

This Data Story shares information about CLAS standards, their importance, and how they are currently being integrated into CT's children's behavioral health network of care.

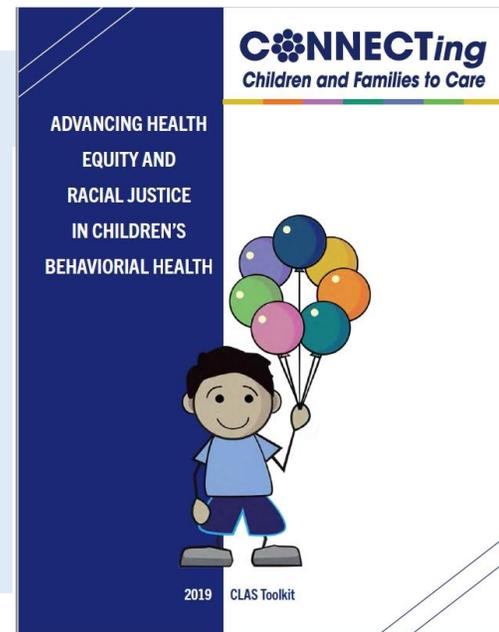
What are CLAS standards?

CLAS standards provide guidelines (or “blueprints”) for health care, including behavioral health organizations, to provide services in a way that best meet the needs of all – no matter their race, ethnicity, cultural background or language spoken.

CLAS standards in CT

CT's Department of Children and Families (DCF) is overseeing a statewide process for incorporating **Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS standards)** into children's behavioral health agencies.

The **CLAS Standards Toolkit** supports child-and-family serving organizations in developing their health equity plans and is central to this work.



Why are CLAS standards important?

In Connecticut, the Department of Children and Families believes CLAS standards are important to...

-  Improve **youth and family members** access to behavioral health services, no matter their race, ethnicity, cultural background or language spoken.
-  Improve outcomes for **all youth and family members** receiving behavioral health services.
-  Increase **youth and family members** involvement in improving behavioral health services, including their feedback on what could be improved to help make services work for everyone.

Examples of CT's CLAS standards work in action...



DID YOU KNOW?

21.6% of CT's population over age 4 speaks a language other than English at home (ACS, 2015).

CT Department of Children and Family (and its **CLAS Standards Toolkit**) supports BH organizations in the following ways...

As of the end of 2019,



CLAS Standards Assessment

39 agencies have completed organizational CLAS standard assessments

What is this?
This tool assesses current organizational cultural competency and growth over time.



Health Equity Plan

35+ agencies have completed Health Equity Plans

What is this?
Health Equity Plans provide a guide for agencies to develop their plan for diversity, equity and inclusion.



Learning Communities

49 agencies have participated in regional learning communities

What is this?
Learning communities provide opportunities for agencies to come together to share best practices for applying CLAS standards.

For more information about CLAS Standards or to receive technical assistance in developing a Health Equity Plan contact: CTNetworkofCareManagers@beaconhealthoptions.com

The goal of CONNECTing to Care is a partnership that focuses on coordinating quality access to care through a youth-guided and family-driven approach. To improve mental health for children in CT, Connecting to Care seeks to change the way that the system operates so that all children have the opportunity to thrive.