

Priority Weighing Criteria

All pre-screen forms are reviewed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) on the basis of the criteria listed below. Each element of the criteria is related to the health and safety of the child, factors that affect the family's capacity to provide care for the child at home, or the necessity of providing of services to maintain the child in the least restrictive alternative that can meet the child's needs. A score is given for each Factor. The highest score for each Factor is a (five) 5, the lowest a (one) 1. A total score for each Factor is achieved by multiplying the Factor number by the rating for each criterion. The totals for each Factor are added together to give the child a numeric score by which rank is determined on the Priority Weighing List. The staff person designated by MDHHS rates each Factor.

Factor 10 - Home Care Supports Other Than the CWP

In determining availability of other resources, the following parameters apply:

- The hours needed should reflect care needs requiring support at home during non-school hours. If any other request is being made, the specifics must be noted on the pre-screen form.
- All hours or financing resources currently used or available to the family must be listed in Factor 10 of the WSA.
- MDHHS staff may request a copy of private insurance policy for review.
- Extraordinary levels of hourly care paid for by the CMHSP to maintain the child at home where the funding for the hourly care is not Medicaid matched will not be counted as meeting the needs of the child/family. The CMHSP case manager is asked to document the type of funding.

Score five (5) points if all of the following apply:

- The child is not eligible for hourly services under any regular Medicaid State Plan coverage.
- The child is not Medicaid eligible in his/her own right at home AND if an application for Medicaid eligibility through TEFRA has been initiated, the Medical consultant has not yet made an affirmative TEFRA eligibility determination of medical eligibility.
- The child has no private insurance with a nursing benefit (based on a policy review by MDHHS staff), or the home care or autism benefit under the insurance plan has been exhausted for the current contract year.
- The child does not have a trust fund that is a potential resource for in-home services or supports.
- The child presently receives no in-home hourly care services and supports from any resource; OR, if the child has a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's or PDD-NOS and the child has private insurance, insurance documentation for the current insurance contract period has been entered in the Waiver Support Application (WSA) and reflects that the autism benefit has either been completely exhausted for the current insurance contract period or that no autism benefit is available; OR the child is currently receiving four or more hours per day of in-home services and supports and all funding for current in-home

services and supports is paid through the Community Mental Health agency's General Fund dollars.

Score four (4) points if the child currently receives four hours or more of hourly care services at home and would otherwise score "1" under this factor; OR, (2) if there is a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's or PDD-NOS and the child has a private insurance autism benefit, autism services have been authorized for any number of hours determined to be medically necessary by the insurer AND (3) the family has received written notification that these current hourly services will terminate or exhaust within 32 days.

Score three (3) points if the child currently receives four hours or more of hourly care services at home and would otherwise score "1" under this factor OR, if the child has a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's or PDD-NOS and the child has a private insurance autism benefit, a completed, current insurance documentation form reflects that the autism benefit has either been exhausted for the current insurance contract period or that no benefit is available during the current insurance contract period, AND the family has received written notification that current services will terminate or exhaust within 33-63 days.

Score two (2) points if the child currently receives four or more hours of hourly care at home and would otherwise score "1" under this factor OR, if the child has a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger's or PDD-NOS and the child has a private insurance autism benefit authorization for any number of hours determined to be medically necessary by the insurer AND the pre-screen identifies the child's specific additional needs for waiver services that are not available through a resource other than CWP, in addition to hourly care or autism services currently received.

Score one (1) point if any one or more of the following apply:

- The child is or would be eligible for hourly services under any regular or optional Medicaid State Plan coverage.
- The child presently receives four or more hours per day of hourly care through any other resource.
- Trust funds are available which are sufficient to provide four or more hours per day of hourly care.

The maximum possible score for this factor is fifty (50) points.

Factor 9 - Health and Safety of the Child

The child receives a score under one of the two categories, medical or behavioral, based on the primary identified needs. When a child has both medical and behavioral concerns, any interactive burden of care will be considered in determining a final score for degree of risk to health and safety. The age of the child is considered in evaluating the identified risks (e.g., a two- or three-year-old would be expected to be ADL dependent and not have safety skills). Include dates and summarize details of hospitalizations, injuries or property destruction within the last six months, as applicable, when describing the child's medical or behavioral needs.

