



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Fast Facts: 2014 Legislative Session

Overview of changes affecting human services

The 2014 Legislature approved a number of changes affecting human services, including approval of the Minnesota Department of Human Services' top legislative priority — funding to replace outdated facilities at the Minnesota Security Hospital. The Legislature also approved items in Gov. Mark Dayton's "Unsession" agenda for human services. Key legislation:

Strengthens services for people

- Gives home and community-based service providers a 5 percent rate increase, 80 percent of which must go toward worker pay and benefits. One percent of the rate increase is tied to documentation of a quality project. (*\$80.4 million in net state investment*)
- Provides statewide training to health care providers for culturally and linguistically diverse communities on the state's new autism early intervention benefit, which will be implemented upon federal approval. Encourages the development of in-home and out-of-home respite services for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder. (*\$530,000 investment in training; \$2.5 million investment for grants to help develop respite services*)
- Expands and develops additional services for runaway, at-risk and homeless youth through the Safe Harbor Program and housing programs specific to victims of sex trafficking. (*\$1 million in FY15; \$500,000 in future years*)

Improves critical human services infrastructure

- Provides \$56.3 million to construct new residential and program facilities for the Minnesota Security Hospital in St. Peter. The changes are needed to improve client and employee safety. Additionally, the Legislature approved \$7.4 million to develop additional facilities for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP), also on the St. Peter campus.
- Provides \$3 million for constructing and rehabilitating early childhood learning facilities across the state, and an additional \$3 million designated for the Minneapolis YMCA early childhood center.

Streamlines government to work better for Minnesotans

- Enacts Gov. Dayton's top "Unsession" priority for human services — a proposal to improve the background study system. DHS conducts 275,000 background studies for a range of caregivers. The new system will result in two-thirds fewer background studies being conducted, but with more accurate and timely results. This is intended to increase efficiencies for employees, employers and the state.
- Repeals 180 outdated human services provisions in state statute. Streamlining unneeded state statutes was also an Unsession priority.
- Directs DHS to make Minnesota's cash assistance programs simpler and more uniform. These changes will affect General Assistance, Minnesota Supplemental Aid, Group Residential Housing and the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

Provides more information for prevention, treatment

- Directs DHS to work with the departments of Education and Public Safety to lead a campaign to increase public awareness of the dangers of synthetic drugs. The campaign will be designed to reach a broad audience but contain targeted messages for students and young adults. (*\$163,000 one-time investment*)
- Directs DHS and other state agencies to develop a website with autism-related resources (*\$500,000 investment*)

Other changes

- Strengthens the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and expands the use of the emergency drug Nalaxone, which can reverse opioid overdoses.
- Updates the base used to set the payments rates when Medical Assistance pays hospitals directly for care. Also sunsets a 10 percent payment rate reduction to those same hospitals (*\$9.6 million total one-time investment*)
- Promotes children's safety and well-being with measures to ensure children in the foster care system are protected from secondhand smoke.

Related information

- DHS fact sheets: <http://mn.gov/dhs/media/fact-sheets/>
- State of Minnesota budget information: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/fin/budget>
- Legislative information: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/>

DHS Communications: June 2014