OFFICE ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

Minnesota Legislative Session Summary 2005

A report highlighting and summarizing selected legislative changes related to the economic status of women

Report Notes

- The policy changes included in this summary have various effective dates and related funding changes. Please see the individual bills and omnibus bill fiscal tracking sheets for additional information.
- Fiscal tracking sheets are available on the Minnesota House and Senate websites at:
  http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/fiscal/tracking.htm
  http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/fiscalpol/tracking/2005/index.shtml
- Funding is general fund dollars unless otherwise specified.
- For definitions of abbreviations used in this report, see the abbreviations section on page 28.
- For corresponding dollar amounts to percentages of federal poverty guidelines (FPG) used to determine eligibility for various programs, see chart on page 29.

BONDING

REGULAR SESSION - CHAPTER 20, H.F. 3

Early Childhood Learning and Child Protection Facilities

- $500,000 to the commissioner of human services for grants to rehabilitate facilities of specified eligible programs. Grants many not exceed $75,000 per program and $200,000 per facility. Eligible facilities include those housing early childhood programs, crisis nurseries, parenting time centers, Head Start, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and other early childhood intervention programs.

Housing for those Experiencing Long-Term Homelessness

- $12,000,000 to the commissioner of the housing finance agency for loans and grants for publicly owned permanent supportive rental housing for those experiencing or at significant risk for long-term homelessness (defined as without a permanent residence for at least 12 months or on at least four occasions in the last three years). Requires equal consideration be given to proposals for projects serving individuals and those serving families with children.

- $350,000 for a grant to the Hennepin county housing and redevelopment authority to design 64 units of affordable, stable and supportive housing, including some units targeted at those experiencing long-term homelessness.

E-12 EDUCATION

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION - CHAPTER 5, H.F. 141

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Provides education opportunities for adults who lack basic academic skills and whose low educational levels are barriers to employment and productive participation in their families and in society. Adults are eligible to participate when they are at least 16 years old, are not enrolled in school, and function below the high school completion level in basic skills.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$36,518,000	$36,540,000	$73,058,000

Note: Total FY 06-07 funding reflects an increase of $252,000.

All Day Kindergarten Grants (First Grade Preparedness)

Provides funding to ensure children in the state's highest poverty schools have the opportunity before first grade to develop the skills and abilities necessary to learn to read and succeed in school. School sites have used these funds to fund all-day, everyday kindergarten programs for five year olds.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$7,250,000	$7,250,000	$14,500,000

Coordinated Services Planning Grants

Planning grant to develop a project in northwest Hennepin county that will promote the school readiness of children by coordinating and collaborating with community-based and neighborhood-based services that help stabilize at-risk families, and support and assist parents in meeting the health and developmental needs of their children at the earliest possible age.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$50,000	$0	$50,000

Note: Each state dollar must be matched with 50 cents of nonstate money.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Provides early childhood education, parent-child learning opportunities, and parent education that enhances the ability of parents to provide for their children's optimal learning and development. All Minnesota families with children ages birth to kindergarten are eligible for ECFE.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$14,356,000	$15,137,000	$29,493,000

Note: Total FY 06-07 funding reflects an increase of $5,243,000.

Early Childhood Health and Development Screening

Promotes educational readiness and improved health of children through the early detection of factors that may impede children's learning, growth and development. All children must participate in early childhood screening before entering kindergarten.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$3,076,000	$3,511,000	$6,587,000

Note: Total FY 06-07 funding reflects an increase of $1,265,000.

- For additional information, see early childhood health and development screening policy changes on page four of this summary.

Head Start

Provides a comprehensive, individualized program of health, nutrition, education, parent involvement and social services to children and families with the overall goal of increasing the social competence and school readiness of young children in low-income families. Primarily serves children age three to five years. Some programs receive funds to serve infants, toddlers and pregnant mothers.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$19,100,000	$19,100,000	$38,200,000

Note: Total FY 06-07 funding reflects an increase of $4,000,000.

Lead Abatement Program

Program reduces the potential for lead poisoning in the homes of children from low-income families.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$100,000	$100,000	$200,000

Note: The lead abatement program is to be transferred to the department of health from the department of education.

Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF)

The commissioner of education must contract with a private nonprofit organization to implement an early childhood development grant program for low-income and other challenged families that increases the effectiveness and expands the capacity of public and nonpublic early childhood development programs and leads to improved early childhood parent education and children's kindergarten readiness.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$1,000,000	$0	$1,000,000

Note: This is a one-time appropriation.

School Age Care

Supports children with disabilities or children experiencing family or related problems of a temporary nature to participate in out-of-school time programming while parents are at work.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$17,000	$7,000	$24,000

School Readiness

Funds school districts to prepare children age three years and over to enter kindergarten.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$9,020,000	$9,042,000	$18,062,000

- For additional information, see school readiness policy changes on this page.

E-12 EDUCATION POLICY CHANGES

Coordination of Early Care and Education Programs

Requires the commissioners of education, human services, and health to identify how they will coordinate activities and resources, including setting priorities, aligning policies, and leveraging existing resources to achieve the goal of increased school readiness of all Minnesota children. The commissioners shall report on the progress made, which must include:

- Coordination and dissemination of resources and information on school readiness and early care and education, health and nutrition, including child mental health and family support;
- Support of families, schools, and communities in facilitating the transition of young children into the kindergarten environment;
- Identification, coordination and sharing of resources and strategies between state departments that address the cultural and linguistic needs of families served;
- Amending the state Medicaid plan (Medical Assistance) to expand the use of the child and teen checkup funding for allowable child development services; and
- Referrals of children age three to five years in the child welfare system to the Interagency Early Intervention System for a developmental screening and referral to services if problems are identified.

Early Childhood Health and Development Screening

- Screening must be provided before school entrance targeting children who are between three and four years old [formerly targeted children between 3½ and 4 years old].
- Each resident family with a child eligible to participate must be informed about the availability of the developmental screening program and the state's requirement that a child receive a developmental screening or provide health records indicating the child received a comparable screening from a public or private health care organization or an individual health care provider.
- All resident families with eligible children under age seven must be informed their children may receive a screening conducted by the school district, a public or private health care organization, or an individual health care provider.
- A student identification number shall be assigned to the child at the time of screening or at the time of the provision of health records indicating a comparable screening was completed.
- For each child screened prior to kindergarten, the state must pay a district: $50 for each three-year-old; $40 for each four-year-old; and $30 for each five-year-old screened [was $40 for every child screened, regardless of age].

School Readiness

School readiness providers must:

- Assess each child's cognitive skills when the child enters the program and again before the child leaves the program to inform program planning and promote kindergarten readiness;
- Provide comprehensive program content based on early childhood research and professional practice that is focused on children's cognitive skills and development and prepares children for the transition to kindergarten;
- Arrange for early childhood screening and appropriate referral;
- Involve parents in program planning and decision making;
- Coordinate with relevant community-based services; and
- Cooperate with adult basic education and other adult literacy programs.

Districts are required to adopt a sliding fee schedule based on family income and to waive fees for participants unable to pay to participate in school readiness.

Displaced Homemakers Program (DHP)

Programs provide pre-employment services that empower participants to enter or re-enter the labor market after having been homemakers.

- Requires the local workforce councils to provide meeting space, free of charge, for meetings of displaced homemaker programs.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (SR)	$911,000	$1,139,000	$2,050,000

Note: DHP funding is provided by increases in the marriage dissolution and marriage license fees:

- *Marriage dissolution actions increase from $235 to $270 ($30 of every fee to DHP); and*
- *The fee for a marriage license without completed premarital education increases from $85 to $100 ($25 of every fee to DHP) and the fee for a marriage license with completed premarital education increases from $20 to $30 ($10 of every fee to DHP).*

Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program

Grants to counties and nonprofit organizations to assist families or youth who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Grant recipients are required to design or redesign an emergency response system to shift the focus to prevention of homelessness and a more rapid move to transitional or permanent housing.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$3,715,000	$3,715,000	$7,430,000

Labor Education and Advancement Program (LEAP)

Grants to promote apprenticeship opportunities and assist with the placement of and provide support services to women and people of color.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding (WKDF)	$100,000	$100,000	$200,000

Learn to Earn

Provides summer employment, academic enrichment, and recreational opportunities to unemployed or underemployed youth in Minneapolis.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$0	$0	$0

Note: The total FY 06-07 appropriation of $366,000 ($183,000 each year) from the general fund was vetoed by the Governor.

