

## Reporter's Guide to DHS

The Reporter's Guide to DHS is a list of human services programs and issues. If you have questions about these topics, please contact the media relations staff person listed. You may also contact Terry Gunderson, communications director, 651-431-2912.

### Adoption

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DHS works with counties to find permanent families for children who are under state guardianship, and provides funding to help parents adopt children with special needs.

- Katie Bauer  
651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

### Aging issues

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For seniors and adults with special needs, DHS, counties, and Area Agencies on Aging develop resources such as adult foster care, adult protection, caregiver support and in-home services. DHS also is among state agencies and others discussing how Minnesota can prepare for a growing aging population.

- Jeanine Nistler  
651-431-4395 or [jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us](mailto:jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us)

### Budget information

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For general agencywide information on the budget, including statistics and forecasts:

- Katie Bauer  
651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

For budget information on a specific topic:

- Staff person designated for that topic.

## Chemical dependency

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The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division is designated in statute as the state authority on drug and alcohol abuse. The division plans and evaluates programs and administers funding.

- Sarah Berg  
651-431-4901 or [sarah.berg@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.berg@state.mn.us)

## Child care assistance

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DHS oversees the Child Care Assistance Program and the Basic Sliding Fee program, which help low-income families pay for child care.

- Katie Bauer  
651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

## Child care development

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DHS works with communities, other state agencies, parents and providers to develop high quality and accessible child care options and early intervention services for families, and to promote school readiness for children in child care settings.

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651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

## Child protection

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DHS develops policy, provides training and oversees county efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to intervene when abuse or neglect occurs.

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## Child support

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DHS works with counties to establish paternity and collect child support.

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651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

## Children's services

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DHS oversees child welfare services, such as adoption, child care, foster care and child protection, as well as child support enforcement, which are primarily administered through Minnesota counties.

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## Deaf and hard of hearing services

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DHS helps Minnesotans who are deaf or hard of hearing access services to live independently. Several offices statewide provide direct services, adaptive equipment demonstration labs, information, and referral and distribution of specialized telephone equipment.

- Sarah Berg  
651-431-2901 or [sarah.berg@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.berg@state.mn.us)

## Direct Care and Treatment

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DHS Direct Care and Treatment (formerly State Operated Services) provides direct services to people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, chemical dependency and traumatic brain injuries. It includes facilities, such as the Anoka Regional Treatment Center and the Minnesota Security Hospital.

- Christopher Sprung  
651-431-4892 or [christopher.sprung@state.mn.us](mailto:christopher.sprung@state.mn.us)

## Disabilities

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DHS plans, develops and evaluates community-based services for people with developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, physical disabilities and chronic medical conditions. Community-based services include home care, residential and work-related services.

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651-431-4901 or [sarah.berg@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.berg@state.mn.us)

## Diversionsary Work Program

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The Diversionsary Work Program is a work-focused effort to help families avoid longer term public assistance.

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## Economic opportunity programs

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Through the Office of Economic Opportunity, DHS administers a variety of federal- and state-funded programs to help low-income families and individuals develop resources to support themselves through community action agencies, food shelves and homeless shelters.

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651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

## Food Support

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See Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP).

## Foster care

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Foster care is one of several forms of substitute care, frequently called out-of-home placement, for children whose families cannot safely care for them. DHS oversees county programs, works to reduce out-of-home placement and helps children who cannot safely reunite with their families find permanent homes.

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## Fraud

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The Office of the Inspector General oversees fraud prevention and recovery efforts for DHS programs, including health care, cash assistance, child care and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

- Jeanine Nistler  
651-431-4395 or [jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us](mailto:jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us)

## General Assistance

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General Assistance is a state-funded program that provides financial assistance to people who are undergoing temporary crises or have a disability — typically single, unemployable adults.

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651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

## Health care

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Two publicly funded health care programs — Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare — serve low-income Minnesotans.

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## HIV/AIDS

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DHS helps people with HIV or AIDS access health care through its insurance, drug reimbursement, dental, nutrition and case management programs.

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651-431-4901 or [sarah.berg@state.mn.us](mailto:sarah.berg@state.mn.us)

## Homeless youth

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Through grants to community social service agencies, DHS provides services, including emergency and transitional housing, for homeless youth.

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651-431-2911 or [katie.bauer@state.mn.us](mailto:katie.bauer@state.mn.us)

## Licensing

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DHS licenses programs for children and vulnerable adults, including child care centers, family child care (via counties), foster care, adoption agencies, and services for people with developmental disabilities, chemical dependency and mental illness. DHS also investigates maltreatment allegations and conducts background studies of staff in these programs.

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651-431-4395 or [jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us](mailto:jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us)

## Medical Assistance (MA)/ Medicaid

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Medical Assistance, Minnesota's Medicaid program, pays for health care for low-income seniors, children and families, pregnant women and people with disabilities.

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651-431-4395 or [jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us](mailto:jeanine.nistler@state.mn.us)

## Mental health

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DHS works with counties, mental health providers and others to provide adults and children with an array of mental health services.

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## MinnesotaCare

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MinnesotaCare is a publicly subsidized program that serves people who do not have access to affordable health care coverage. Enrollees pay premiums based on their income and family size.

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## Minnesota Family Investment Program

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MFIP helps families transition to economic stability. MFIP is Minnesota's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

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## Minnesota Supplemental Aid

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Minnesota Supplemental Aid is a state supplement to the Supplemental Security Income program, which is administered by the Social Security Administration. SSI is a federal cash assistance program for people who are blind, aged and disabled.

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## Nursing homes

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DHS provides policy development, program administration and rate setting for nursing facility services for elderly Minnesotans.

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## Personal care assistance program

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The personal care assistance (PCA) program provides services to people eligible for Medical Assistance who need help with day-to-day activities in their home and community. Personal care assistants are not required to have a state license; however, some agencies that provide PCA services are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health. PCAs must pass criminal background studies performed by DHS.

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## Refugee resettlement services

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DHS administers services that help refugees make the transition to life in the United States through job search and training, language skills development and financial assistance.

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## Sex offenders

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DHS operates the Minnesota Sex Offender Program, which provides treatment in a secure setting for individuals civilly committed as sexually dangerous persons or sexual psychopathic personalities.

- Christopher Sprung  
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## State Operated Services

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See Direct Care and Treatment.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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The federally funded Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP) provides funds accessed through an electronic account that are redeemed for food. SNAP was formerly known as Food Support and Food Stamps.

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For accessible formats of this publication or assistance with equal access to human services, write to [dhs.info@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.info@state.mn.us), call 651-431-2911 or use your preferred relay service.