Medical:

Score five (5) points if the child is dependent daily on technologically sophisticated medical equipment to sustain life and requires continuous observations and judgments to maintain or improve health status. "Continuous" observations and judgments mean more than once hourly throughout a 24-hour period. Delayed interventions may result in further deterioration of the child's health status, in loss of function, or in death. Examples of care needs include: 1) ventilator dependence, 2) peritoneal dialysis, and 3) total parenteral nutrition in association with complex medical problems and extreme medical fragility.

Score four (4) points if the child is dependent daily on medical equipment to sustain life and requires frequent observations and judgments to maintain or improve health status. "Frequent" observations and judgments mean less often than once hourly and not less than once every three hours throughout the 24-hour period. Delayed interventions may result in an acceleration of the chronic condition, or in a preventable acute episode. Examples of care needs include: 1) managing unstable airway problems, in association with suctioning, oral or tracheotomy care, 2) managing nasogastric tube feedings or medications, 3) adjusting oxygen levels several times a day related to documented desaturations and pulse oximeter readings.

Score three (3) points if the child has a medical condition that routinely requires hourly care or support on a daily basis in order to maintain or improve health status. Clinical observations may be intermittent. Medical interventions typically are associated with minimal risk to health status and delayed interventions usually are not associated with imminent risk to health status. Examples of care needs include a combination of: 1) chest physiotherapy, 2) special skin care, 3) ostomy care, 4) range of motion exercises, 5) cast care, 6) positioning and transferring, 7) gastrostomy tube feedings, or 8) PRN oxygen, or continuous oxygen with infrequent adjustments or documented desaturations.

Score two (2) points if the child has a medical condition and requires significant amounts of assistance or guidance on a daily basis due to dependence in activities of daily living. In addition, the child's medical condition is stable and medical interventions and observations are infrequently required. Interventions are associated with minimal or no risk to health status. Examples of care include: 1) assistance or guidance because the child is dependent in activities of daily living, including eating, toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing, mobility (ambulation and transferring), 2) assistance or guidance with physical transfer (e.g., bed to chair), 3) assistance or guidance with therapeutic positioning (physical therapy), including changing positions while in bed, 4) assistance for the primary care giver because the child is too large (80 pounds or more) for one person to move safely and the child is unable to assist the care giver.

Score one (1) point if the child requires the types of assistance described in item (d) and weighs less than 80 pounds.

Behavioral

Score five (5) points if the child demonstrates a pattern of severe self-injurious, physically aggressive or assaultive behavior or life-threatening property destruction which has occurred one or more times in the past six months. In addition, documented evidence of additional behavioral problems on a frequent basis each day would support a need for one-to-one intensive behavioral

treatment. "Severe behavior" is behavior that poses a very significant risk of serious injury or death to self, a family member, or others in the immediate environment. Examples of severe behavior include: intentional fire setting with significant resulting property damage, and/or physical assault or self-abuse resulting in injuries to self or others requiring inpatient hospital admission for treatment.

Score four (4) points if the child demonstrates a daily pattern of moderate self-injurious, physically aggressive, or assaultive behavioral when specific medical intervention or emergency room treatment (as contrasted with diagnostic testing) has been required but is not life threatening, or if there is documented frequent, significant property destruction. "Moderate behavior" includes behaviors that pose a significant risk of injury to self or others in the immediate environment. Examples of moderate behavior include: physical assault or self-abuse resulting in injuries requiring hospital emergency room treatment (not merely assessment) without hospital admission in the past year, biting that breaks the skin, hair pulling resulting in removal of clumps of hair from the scalp, multiple daily episodes of smearing feces with associated PICA, head banging resulting in documented concussion or detached retina, or a daily combination of multiple high intensity, high risk behavior. An example of "significant property destruction" would be four broken windows in three different incidents in the last three months or repeated incidences of breaking furniture and other items in the last six months.

