

Budget for One Minnesota



Human Services: Investing in health and well-being

Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan's Budget for One Minnesota strengthens human services by making investments that help people meet their basic needs so they can live in dignity and achieve their highest potential. Addressing the deep disparities in human services access and outcomes, long a challenge for Minnesota, is a theme across the budget.

STABILIZES HEALTH CARE COVERAGE



Preserves the Health Care Access Fund

The budget maintains the Health Care Access Fund by repealing the sunset provision for the Provider Tax which would otherwise expire at the end of 2019.

The Health Care Access Fund provides essential health care coverage through the MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance (MA) programs and supports public health activities through the Minnesota Department of Health. Repealing the sunset provision maintains the Provider Tax at 1.8 percent and protects essential health programs for more than one million Minnesotans.

IMPROVES HOW CHILD CARE WORKS



Makes Necessary Changes to CCAP to Improve Child Care for Families

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps approximately 15,000 Minnesota families pay for child care so parents can work or go to school. The budget changes eligibility requirements, prioritizes homeless families, ensures health and safety in child care settings, and offers expanded due process rights for providers to improve experiences that children and families have with CCAP. These changes will help keep children in child care with fewer disruptions and more consistent schedules and also help the state meet Federal requirements.



Strengthens Attendance Record-Keeping Requirements

Requires child-care providers to keep accurate records for children receiving CCAP, increases program accountability and provides accurate justification for billing. The change requires providers to keep daily attendance records.



Clarifies Billing and Ensures Overpayment Accountability

Clarifies absent-day billing requirements, establishes a method for calculating attendance record overpayments, allows a penalty for failure to report decreases in attendance and limits retroactive eligibility to improve both provider and agency accountability. This provision helps ensure the financial and administrative integrity of CCAP.

Improves Oversight of Fraud Investigations, Prevents Fraud

Funds a case tracking system, already used by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, for CCAP investigations. The budget also strengthens the state's capacity for data analysis to identify, detect and prevent fraud and abuse; increases monitoring and technical assistance for child care centers; and allows more frequent inspections. The budget increases fraud prevention grants for counties and supports planning for improved provider registration and oversight, including an electronic record-keeping system and registration controls.

EMPOWERS TRIBAL COMMUNITIES



Expands the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative

American Indian children experience a higher rate of involvement in the child welfare system. To combat this trend, the budget expands the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative, which is being successfully implemented by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and White Earth Nation. Under this provision, child welfare cases for American Indian children in certain Minnesota counties will be transferred to the Red Lake Nation. At the same time, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will continue planning for this change. This provision will also provide additional state funding to Leech Lake and White Earth to cover more out-of-home placement costs for eligible children and adequate staffing for the initiatives.



Establishes the American Indian Early Intervention Program

American Indian women and infants are being impacted at alarming rates for neonatal exposure to and dependency on opiates. The budget establishes the American Indian Family Early Intervention Program to help American Indian families living on tribal reservations and in urban areas in Minnesota access culturally appropriate early intervention services. These services will assist them in addressing issues that place them at risk of entering Minnesota's child protection system.



Promotes Traditional Healing Practices

Conventional behavioral health interventions have not yielded the same outcomes within the American Indian population as they have for others. However, traditional healing for American Indians has been very successful. The budget focuses on improving access, coordination and referral processes for traditional healing services and includes a multi-generational, multi-disciplinary approach to mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

ENSURES ECONOMIC STABILITY FOR FAMILIES



Provides More Assistance to Help People Live and Work

Monthly cash assistance through the Minnesota Family Investment Program – the state's only cash assistance program to address poverty for families with children and pregnant women – has remained unchanged since 1986. The budget funds

increased MFIP and the Diversionary Work Program cash grants by \$100 per month per household.

STRENGTHENS SCHOOL-LINKED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Reaches More Students

Untreated mental health conditions can be a significant barrier to learning and educational success. The budget expands evidence-based school-linked mental health grants to serve additional more K-12 students. Grantees may deliver school-linked mental health services via telemedicine to expand access.



Supports Children Who Have Experienced Trauma

Many children with serious mental health conditions (including the 45 percent of children who met the criteria for severe emotional disturbances) are first identified through school-linked mental health programs. The budget includes increased grant funding to help schools focus on children who have experienced trauma and provide specialized training for professionals who serve younger children and their parents.

