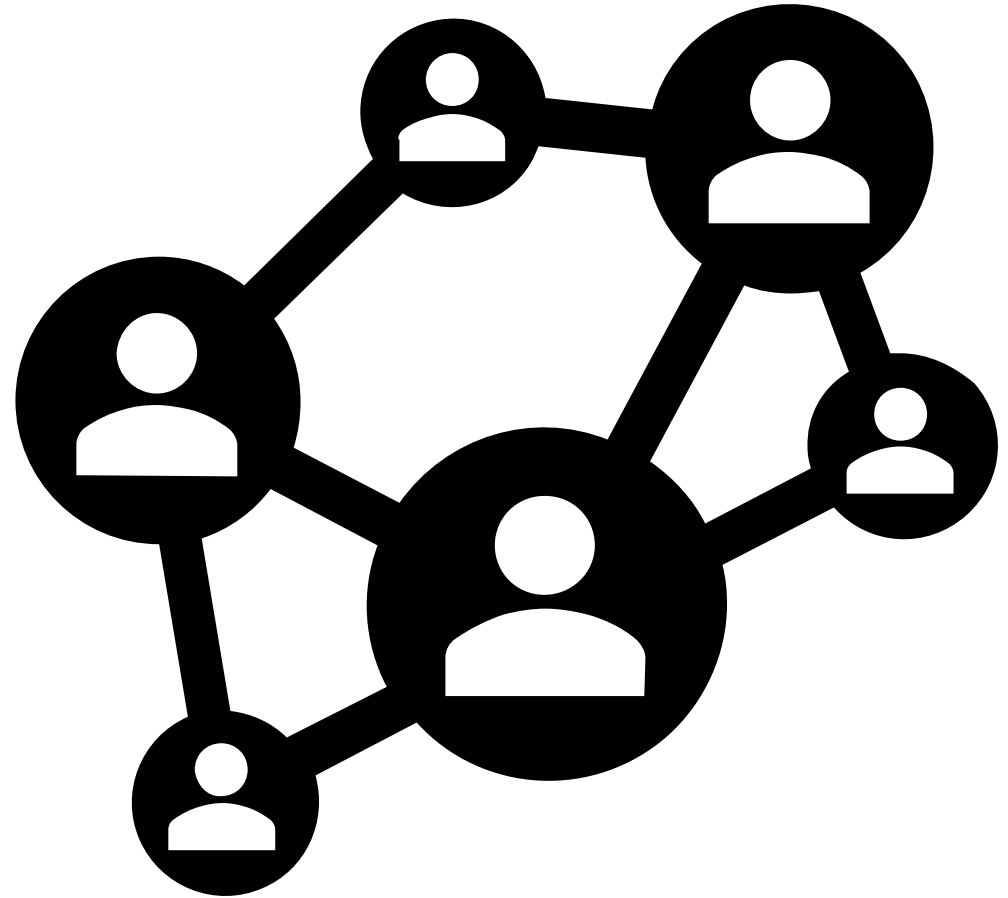


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- As **kids** and families grow and change, so does their team.
 - Team members may change over time. CFT members go where they are needed, when they are needed.
 - The entire team likely does not need to be part of every conversation or decision.
 - This allows families to talk about sensitive topics in a very intentional way, with team members the family identifies for support (***in addition to required professionals**), while maintaining their privacy.
 - As strengths and needs are identified in the IP-CANS, new members can join the CFT to support.
- It is important to plan ahead for unexpected absences. How will their input be gathered?

CFTs are a process, not an event.

- Child and Family Teams are different from Child and Family Team meetings. A meeting is a one
- CFTs are a practice of ongoing **engagement** and **collaboration**.
- The purpose of the CFT meeting is to ensure that plans and decisions benefit the child through the integration of **multiple perspectives**.
- Risk and accountability are **shared** among team members.
- CFTs ensure solutions are **individualized and tailored** to each child and family.
- CFTs and the IP-CANS are **inextricably linked** because the IP-CANS must be finalized collaboratively to be comprehensive. In turn, the IP-CANS can help CFT members decide on supportive actions.