Score three (3) points if the child demonstrates a daily pattern of medium-level behaviors including self-injurious, physically aggressive, or assaultive behaviors that have not resulted in hospitalization or emergency room treatment for injuries in the past year, or the child has engaged in occasional, significant property destruction that is not life-threatening. A "pattern of behavior" means that in addition to a single serious episode in the last year, significant daily behaviors are documented. "Medium behavior" includes behaviors similar to those defined as examples in "Score four (4) points" (moderate behavior) that have not required specific medical intervention or emergency room treatment. Examples include: head banging resulting in bleeding and bruising without concussion or detached retina, hair pulling without removing hair from the scalp, smearing feces without PICA, biting without drawing blood. "Occasional significant property destruction" means property destruction that occurs with a frequency not greater than one time per week.

Score two (2) points if the child demonstrates mild self-injurious, aggressive or assaultive behavior on a daily basis or up to four days per week, or has engaged in intermittent or limited property destruction. Examples of "mild behavior" include: pinching, hitting, slapping, kicking, head banging or elopement without careful supervision when there is evidence of lack of judgment regarding danger, or an extremely high activity level requiring extensive supervision and redirection. Examples of "limited property destruction" would be tearing clothing, carpeting or tipping furniture.

Score one (1) point if the child demonstrates intermittent or infrequent mild self-injurious, aggressive or assaultive behaviors, or limited property destruction (as described in "Score 2 points in this section") and this occurs three or fewer times a week.

The maximum possible score for this factor is forty-five (45) points.

Factor 8 - At Risk of Out-of-Home Placement

Score five (5) points if all of the following apply:

- The family has specifically requested out-of-home placement in the past three months.
- CMHSP has identified a specific placement and a date for placement is set which is within 14 days OR the child is currently in an out-of-home placement (neither medical hospitalization nor psychiatric hospitalization constitute placement for this factor).
- CMHSP certifies that the planned length of placement is six months or more.
- CMHSP certifies that the family is unable to provide care due to severe medical or emotional conditions.

Score four (4) points if all of the following apply:

- The family has specifically requested out-of-home placement in the past three months.
- CMHSP has identified a specific placement and a planned date for placement has been set more than 14 days but within 30 days of the date of the WSA pre-screen submission.
- CMHSP certifies that the planned length of placement is six months or more.
- CMHSP certifies that the family is unable to provide care due to severe medical or emotional conditions.

Score three (3) points if all of the following apply:

- The family has specifically requested out-of-home placement in the last three months.
- CMHSP has not identified a placement at this time but plans to support the family's request by placing the child out of home and is actively working to identify an out-of-home location, OR CMHSP has identified a placement and the planned date of placement is 30 days or more from the date of the WSA pre-screen submission.
- CMHSP certifies that the planned length of placement is three months or more.
- CMHSP certifies that the family is unable to provide care due to severe medical or emotional conditions.

Score two (2) points if the family has not specifically requested out-of-home placement in the last three months but the worker believes that there is a realistic likelihood that the family will request placement and, in fact, would place the child in the next three months if a placement were identified.

Score one (1) point if any one of the following applies:

- The family has not specifically requested out-of-home placement or no date of request is identified.
- The family is requesting a short-term or respite placement of less than three months.
- The family has requested placement but CMHSP does not intend to facilitate or offer placement.

- The request for placement occurred more than three months ago and the child has been at home since the request (other than periods of time when the child was hospitalized or in respite).

The maximum possible score for this factor is forty (40) points.

Factor 7 - The Number and Ages of Other Minor Children Residing in the Home

A "child" is defined as an individual less than 18 years of age, in addition to the waiver candidate, for whom the parent is legally responsible. For purposes of scoring this factor, foster children or children for whom the primary care giver is reimbursed for care (including adoption subsidy) are not considered to be "children residing in the home." Children of other adults or children residing in the home part-time are also not considered in this factor.

Score five (5) points if the total number of children in the home not including the child is either:
a) four or more; or b) three or more of the children are under the age of five.

Score four (4) points if the total number of children in the home not including the child is either:
a) three; or b) two children in the family are under the age of five.

Score three (3) points if the total number of children in the home not including the child is either:
a) a total of two; or b) one child under the age of five resides in the home.

Score two (2) points if only one other child not under the age of five resides in the home.

Score one (1) point if no other children reside in the home.

The maximum possible score for this factor is thirty-five (35) points.

