



Home and Community-Based Programs

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Medicaid Functional Eligibility Instrument- Level of Care (MFEI-LOC)

FAQs about the MFEI-LOC

The State of Kansas is changing to a new functional eligibility and client assessment, referral, and evaluation (CARE) tool. The new tool is called the Medicaid Functional Eligibility Instrument-Level of Care (MFEI-LOC). This tool will replace the Functional Assessment Instrument (FAI) used in some Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) programs and CARE assessments used for nursing facility applicants. The MFEI-LOC will be used to determine functional eligibility for LTSS to meet federal Medicaid law eligibility requirements.

Please see the glossary at the end of this document for additional key terms and acronyms used in this FAQ.

1. Why is Kansas changing to the MFEI-LOC?

Kansas is updating the functional eligibility process to improve the assessment process and experience based on best practices.

2. What does the MFEI-LOC assess?

The MFEI-LOC assesses:

- **Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)** –include items such as bathing, dressing, toileting, transfers, and eating.
- **Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs)** –include items such as managing finances, shopping, transportation, managing medications, housework, and meal preparation.
- **Cognition and Memory** – the ability to plan, to adjust to new and familiar routines to make safe decisions, and short- and long-term memory.
- **Challenging Behaviors** – behaviors that may include impaired judgment, fluctuations in decision-making capacity, and impulsive, inappropriate, or disruptive behaviors.
- **Fall Risk** – items include history of falls, ability to move freely, and ability to be aware of your surroundings.
- **Continence** – items include elimination, bowel, and bladder functioning.
- **Informal Supports** – unpaid caregiving supports who help meet a person’s LTSS need; this often include family members or friends.

3. Who does the MFEI-LOC impact?

The MFEI-LOC will be used for participants receiving or seeking services through the following programs:

- Physical Disabilities (PD) Waiver
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver
- Frail Elderly (FE) Waiver
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- TBI Rehabilitation Facilities (TBIRFs)

- Nursing Facilities (NFs)

4. How does the MFEI-LOC assessment affect participants in these programs?

New or different questions will be asked during functional eligibility assessment appointments. The overall assessment process remains the same. The table below details what will change and what will remain the same.

Different
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The new assessment is longer. b) There will be new and/or additional questions. c) Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Assessors will use a computer instead of paper to complete the new assessment. d) Assessment results will be scored by a computer.
Same
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) The assessment will still be completed in a conflict-free environment. f) Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) will continue to administer the assessment. g) The assessment will be done within 5 business days of referral for new applicants. h) Existing participants will be reassessed yearly. i) The assessment looks at the same areas as before, including: activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), cognition, behavior, and social supports. j) The level of care (LOC) eligibility score is the same. k) LOC policies are still the same. l) How the LOC score is determined is based on the same types of items. m) KanCare Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) are responsible for care planning. n) Care coordinators are provided by KanCare MCOs. o) The Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services administers these programs. p) The financial eligibility criteria and process will be the same.

5. Why is Kansas changing the tool?

Before, each program had a different assessment. The new assessment is universal and should provide the following:

- A better experience when people transition to a different program.
- More accurate and consistent results.
- Improved referrals.

6. How was the MFEI-LOC created?

KDADS partnered with the University of Kansas (KU) who conducted focus groups with 38 assessors/providers and 41 participants/caregivers stakeholders to develop the MFEI-LOC. Also, KDADS and KU hosted monthly MFEI Advisory Workgroup meetings, which included provider and advocacy representatives.

The MFEI-LOC was tested in different areas of the state by assessors at Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) from December 2014 to April 2016. Improvements were made and tested before making the final version.

7. When will the MFEI-LOC replace the Functional Assessment Instrument (FAI)?

The timeframe depends on many factors. KDADS is continually monitoring system readiness not only from a technology point of view but also as it relates to assessor training. Stakeholders will receive notification well in advance of implementation.

8. How will the transition period work?

Before using the tool, all Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Assessors will be provided with instruction and assistance on how to use the MFEI-LOC assessment tool and the software system by KU and KDADS Staff.

First Year

During the first year, participants/applicants who are up to 4 points below eligibility using the MFEI-LOC will automatically receive the previous Functional Assessment Instrument (FAI) or CARE assessments to check for accurate results. The participant/applicant will be eligible if they pass the FAI or CARE.

KDADS and KU will closely monitor the assessment process and results. The MFEI Advisory Workgroup will continue to provide input during the transition period. Corrective changes will be made as needed and in consultation with stakeholders.

9. How can I provide feedback?

- You can call or email KDADS at cindy.wichman@ks.gov or KU at crado@ku.edu with your questions and comments.

Continue to the next page for a list of key term and acronyms.

Key Terms and Acronyms

ADLs: Activities of Daily Living. ADL scales typically include items such as bathing, dressing, toileting, transfers, and eating.

ADRC: Aging and Disability Resource Center. The ADRC is a trusted source of information where people of all ages, abilities and income levels, and their caregivers can obtain assistance and planning for the long-term service and support needs. ADRCs are responsible for conducting the functional assessment needed to determine eligibility for the FE/PD/TBI waivers and PACE programs.

CARE: Consumer Assessment, Referral, and Evaluation. This is the current required assessment for all Kansans seeking long-term nursing facility services. It also meets the federal PASRR requirement and determines functional eligibility for Kansans seeking Medicaid-funded nursing facility services.

FAI: Functional Assessment Instrument. This is the current required assessment to determine functional eligibility for the FE/PD/TBI waiver and PACE programs.

Functional Eligibility: A functional eligibility determination means there is need for long-term services and supports (LTSS) due to cognitive or physical limitations, according to federal Medicaid law.

Frail Elderly (FE) Waiver: This is a Medicaid funded community based alternative to nursing homes that provides long-term services and supports (LTSS) to eligible seniors ages 65+.

Physical Disabilities (PD) Waiver: This is a Medicaid funded community based alternative to nursing homes that provides long-term services and supports to eligible individuals with physical disabilities, ages 16-64.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver: This is a Medicaid community based alternative to TBI residential facilities (TBIRFs) that provides long-term services and supports (LTSS) to eligible individuals with traumatic brain injuries, ages 16-64.

IADLs: Instrumental Activities of Daily Living. IADLs include items such as managing finances, shopping, transportation, managing medications, housework, and meal preparation.

KanCare: KanCare is the managed care program through which the State of Kansas administers Medicaid.

KDADS: Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services. KDADS administers Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs and oversees the MFEI-LOC assessments.

KU: University of Kansas. KU was contracted to develop the MFEI-LOC.

LTSS: Long Term Services and Supports.

MFEI-LOC: Medicaid Functional Eligibility Instrument-Level of Care. This is the new functional eligibility assessment that will replace the FAI and CARE assessments.

MCOs: Managed Care Organizations. Currently, three MCOs participate in the KanCare program: Amerigroup, Sunflower Health Plan, and United HealthCare.

NF: Nursing Facility

PACE: Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. PACE is a Medicaid and Medicare program that coordinates and provides all necessary health care and long-term services and supports (LTSS) for eligible consumers, ages 55+.

PASRR: Preadmission Screening and Resident Review. The PASRR is a federal requirement to screen nursing facility applicants for serious mental illness or intellectual/development disabilities in order to ensure that such individuals are not inappropriately placed in nursing facilities.

TBIRF: Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation Facility.