**Beginning
July 1, 2025,**
Juvenile Probation
Will Be Required to
Ensure Completion
of the IP-CANS in
the CFT process for
ALL Youth/NMDs in
Foster Care and
Entry into CARES-
Live



ACL 25-10: Updated Requirements for IP-CANS and CFTs

Released February 18, 2025, this letter updates placing agency requirements to complete the IP-CANS and provide CFT meetings to children and youth, including:

IP-CANS Completion

All placing agencies required to ensure completion of IP-CANS, including juvenile probation

CFT Meeting Cadence & Timing

Timing & frequency requirements for CFT meetings updated to align with IP-CANS completion requirements

Updated requirements are, in part, intended to support greater consistency and improve fidelity to the IP-CANS and CFT processes.

Updated requirements are effective July 1, 2025.

ACL 25-10: Updated Requirements for IP-CANS and CFTs

Updated Requirements Include:

- Specifies 12 conditions requiring completion of a new or updated IP-CANS
 - Case closure, for example
- Requires IP-CANS completers to attend CDSS-sponsored training.

CARES-Live

- Requires completed initial IP-CANS be entered into CARES-Live within 10 calendar days of its completion or by the end of the month, whichever is sooner.
- Updated IP-CANS may be entered into CARES-Live without regard to end of month – but still within 10 calendar days.

Placing agencies that have agreements with their MHP or providers to complete IP-CANS must ensure they receive copies immediately upon completion to meet data entry requirements.

CONDITIONS REQUIRING A NEW OR UPDATED IP- CANS

1. Youth's open child welfare case or open probation placement case, per [ACL 18-81](#), [ACL 22-35](#), and [WIC Section 16560\(c\)](#).
2. Youth's entry into foster care.
3. Youth's case closure.
4. Youth referred for placement in an STRTP and an assessment by a Qualified Individual, pursuant to [ACL 21-113/BHIN 21-060](#).
5. Youth placed in an STRTP or receiving certain SMHS – review current IP-CANS for update simultaneous with CFT meeting required every 90 days ([ACL 22-35](#)).
6. Placement Preservation CFT meeting or 14-day Notice received for youth ([ACL 19-26](#)).
7. Youth placement change ([ACL 19-26](#)).
8. Youth hospitalization (psychiatric or medical).
9. Youth incarcerated.
10. Youth deemed eligible for Regional Center services.
11. Youth newly eligible for special education services or significant change in the youth's existing Individualized Education Plan.
12. Youth deemed eligible for [California Children's Services](#) due to an acute or chronic health condition.

IP-CANS Data Entry Into CARES-Live

- Beginning July 1, 2025, all initial completed IP-CANS must be entered into CARES no more than ten (10) calendar days following their completion or by the end of the month in which it is completed, whichever is sooner.
- Updated IP-CANS may be entered into CARES after the end of the month in which it was completed, if data entry does not exceed ten (10) calendar days following completion of the tool.