Factor 6 - Family Stress and/or Physical Health Problems

This factor measures family-related stress of a physical or emotional nature. Include dates for any identified relevant health problems, disabilities or hospitalizations, and identify any current limitations in capacity to provide care to the applicant that result from the identified issues.

Score five (5) points if any of the following apply:

- Two parents reside in the home and the parent who is the primary care giver is physically or emotionally disabled and unable to provide care because of the disability; or
- The family is a one-parent family and the parent who resides with the child is physically or emotionally disabled; or
- In a two-parent family, one of the two parents is both terminally ill and hospitalized or is permanently institutionalized.

Score four (4) points if any of the following apply:

- The family is experiencing acute long-term stress due to the physical or emotional condition of the parent or primary care giver living in the home and that condition is expected to last more than six (6) months; or

- The family is participating in family counseling or one or more parents are participating in individual counseling provided by a licensed MSW, LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor), or psychologist whose credentials are identified and the frequency is at least three times per month based on documented dates over the last 90 days, or
- The primary care giver is a single parent with no extended family support and the severity of the child's condition requires constant "eyes-on" supervision.

Score three (3) points if any of the following apply:

- The family is experiencing situational or temporary stress related to a specific event that is expected to be resolved within three to six months. (Examples: divorce, separation, loss of job, move, loss of extended family support, death of a child within past three months)
- One parent has a long-term disability that does not prevent the parent from providing care to the child. (Example: diagnosis of alcoholism, depression, or other mental or physical problems which may interfere with but do not prevent the parent from providing care, as distinguished from a physical disability which would prevent provision of care such as being wheelchair-bound).
- The family is participating in family counseling or one or more parents are participating in individual counseling provided by a licensed MSW, LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor), or psychologist at least two times per month based on documented dates over the last 90 days and description of credentials.
- The primary care giver is a single parent with no extended family support and severity of the child's condition requires less than constant "eyes-on" supervision.

Score two (2) points if the family is experiencing temporary or situational stress which is expected to be resolved in one to three months. (Examples: recent death of a parent or automobile accident not producing severe, long-term disability).

Score one (1) point if the family is experiencing or identifying normal levels of stress associated with care giving for a child with special needs.

The maximum possible score for this factor is thirty (30) points.

Factor 5 - The Family Has More Than One Child with Special Needs at Home

For purposes of this factor, the term "child" or "sibling" refers to an individual under age 18 years, considered to be residing in the home (as defined in Factor 7). NOTE: Any disabled sibling who has been approved to apply for the CWP, or currently receives hourly care funded through CWP, state plan Private Duty Nursing, private insurance or any other program does not count towards the total for this factor. Documentation of in-home sibling supports is required.

Score five (5) points if three (3) or more of the waiver applicant's siblings have long-term special needs (i.e., a developmental disability, emotional or physical/health problems requiring special education or treatment) or two siblings have severe/intense special needs.

Score four (4) points if two siblings have long-term special needs.

Score three (3) points if one sibling has long-term special needs.

Score two (2) points if one sibling has short-term special needs, or one or more siblings have ADHD and are receiving special education services.

Score one (1) point if no sibling has special needs.

The maximum possible score for this factor is twenty-five (25) points.

Factor 4 - Child Presently in a Nursing Home

Score five (5) points if the child presently resides in a nursing home and has a plan that states the child could go home with appropriate supports; and the family has expressed interest in caring for their child at home.

Score one (1) point if the child is not presently in a nursing home.

The maximum possible score for this factor is twenty (20) points.

Factor 3 - Child Presently Resides in an ICF/IID Facility

Score five (5) points if the child presently resides in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) facility.

Score one (1) point if the child does not presently reside in an ICF/IID facility.

The maximum possible score for this factor is fifteen (15) points.

Factor 2 - Reserved for Future Use

Factor 1 - The Child is Presently in Foster Care and Needs Support

Score five (5) points for any child residing at home or for whom the immediate proposed placement is to return home from foster care.

Score one (1) point if the child presently resides in foster care and needs support to be maintained in that setting.

The maximum possible score for this factor is five (5) points.

The total maximum score for the nine (9) factors listed above is 265 points.