Licensing human services providers protects health, safety, rights

The Minnesota Department of Human Services, in cooperation with counties, licenses approximately 22,000 service providers and monitors and investigates their compliance with Minnesota laws and rules. The purpose of licensing is to protect the health, safety and rights of those receiving services by requiring that providers meet minimum standards of care and physical environment. Licensed programs serve thousands of people in the following ways:

People with disabilities and age 65 and over served under the home and community-based services standards

- Home and community-based services – 1,306 programs, including:
  - Community residential settings – 3,435 programs
  - Day services facilities – 303 programs
  - Residential services facilities – 218 programs

People in need of mental health treatment:

- Mental health centers and clinics – 67 programs
- Residential programs for adults with mental illness – 52 programs
- Treatment for sexual psychopathic personality disorder – two programs
- Also see children’s residential facilities.

People in need of chemical dependency treatment:

- Chemical dependency treatment programs – 377 programs
- Detox services – 21 programs.

People in need of adult day care or adult foster care:

- Adult day care centers – 163 programs
- Adult foster care – 1,145 programs
- Family adult day services – six programs.

Children in need of residential services or alternative or transitional homes:

- Children’s residential facilities – 74 programs (does not include 41 children’s residential facilities licensed by the Department of Corrections)
- Independent living assistance for youth – two programs.
Families with children:

- Family and group family child care – 9,079 programs
- Child care centers – 1,657 programs
- Child foster care – 3,746 programs (does not include 21 Department of Corrections child foster care programs)
- Child placement and adoption agencies – 39 programs.

Actions enforce standards

Licensors conduct license inspections for new and existing programs, monitor compliance with license requirements, process variances to licensing rules, conduct complaint investigations and provide limited technical assistance. When problems are found, licensors may issue correction orders and fines, or place a program’s license on conditional status, or suspend or revoke a license.

In 2015, DHS issued:

- 74 conditional licenses
- 449 fines
- 162 revocations
- 172 denials of revocation
- 98 temporary immediate suspensions
- seven suspensions

Preventing and investigating maltreatment

- Maltreatment investigators investigate allegations of maltreatment of minors and vulnerable adults in licensed programs. In 2015, DHS investigated 796 reports of alleged maltreatment of minors and vulnerable adults.

Counties, Health Department play important roles

Counties have the primary responsibility for monitoring family child care, child foster care, adult foster care, and family adult day services. Approximately 14,000 such programs are licensed in Minnesota. Counties are also responsible for inspecting the physical plant of 3,500 community residential settings under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245D.

DHS is responsible for licensing child care centers, children residential facilities, residential and outpatient programs for people with chemical dependency, mental health programs, and home and community-based services for persons with disabilities and age 65 or older.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) solely licenses hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient surgical centers, home health care, board and lodge with special services and some assisted living facilities. MDH issues supervised living facility licenses to some residential facilities that also have a DHS program license. MDH also issues the federal certification of intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities or related conditions, commonly referred to as ICFs/DD.

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