

Birth to Five High Needs Determination Tool

The promotion of behavioral health services for children ages birth to five is critical to the prevention and mitigation of mental disorders throughout the lifespan. In order to ensure the identification of appropriate service needs, providers must complete the following required clinical assessments:

1. Developmental screening must be conducted by the Behavioral Health Home for children birth to five with a referral for further evaluation when developmental concerns are identified,
2. The Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII) or an equivalent assessment must be completed within the first 45 days of intake. Assessments should continue at least bi-annually, and as significant changes occur in the life of the child.
 - a. In lieu of the ECSII (or as otherwise directed by AHCCCS), the following criteria shall be evaluated to determine if a child birth to five is considered high needs and requires further assessment and targeted services. Children birth through five years of age shall demonstrate two or more of the following:
 - i. Other agency involvement; specifically: AzEIP, DCS, and/or DDD; and/or
 - ii. Out of home placement (within past six months); and/or
 - iii. Psychotropic medication utilization (two or more psychotropic medications); and/or
 - iv. Evidence of severe psycho-social stressors (e.g. family member serious illness, disability, death, job loss, eviction).

Children ages birth to five who have been identified to have high service intensity needs will require a high needs case management referral. Contracted providers shall give the family the option to receive high needs case management and other needed services through the originally assigned provider or being referred to an external provider for high needs case management. If the original provider does not offer high needs case management, they will support with coordination of care during the transfer process to a high needs agency. Providers should also utilize evidenced-based early childhood service delivery models.

Additional Resources:

- AHCCCS BH System Practice Tool: Working with the Birth Through Five Population - <https://www.azahcccs.gov/PlansProviders/GuidesManualsPolicies/>
- BUHP Child and Family Support: Includes Specialty BH Services Directory and Birth to Five Resource Guide: <https://www.banneruhp.com/resources/child-and-family-support>