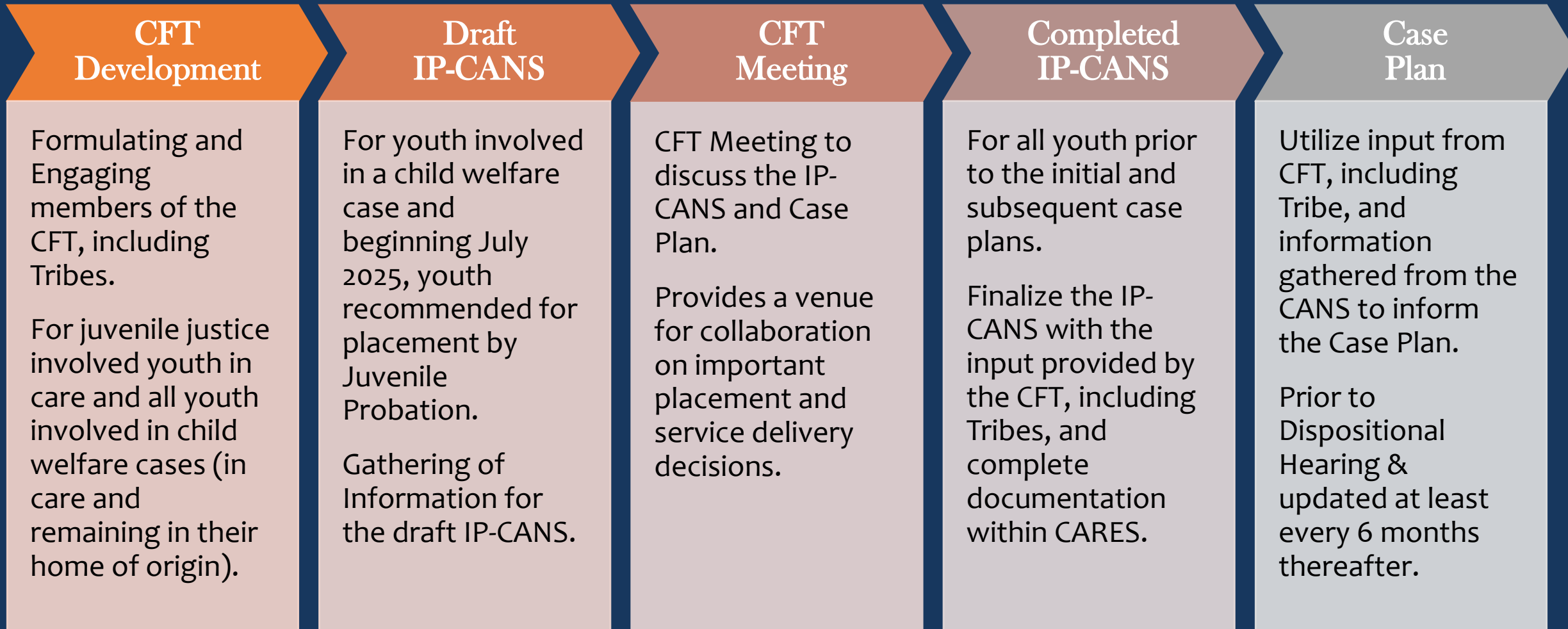
Pending All County Letter

CFT & IP-CANS FIDELITY PLAN

This letter will provide placing agencies, Tribes, and system partners with information & guidance on CFT and IP-CANS fidelity requirements related to California's Tiered Rate Structure

1. System-Level Fidelity Tool
2. Case-Level Fidelity Tools
3. CFT and IP-CANS Reports in Evident Change's SafeMeasures System
4. Training, Coaching, and Technical Assistance

CFT and IP-CANS Process Flow



Juvenile Probation CFT Timeline Requirements

The **Initial CFT meeting** takes place:

When Probation recommends Foster Care Placement.

- The CFT Meeting must occur prior to completion of case plan and no later than dispositional hearing

When the Court orders Foster Care Placement Without Probation Recommendation

- The CFT Meeting must occur prior to completion of case plan and within 30 days of the court's order for foster care placement

Indian Children

- No later than 30 days from initial entry into foster care.

Ongoing CFT meetings:

*Take place at least every **6 months thereafter**, or every 90 days for youth in STRTPs, and youth who receive Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS), or Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC).*

What are the Benefits of Using the IP-CANS in the CFT Process?

Provides a common language to use across systems

Comprehensive action planning to share responsibility among service providers

Youth and family centered and informed by both strengths and needs

Collaborative discussion across disciplines helps to leverage communal resources and expertise.

Using Person-Centered Information

- Decision Making
- Outcomes/Change Management
- Quality Improvement



Decision Support: Person-Centered Design

The **IP-CANS** identifies the needs and strengths of children, youth, and caregivers. It provides a framework for developing and communicating a shared vision that can be used in teaming, and inform planning, support decision-making, and monitor outcomes

