

Two-year budget strengthens Minnesotans' well-being

Health care funding stabilized, program integrity funded, other initiatives advanced

The FY 2020-21 budget approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Tim Walz sustains Minnesota's human services with investments and initiatives to support our mission of helping people live in dignity and achieve their highest potential. The provider tax will continue to provide stable, ongoing funding for health care programs. State leaders also approved improvements to the child welfare system, enhanced program integrity efforts to address and prevent fraud, new resources to address the opioid crisis and protect vulnerable adults, and a long overdue increase in the Minnesota Family Investment Program grant.

Programs for children and families bolstered, MFIP grant to increase

- Families in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) will receive \$100 more per month, the first increase in the cash grant since 1986.
- Children and families in the child protection system will be better served by the expansion of the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative, the creation of a Child Welfare Training Academy, and state efforts to meet requirements of the federal Families First Prevention Services Act.
- Families experiencing homelessness will have easier access to the Child Care Assistance Program through an expedited application process. Expanded due process rights for providers facing licensing actions will bring Minnesota into compliance with federal requirements.
- Automatic enrollment in Medical Assistance for children in foster care and kinship care will remove barriers to health care and reduce paperwork, both for the families providing care and for counties.

Access to behavioral health care supported, gaps in system to be addressed

- The new Opioid Stewardship Fee will raise funds for treatment and recovery. Grants to tribal nations and five urban American Indian communities will support culturally specific traditional healing.
- More people will have coverage for the full continuum of health care services as we revamp the substance abuse payment system.
- More Minnesotans will have access to coordinated care for substance use disorder and mental illness through Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, which will become an ongoing service model.
- More K-12 schoolchildren will have access to behavioral health services through the expansion of the successful school-linked mental health program.
- Continued state funding for children's residential mental health facilities will prevent disruptions in care.
- More children with serious and complex mental health needs will have access to care with the addition of 150 new residential treatment beds.

Services for vulnerable adults, people with disabilities strengthened

- The Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care will add staff to serve more vulnerable adults.
- The Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center will make improvements such as greater data sharing with law enforcement, leading to more consistent adult protective services statewide.

- An assisted living report card will help consumers considering these increasingly popular facilities.
- Stronger oversight of adult day centers will benefit Minnesota seniors and people with disabilities.

Long-term care services and supports reinforced, workers' pay increased

- Adjustments to the Disability Waiver Rate System will raise pay for direct support professionals, helping attract and retain workers.
- Higher wages for direct support professionals represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) will help people keep the worker of their choice.
- Changes to Minnesota's complex disability waiver programs will streamline and simplify the system and link services more closely to a person's individual needs.
- Some people formerly covered under Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities may be able to keep more of their assets without losing coverage, improving their financial situations.
- Reductions in the parental fee for the Medical Assistance TEFRA option will help families with a child with a disability.

Program integrity improved with more investigators, electronic systems

- Stronger oversight of non-emergency medical transportation providers, including ongoing audits and documentation, will protect resources that help people get to and from medical appointments.
- New investigators focused on Medical Assistance fraud will help address fraud and safeguard resources.
- Counties will get grants to hire more fraud investigators and access training and assistance.
- Electronic systems to verify personal care provider visits will reduce inappropriate payments.
- Anti-fraud efforts in the Child Care Assistance Program will improve, with new investigative capacity and planning for future electronic attendance records and provider registration controls.

Services for people in Direct Care and Treatment preserved and enhanced

- Safety for clients and staff is enhanced through funding for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.
- Continued funding for residential and vocational services will benefit over 1,000 people with disabilities.
- Four intensive residential treatment facilities for people with mental illness will add treatment capacity.

Key investments in long-term financial stability, technology, compliance

- The provider tax, a longstanding, stable source of funding for Minnesotans who need health care, will continue after 2019 without a sunset. Preserving the tax stabilizes the Health Care Access Fund, which supports health care for 1.2 million Minnesotans and future health care improvements.
- Updates to aging technology systems will bring Minnesota closer to an integrated, person-centered human services delivery system.
- Minnesota will come into federal compliance with changes to the reimbursement formula for durable medical equipment and an updated formula for outpatient prescription drugs.

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