



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Fast Facts: 2016 Legislative Session

Overview of changes affecting human services

The 2016 Legislature approved a number of changes affecting human services, including an investment of \$63 million to improve the care and safety of clients and employees in Direct Care and Treatment (DCT). There were additional investments in community mental health, improvements for MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance enrollees and protections for people with disabilities.

Gov. Mark Dayton requested a total operating increase for DCT of \$104.7 million and \$87 million for bonding. The Legislature failed to approve a bonding bill and only partially funded DCT operating needs, providing no funding for the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter and less funding than needed for Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center. Changes this session:

Address some needs in DHS care facilities

- Provide funding for a deficiency in Minnesota State Operated Community Services (MSOCS). This funding will allow vital services in group homes and employment services to continue as a long-term plan for the program is developed. (*\$28 million for fiscal year (FY) 16/17*)
- Expand psychiatric bed capacity in DCT to better address the needs of the people we serve and invest in quality of care as well as the safety of clients and staff in DCT programs. (*\$19.8 million in FY17*)
- Cover a salary shortfall across DCT, ensuring staffing can continue at the current level. (*\$15 million for FY16/17*)

Support community mental health care

- Provide funding to help create Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, a federal demonstration project to provide comprehensive psychiatric and physical health care through new practice and payment models. (*\$8.4 million in FY18/19 when fully implemented*)
- Expand School-Linked Mental Health Grants, which puts mental health professionals in schools where they can conveniently provide treatment to students and consultation to teachers and staff. (*\$1.5 million annually starting in FY18*)
- Increase funding for the Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. (*\$250,000 annually*)
- Extend an integrated behavioral health care coordination demonstration project at the Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center, Rochester. (*\$200,000 in FY17*)
- Set standards for Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for people with mental illness.
- Expand eligibility for the Crisis Housing Assistance Program.

Other legislative changes

- Increase basic rates for children in Northstar Care for Children by 15 percent, effective July 1, 2017. (*\$25.9 million in FY18/19*)
- Implement a new parenting expense adjustment for determining child support, and establish a task force to advise the commissioner of Human Services on child support guidelines and other policies. (*\$234,000 in FY17*)
- Approve initiatives for American Indians, including funding to help transfer various human services programs to the White Earth Nation, Red Lake Nation and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. (*\$2.8 million in FY17 and \$1.9 million per year starting in FY18*)
- Increase funding for homeless youth (\$1.45 million annually starting in FY18 and for sexually exploited youth receiving Safe Harbor (\$750,000 annually starting in FY18) services and housing.
- Create “rolling renewals” for MinnesotaCare clients, allowing for better program administration and greater certainty for enrollees. (*\$425,000 in FY17*)
- Fix a Medical Assistance recovery issue, which had placed an undue burden on property owners enrolled in state health care programs. (*\$2.4 million annually*)
- Provide funds to enable spouses of people with disabilities to maintain assets while receiving waiver services. (*\$4.8 million in FY17 and \$28.5 million in FY18/19*)

DHS Communications: July 2016