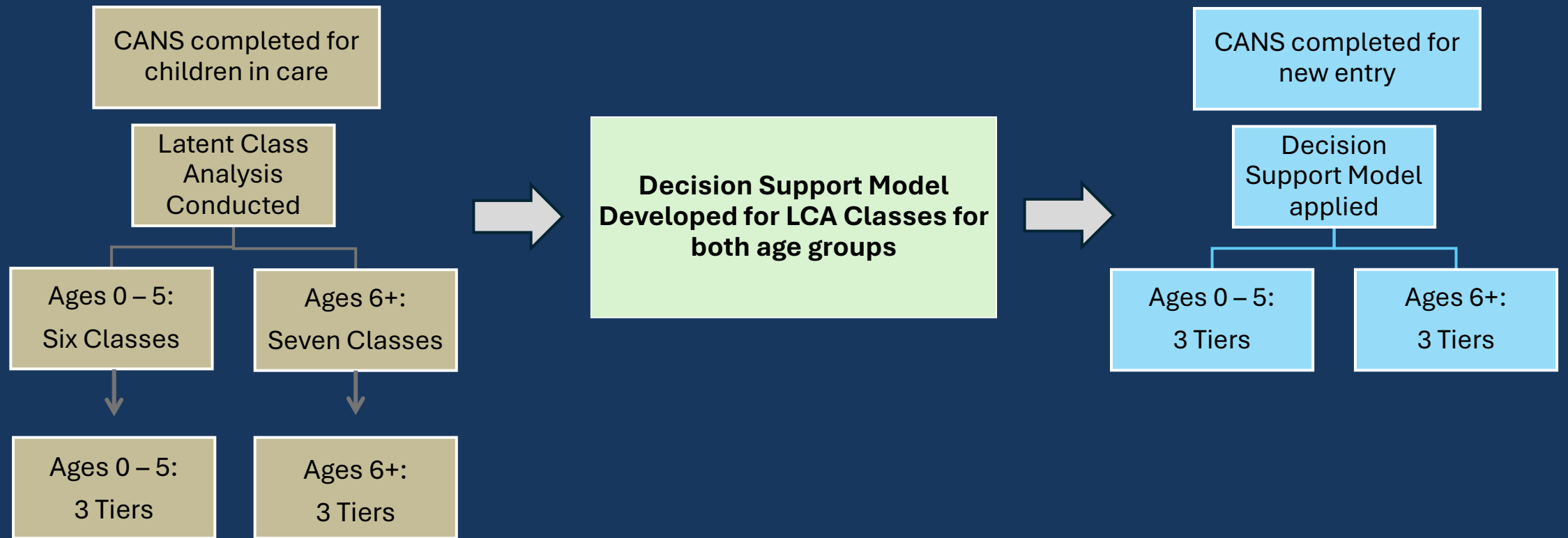
A **Latent Class Analysis (LCA)** of children and youth in California DSS revealed distinct groups that are similar in CANS presentations: Six classes for ages birth thru five, and seven classes for ages six and older.

The IP-CANS items distinguished each group based on:

- The presence or absence of strengths, OR
- The presence of traumatic stress symptoms.

A **Decision Support Model** is needed to apply the results of the LCA prospectively. This model guides the placement of new children into the different groups in an understandable manner.

From LCA to the Tiered Rate Structure



Category 1: The CFT and IP-CANS Fidelity Implementation Plan

The Permanent Foster Care Rate Structure Chaptered

Engage a workgroup in the development of the guidance and standards for the IP-CANS

Draft the guidance and standards on the use of the IP-CANS (Policy All County Letter (ACL) inclusive of direction for Probation's utilization of the IP-CANS)

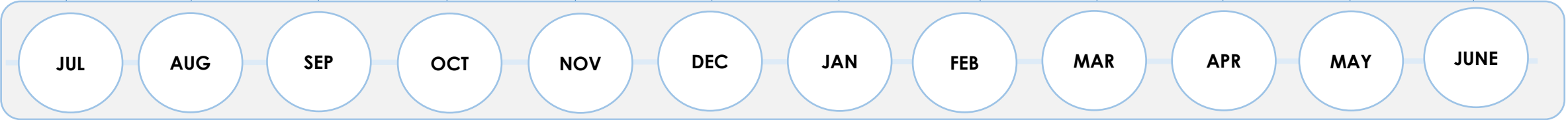
Publish the guidance and standards on the use of the IP-CANS

