

## Minnesota Electronic Child Care System – MEC<sup>2</sup>

### Purpose

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To help parents who need child care assistance by providing county and state staff with automated case management tools to deliver Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). It helps determine client eligibility, pays providers, supports program integrity and tracks child care expenses.

### Significance

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In state fiscal year 2017, MEC<sup>2</sup> issued \$248.2 million in child care payments to 4,852 child care providers for the care of 29,168 children on average monthly. Through integration with MAXIS, MEC<sup>2</sup> reduces duplicate entry of data by child care and financial workers.

### Who benefits

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- Families who receive CCAP benefits so that their children are cared for while parents work, look for work or attend school
- Child care providers who care for children from CCAP families. MEC<sup>2</sup> provides consistency in the administration of CCAP policy from county to county, or tribe.
- State agencies that rely on county and tribal information to monitor and oversee the administration of CCAP and prepare reports needed to secure federal funds
- Taxpayers who benefit from reduced pro-grams costs resulting from more consistent administration of CCAP, increased program integrity, and centralized printing and mailing of forms, notices and state warrants.
- The Legislature, through uniform policy application
- Banks and other financial institutions that have reduced processing costs due to the direct deposit option offered to child care providers via MEC<sup>2</sup>.

### Program area

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Children and Family Services

### Programs supported

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Supports the Child Care Assistance Program, including the Minnesota Family Investment Program, Transition Year and Basic Sliding Fee child care programs.

## Number of users

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3,000 — agency or statewide use

## Who uses it

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Counties, tribes, other CCAP agencies, and DHS staff Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program

## Planning

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DHS is moving forward with implementing its vision for an Integrated Human Services Delivery System and Enterprise Systems Modernization. The underlying technology selected as part of modernization projects will have an impact on this system.

## Contacts

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