Lifetrack Resources

Grant for immigrant and refugee collaborative programs, including those related to job-seeking skills and workplace orientation, intensive job development, functional work English, and on-site job coaching.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding (WKDF)	$250,000	$250,000	$500,000

Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership (MJSP)

MJSP provides grants to educational institutions partnered with businesses to develop training programs specific to business needs. The training grants in these projects may be for new jobs or retainment and skills upgrade for existing employees. Two programs included in MJSP program are Pathways, which provides training for individuals making a transition from public assistance to work, and the Health Care and Human Services Worker program, which provides training to alleviate worker shortages in the health care and human services industries.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$6,785,000	$6,785,000	$13,570,000

Minnesota Opportunity Industrialization Center (OIC) Health Occupation Training

Grant to OICs that have plans to either initiate or expand health occupations and career ladder training programs for individuals seeking employment as nurses, nursing assistants, home health aides, phlebotomists, or in the field of medical coding.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding (WKDF)	$500,000	$500,000	$1,000,000

Note: Funding is a one-time grant.

Minnesota Youth Program (MYP)

Provides economically disadvantaged and at-risk youth with employment and life skills training services.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding (WKDF)	$3,000,000	$3,000,000	$6,000,000

Note: Funding is a one-time grant. An additional appropriation of $2,138,000 ($1,069,000 each year) from the general fund was vetoed by the Governor.

Twin Cities Rise!

Grant to provide training to hard-to-train individuals.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$305,000	$305,000	$610,000

WomenVenture

Grant for women's business development programs.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$150,000	$150,000	$300,000

Youth Jobs Skills Development Project

Minnesota Alliance of Boys and Girls club will administer a statewide project to encourage, train, and assist youth in job-seeking skills, workplace orientation, and job-site knowledge through coaching.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding (WKDF)	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$2,000,000

Note: Funding is for a one-time grant and requires a 25% match of non-state resources.

Youthbuild

Program provides at-risk youth (including teen parents) with specialized training in the construction and building trades, leadership and basic academic skills, and construction-based work experience to build affordable housing.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding (WKDF)	$757,000	$757,000	$1,514,000

Note: Funding is a one-time grant.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY CHANGES

Economic Status of Women
Amends Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 3.303 by adding a subdivision which requires the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) to study and report to the legislature on all matters relating to the economic status of women in Minnesota including:

- The contributions of women to the economy;
- Economic security of homemakers and women in the labor force;
- Opportunities for education and vocational training;
- Employment opportunities;
- Women's access to benefits and services provided to citizens of this state; and
- Laws and business practices constituting barriers to the full participation by women in the economy.

States the LCC shall also study the adequacy of programs and services relating to families in Minnesota and communicate its findings and make recommendations to the legislature on an ongoing basis.

◆ Note: See the state government section on page 28 for previous action on the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women that occurred in the state government omnibus bill (Regular Session Chapter 156, H.F. 1481).

Pay Equity
Pay Equity is a method of eliminating discrimination against women who are paid less than men for jobs requiring comparable levels of expertise. The Local Government Pay Equity Act requires all public jurisdictions such as cities, counties, and school districts to eliminate any sex-based wage inequities in compensation.

- Changes the frequency of reporting compliance with the requirements of the local government pay equity act for local subdivisions from once every five years to once every three years, beginning in 2005.

◆ Note: Legislation passed during the 2003 legislative session changed the reporting cycle from once every three years to once every five years for political subdivisions and required no reports in 2003 and 2004. This change returns the frequency of reporting compliance to once every three years, the frequency it was before the 2003 policy changes.

OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Minimum Wage Increase Regular Session - Chapter 44, S.F. 3
Increases the minimum wage rate:

- From $5.15 an hour to $6.15 an hour for large employers;
- From $4.90 an hour to $5.25 an hour for small employers; and
- From $4.25 an hour to $4.90 an hour for the training wage rate (paid to employees under 20 years old during the first 90 consecutive days of employment).