CDSS to publish the CANS alignment letter with DHCS

Draft the CANS Fidelity guidance

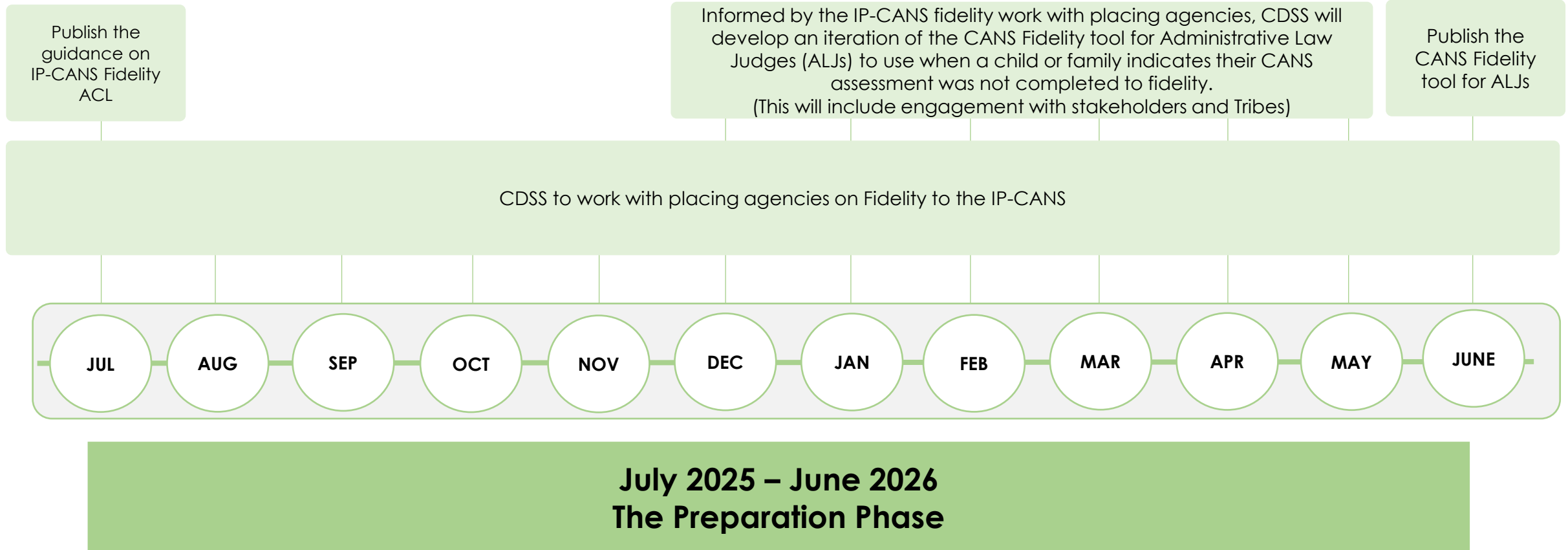
Release the guidance on IP-CANS Fidelity for stakeholder review