EXPANDS COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS



Builds on a Good Idea

Substance use disorder and mental illness commonly go hand in hand, but it is rare in Minnesota to be able to get treatment for both conditions in the same place. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are an innovative model of care designed to increase access, improve services and serve as a one-stop shop for mental health and substance use treatment. The budget expands the use of this emerging evidence-based approach in Minnesota.

Supports Continuous Improvement



Early results from CCBHCs show improved access to care, reduced wait times, improved coordination, expanded scope of services and improved ability to meet individual needs for substance use and mental illness. The budget provides funding for professional and technical contracts, data collection and evaluation, and innovative initiatives to support the continuous improvement of CCBHCs.

BUILDS AN INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM



Aligns Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Payments

Both mental health and substance use disorder services are covered under Medical Assistance, but substance use disorder services are financed differently. The budget aligns how treatment services are billed and paid for under Medical Assistance across mental health and substance use disorder services. This will help ensure individuals receiving substance abuse disorder treatment have coverage for other health care and mental health services they are eligible to receive.

ENSURES ADVOCACY FOR LONG-TERM CARE CONSUMERS



Increases Staffing for the Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care

Long-term care consumers need a trusted, effective and independent advocate to act on their behalf. Currently, the ombudsman staff are unable to fully meet the demand for services, and Minnesota ranks worst in the nation for the number of active beds per ombudsman staff member. The budget increases staff to handle more cases on behalf of consumers.

COORDINATES INVESTIGATIONS THAT PROTECT SENIORS



Invests in Information Technology Support

The Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center operates 24/7 and requires multiple state technology systems and applications to meet statutory requirements, protect vulnerable adults and coordinate civil and criminal investigation of alleged maltreatment. The budget includes 24/7 systems and applications support for phone and Internet technology that are essential parts of our abuse reporting system. This investment will prevent delays in addressing outages and reporting referrals.



Creates a Management Dashboard

Lack of real-time data management in the abuse reporting system poses risks to vulnerable adults and to DHS. The budget funds creation of a management dashboard for real time operations management, compliance and contract oversight. This dashboard will support timely protection of vulnerable adults, timely referrals and timely response by law enforcement and lead investigative agencies.



Uses Technology to Partner with Law Enforcement

Timely and accurate law enforcement notification and response is necessary when investigating allegations of adult maltreatment or abuse. The budget funds better data transmission between law enforcement and the statewide abuse reporting system so that authorities are immediately notified of reports that may require a criminal investigation.

CREATES AN ASSISTED-LIVING REPORT CARD



Assessing Quality of Assisted Living and Housing with Services Establishments

Minnesota families who pay for assisted living services deserve to know they are selecting quality providers for themselves and their loved ones. There are approximately 1,700 registered housing with services settings in Minnesota, but data on the quality of the services provided is not easily accessible to the public. The budget funds an assisted living consumer and family survey process and report card to establish regular reporting on the quality of care in assisted living and registered housing with services facilities.

INCREASES OVERSIGHT FOR ADULT DAY SERVICES



Allows More Frequent Onsite Licensing Reviews of Adult Day Centers

Use of licensed adult day centers has increased significantly since 2016. Increased demand has led to significant concerns for the health and safety of the people served by these facilities. The budget invests in additional support to the adult day center licensing activity. This will allow DHS licensing staff to conduct on-site reviews of licensed adult day centers at least once every two years and heighten monitoring and assistance to centers with compliance concerns.

SIMPLIFIES AND STREAMLINES DISABILITY WAIVERS

Redesigns the Disability Waiver Service System

More than 47,000 Minnesotans with disabilities live, work and engage with their community with support from several disability Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs administered by DHS, counties and tribes. However, clients, their families, service providers and lead agencies find the system complicated and difficult to understand.

The budget includes provisions to streamline services available across all four waivers, clearly define services based on where services are provided, add innovative new service options, and make service choices easier to understand. It also takes preliminary steps to consolidate the existing four HCBS waivers into two: one waiver that serves individuals living independently or at home with family, and one that serves individuals living in residential settings.



Improves the Budget Model for Disability Waivers

Changes include a budget model that promotes more transparent and flexible budgeting for services for people with disabilities and providing them greater choice. This includes updating existing technical systems and engaging with communities to implement and evaluate the change.

STRENGTHENS LONG-TERM CARE WORKFORCE

Invests in Wages and Benefits to Stabilize Care

The Legislature provided funding for the Disability Waiver Rate Setting system, which will help the state address challenges in attracting and retaining qualified direct support professionals by increasing compensation for these workers. In addition, the budget signed by Governor Walz includes funding for increased wages and benefits for personal care assistants represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).