Modifies the definition of "large employer" to include enterprises with annual gross sales of at least $625,000 (was annual gross sales of at least $500,000). Modifies the definition of "small employer" to include enterprises with annual gross sales of less than $625,000 (was less than $500,000).
Effective August 1, 2005.

FAMILY LAW

Spousal Maintenance Collection Regular Session - Chapter 116, S.F. 1479

Authorizes the department of human services to provide income withholding-only services in spousal maintenance-only cases (cases with court-ordered income withholding for spousal maintenance and no child support obligation). Defines income withholding only services as those that do not include other enforcement services provided by the public authority for child support enforcement cases.
Effective May 27, 2005.

Child Support Regular Session - Chapter 164, S.F. 630

Note: This act is effective January 1, 2007, with the exception of changes in fees, which are effective July 1, 2005.

Computation of Child Support Obligations

Establishes a new methodology, called income shares, which takes the gross incomes of both parents into account when calculating child support, child care support, and medical support obligations. Establishes a new table for determining basic support.

- Allows credit for nonjoint children who reside in the home of a parent if that parent is legally responsible for the child(ren). Limits the reduction to two children.
- Assumes each parent has 25 percent of the parenting time for each joint child in absence of other evidence.
- Provides for a parenting expense adjustment/reduction in the calculation of support based on parenting time when the obligor's parenting time is 10 percent or greater. Allows for a reduction in support of 12 percent when the amount of parenting time granted to an obligor is between 10 and 45 percent. Provides for a separate calculation if parenting time is equal (45.1% to 50%).
- Allows the court to order a basic support obligation that exceeds the income limit if it finds a child has a disability or other substantial, demonstrated need and that additional support will directly benefit the child.
- Specifies factors that allow for upward or downward deviations from the presumptive guideline amounts.
- Establishes a self support reserve which provides for a minimum basic support amount (e.g., $50 for one or two children) for low-income obligors or no basic support amount for obligors with no-income and no ability to earn income.
- Requires the commissioner of human services to create and publish a worksheet to assist in calculating child support amount.

Six-Month Review

- Requires a request for a six-month review hearing form to be attached to a decree of dissolution or legal separation, or an order initially establishing child custody, parenting time, or support rights and obligations of parents.
- States at the six-month review hearing the court shall determine whether child support is current (the obligor has the burden to present evidence that the support payments are current) and whether both parties are complying with the parenting time provisions of the order.

Child Support Debt / Arrearage Management

Allows the parties, including the public authority where arrearages have been assigned to the public authority, to compromise unpaid support debts or arrearages owed by one party to another.

Fee Increases

Specifies fee changes related to child support modifications, dissolution of marriage, legal separation, annulments or proceedings to establish child support obligations.

FAMILY LAW

Child Support - continued

Modifications

When the new guidelines take effect on January 1, 2007, courts will not allow modifications to an existing child support order during the first year following enactment unless:

- There is at least a 20 percent change in the gross income of the obligor;
- There is a change in the number of joint children the obligor is supporting;
- The child supported by an existing order becomes disabled; or
- Both parents consent to the modification.

However, the first modification of basic support under this law may be limited if it will create hardship for either the obligee or obligor.

Study of the Economic Impact of the Guidelines and Review of the Guidelines

- Requires the department of human services to conduct an economic analysis of the new child support guidelines to evaluate whether the guidelines fairly represent the cost of raising children for the respective parental income levels, excluding medical support, child care and education costs, by January 30, 2006.
- Requires the department to conduct a review of the child support guidelines in 2006 and every four years thereafter.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION - CHAPTER 4, H.F. 139

HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP includes the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), Transition Year (TY) and Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care assistance programs which subsidize the child care expenses of low-income families based on a sliding fee of family co-payments for authorized work, education, and job search activities.

Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance Grants

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$7,503,000	$28,570,000	$36,073,000

Note: Total 06-07 funding reflects a decrease of $11,712,000.

MFIP Child Care Assistance Grants

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (TANF & GF)	$55,034,000	$60,890,000	$151,924,000

Note: Funding includes general fund (approximately 76%) and federal TANF dollars (approximately 24%) and reflects a decrease of $47,192,000.

◆ For additional information, see the child care assistance program policy changes section on page 13 of this summary.