CDSS to obtain stakeholder input on the IP-CANS Fidelity ACL

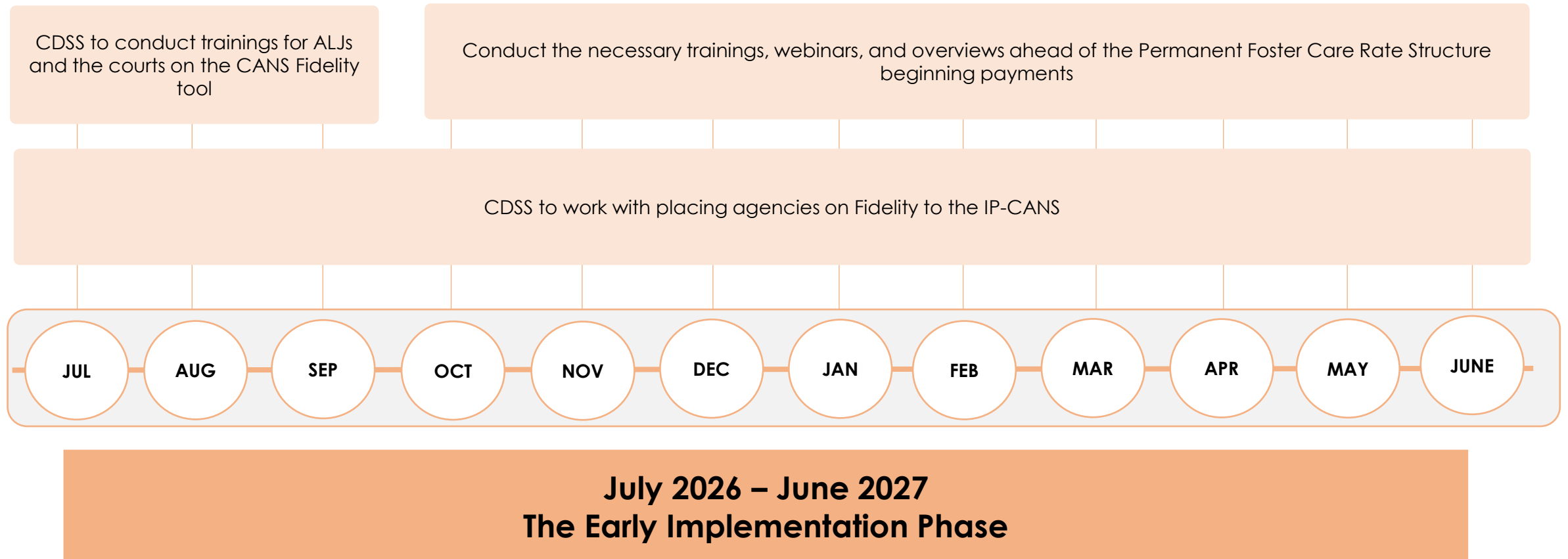


**July 2024 – June 2025
The Planning Phase**

Category 1: The CFT and IP-CANS Fidelity Implementation Plan



Category 1: The CFT and IP-CANS Fidelity Implementation Plan



Group Discussion: Lily Vignette

- In small groups, please read the provided vignette. Collectively decide if you would like to focus on Lily, Mrs. Jones, or Mr. Jones. Please consider the following questions:
 - What are some of this person's strengths?
 - What are some of this person's needs?
 - What is an action step the CFT could take to support this person?
 - Action steps to address needs?
 - Action steps to address strengths?
 - How can different members of the CFT contribute to the planning and implementation of this action step?

What is Needed to Implement the IP-CANS?

Training

Data Collection Methods
and Automation

Contracts

Support





How Probation Can Start Preparing

IP-CANS and CFT Fidelity

Collaborate with Partner in Implementation

- Start a local CFT/CANS implementation team with your local child welfare agency, behavioral health agency, and community providers to determine:
 - Who will complete the IP-CANS: Probation, Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, or a Contracted Provider.
 - *Note: CANS- 50 will no longer be valid so determining who needs training for IP-CANS will need to be factored.*
 - How the IP-CANS will be shared with necessary partners.
 - The timeline for the IP-CANS to be shared for timely data entry into CARES-Live.
- Memorialize these decisions in a formal contract or interagency agreement/MOU

IP-CANS and CFT Fidelity

Get Training and Technical Assistance

- Ensure IP-CANS completers, supervisors, and probation officers receive the necessary CANS trainings:
 - [CACWT and RTA training](#)
 - Request CACWT accounts by contacting the RTA in their corresponding region.
- Ensure CFT facilitators, supervisors, and probation officers receive the necessary CFT Facilitation trainings:
 - [CPOC training](#)
- See [ACIN I-30-24](#) for a list of CFT and IP-CANS trainings.
- Request CFT/CANS implementation technical assistance
 - [RTA technical assistance](#)

IP-CANS and CFT Fidelity

CFT and IP-CANS Training

- CFT Overview
 - Who? Probation officers, supervisors, and probation leadership
- Effective CFT Meetings
 - Who? Probation officers and supervisors
- CFT Meeting Facilitation
 - Who? CFT facilitators
- Integrating CANS into CFT Meetings and Case Planning
 - Who? Probation officers and supervisors
- CANS: Supporting Collaborative Assessment and Action Planning (previously Module A) - CANS overview
 - Who? Probation officers, supervisors, and probation leadership
- The CANS: Overview and Preparation for Certification (previously Module B)
 - Who? CANS completers
- CANS in Supervision Coaching Staff towards Practice Integration (previously Module C)
 - Who? Supervisors of CANS completers

IP-CANS and CFT Fidelity

Get Access To and Training for CANS Data Entry into CARES-Live

- As part of your implementation efforts, decide who from your department will enter the IP-CANS data into CARES-Live.
- For access to CARES-Live, users must have a CWS/CMS user profile.
- Work with your CARES-Live County Administrator to add new CARES-Live CANS user accounts.
 - To add a new CARES-Live Administrators or make changes to the existing Administrators, contact CWS_CustRel@osi.ca.gov.
- Access [CARES-Live demos and job aids](#).
- Additional information and training coming soon via ACL.

IP-CANS and CFT Fidelity

Other Resources and Action Steps

- Start sharing the [CFT and CANS brochures and videos](#) with CFT participants
 - Encourage CFT participants to complete the CFT survey linked within the brochures
- Review and use [CFT and CANS tools and resources](#)
- Review [CFT/CANS state policy letters](#)
- Join [CFT/CANS collaboratives](#)

Questions?

PLEASE EMAIL US AT
CWSCOORDINATION
@DSS.CA.GOV. WE
ARE HERE FOR YOU!