



THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SERVICES WAIVER (YES)



YES WAIVER

The Youth Empowerment Services Waiver is a 1915(c) Medicaid program that helps children and youth with serious mental, emotional and behavioral difficulties. The YES Waiver provides intensive services delivered within a strengths-based team planning process called Wraparound. Wraparound builds on family and community support and utilizes YES services to help build your family's natural support network and connection with your community. YES, services are family-centered, coordinated, and effective at preventing out-of-home placement and promoting lifelong independence and self-defined success.

To participate in the YES Waiver, your child must:

- Be 3 through 18 years old.
- Have serious mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.
- Have a qualifying mental health diagnosis.
- Be at risk of being placed outside of their home due to their mental health needs.
- Meet the criteria to be in a psychiatric hospital.
- Be eligible for Medicaid—parent's income does not apply.
- Currently, live in a home setting with a legal guardian or on their own, if they are legally emancipated.



The YES Program Aims to:

- Reduce the amount of time children are out of their home & community because of a mental need
- Expand available Mental Health Services & supports
- Improve the lives of children & youth

Benefits of the YES Program:

- You & your child are supported by a team
- Services & supports target your child's & family's needs
- You & your children can access services that are only available through YES
- Supports help your child remain in your home & community

*Only a parent, guardian or managing conservator can request a youth be added to the inquiry list and assessed for the YES Waiver, unless the caller is a legally emancipated youth.

If you are having a mental health crisis now, call our **24-hour crisis hotline at 1-866-729-3848.**
Gulf Coast Center's YES exemption consultation line: 1-409-944-4555.