Human Services Department helps meet basic needs

Our mission:
The Minnesota Department of Human Services, working with many others, helps people meet their basic needs so they can live in dignity and achieve their highest potential.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) provides or administers a variety of services to help people meet their basic needs and live as independently as possible. DHS is the state’s largest agency, making up approximately 42 percent of state spending. Approximately 80 percent of the agency’s $18.65 billion fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget is devoted to health care and related services.

Most of the agency’s approximately 7,200 employees work in locations throughout Greater Minnesota providing care directly to clients. Approximately 2,300 work in central offices in St. Paul. Services include:

- **Health care.** Approximately 1.18 million people are covered by the state’s publicly funded health care programs, with a monthly average of 1.1 million in Medical Assistance (MA or Medicaid) and 83,000 in MinnesotaCare in state fiscal year (SFY) 2018.

- **Child support.** DHS provided child support services — including paternity establishment and child support collections — to 345,946 custodial and noncustodial parents and 239,540 children in federal fiscal year 2017.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).** In 2017, more than 429,000 Minnesotans were receiving nutrition assistance through the program every month.

- **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).** In 2017, MFIP served an average about 33,000 families a month and the Diversionary Work Program served an average of about 2,200 families a month. About 72 percent of the individuals served by MFIP are children. These programs help low-income families with children become self-sufficient.

- **Housing and support services.** In 2017, Housing and Support Services Division programs served 93,000 people. This included people served in Housing Support (formerly known as Group Residential Housing), Minnesota Supplemental Aid, General Assistance, Section 811 housing grants, and Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability (SSI/SSDI) Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR).

- **Nursing home care.** About 23,000 people on any given day receive care in 362 nursing facilities statewide. About 55 percent receive MA.

- **Services to older adults.** DHS provides a variety of home and community-based services through state and federal grants that helped about 273,000 older adults stay in their own homes in SFY 2018. These include home-delivered meals, senior dining, and online and telephone assistance, insurance counseling and referrals.

[Source: Mn.gov/dhs](mn.gov/dhs)
- **Home and community-based services.** More than 81,000 seniors and people with disabilities, chronic illnesses, brain injuries and developmental disabilities received home and community-based waiver services in SFY 2017. During that year more than 68,000 people received home care services, such as personal care assistance, home care nursing and home health aides.

- **DHS Direct Care and Treatment (DCT).** In SFY 2018, DCT programs provided services in residential and inpatient settings to more than 12,000 individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities or chemical dependency. DCT includes the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP), which provides services to individuals who have been court-ordered to receive sex offender treatment. As of Sept. 30, 2018, MSOP was providing treatment for 741 individuals at sites in St. Peter and Moose Lake.

- **Mental health services.** In calendar year 2017, more than 192,000 adults and 75,000 children received publicly funded mental health services.

- **Foster care.** In 2017, almost 16,600 children experienced out-of-home care, such as foster care, emergency shelters, group homes or residential treatment facilities. For children who left out-of-home placements in 2017, 64.1 percent were reunited with their birth parents or legal guardians.

- **Child protection.** In 2017, more than 39,600 children were the subject of more than 37,700 accepted maltreatment reports. DHS provides oversight and guidance to local child protection agencies to ensure supports and services are in place to keep children safe.

- **Deaf and hard of hearing services.** Offices in Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, St. Cloud, St. Paul and Virginia and grant-funded community partners had 20,741 consumer contacts in SFY 2018, assisting individuals who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.

- **Licensing.** DHS licenses approximately 20,000 providers with the statewide capacity to serve more than 298,000 individuals. In 2017, this included approximately 8,100 directly licensed programs covering 12 different types of services. It monitors and investigates compliance with state laws and rules, including investigating allegations of maltreatment and licensing violations. In 2017, DHS received almost 8,400 complaints alleging either maltreatment or licensing violations. DHS also licenses approximately 14,300 programs through the oversight of licensing functions delegated to the counties and private licensing agencies.

- **Fraud investigations.** The Office of Inspector General oversees health care, cash, food support and child care recipient fraud detection and recovery efforts. It also investigates health care and child care providers. It works closely with the Minnesota attorney general, U.S. Department of Justice, county attorneys and others with a role combatting fraud and abuse.

- **Background studies.** DHS conducted 352,100 required background studies on specific individuals in 2017. To help protect people who receive health care and human services, individuals with certain criminal or maltreatment histories are disqualified by law from working in various settings that serve children and vulnerable adults.

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For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-2911, or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (1-18)