HUMAN SERVICES - CONTINUED

CHILDREN AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS - CONTINUED

Child Care Development Grants

Child care development grants promote school readiness, healthy child development and family self-sufficiency by improving the quality and availability of child care for Minnesota. Grants are provided to public and private agencies to provide child care resource and referral services, improve the quality of child care programs, recruit and train child care center staff and family child care providers, and develop special child care services.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$1,540,000	$1,540,000	$3,080,000

Child Support Enforcement Grants

Child support enforcement helps families receive child support, an important component to help many families become self-sufficient and stay off public assistance. Services provided by the state and counties to help families include: establishing paternity; establishing and modifying child support, medical support and child care support orders; collecting and disbursing support; enforcing support orders; and using various tools to collect support.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$3,255,000	$3,255,000	$6,510,000

Children's Services Grants

Children's services grants fund services to children and families, including adoption assistance, relative custody assistance, child protection, fetal alcohol syndrome prevention, homeless youth services, Indian child welfare services and children's mental health services.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$40,527,000	$47,308,000	$87,835,000

Children and Community Services Grants

Children and community services grants provide funding to counties to purchase or provide social services for children and families. The Children and Community Services Act, enacted by the 2003 Minnesota legislature, consolidated 15 individual state and federal grants into a single program including: Crisis Nursery, Homeless Children, Children of Substance Abusing Mothers, Children whose Mothers are Incarcerated, Family Preservation, Mental Health Adolescent Services, and Juvenile Mental Health Screening.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$68,492,000	$68,498,000	$136,990,000

Other Children's and Economic Assistance Grants

Includes food support and food shelves, asset development, housing assistance, Community Action, emergency services and fraud prevention grants.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (TANF & GF)	$18,031,000	$17,652,000	$35,683,000

Note: Funding includes general fund (approximately 92%) and federal TANF dollars (approximately 8%).

HUMAN SERVICES - CONTINUED

CHILDREN AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS - CONTINUED

Minnesota Family Investment Program / Diversionary Work Program Grants

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is the state's welfare reform program for low-income families with children. MFIP includes both cash and food assistance. When most families first apply for cash assistance, they will participate in the Diversionary Work Program (DWP), a four-month program that helps parents go immediately to work rather than receive longer term assistance. To be eligible to participate in either MFIP or DWP a family must include a minor child or pregnant woman and meet citizenship, income, and asset requirements.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (TANF & GF)	$149,872,000	$148,995,000	$298,867,000

Note: Funding includes general fund (approximately 23%) and federal TANF dollars (approximately 77%).

Support Services Grants

Provides employment, education, training, and other support services to help low-income families and people avoid or end public assistance dependency. Also funds a portion of county administration for the MFIP and DWP.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (TANF & GF)	$111,291,000	$111,347,000	$222,638,000

Note: Funding includes general fund (approximately 8%) and federal TANF dollars (approximately 92%).

HEALTH CARE GRANTS

Health care grants purchase preventive and primary health care services, such as physician services, medications, and dental care for low-income families with children, elderly and people with disabilities. Approximately 654,000 Minnesotans receive health care through the state's three publicly funded health care grant programs – Medical Assistance (MA - Minnesota's Medicaid program), MinnesotaCare and General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC). Applicants for the programs must be Minnesota residents and meet program specific eligibility requirements including income and asset limits.

Medical Assistance – Families and Children

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$608,938,000	$697,432,000	$1,306,370,000

Medical Assistance – Elderly and Disabled

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$808,554,000	$863,216,000	$1,671,770,000

MinnesotaCare

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (HCAF)	$299,723,000	$397,125,000	$696,848,000

General Assistance Medical Care

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$277,244,000	$236,935,000	$514,179,000

- For additional information, see the health care programs policy changes section beginning on page 15 of this summary. For further information on funding changes in the health care grant programs, see the health and human services fiscal tracking sheets.

HUMAN SERVICES - CONTINUED

HEALTH CARE GRANTS - CONTINUED

Prescription Drug Program (PDP)
The PDP is a state program that provides prescription drug coverage for low-income Medicare enrollees who meet specified eligibility criteria and are elderly or disabled.

- The PDP is repealed effective January 1, 2006.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$4,313,000	$0	$4,313,000

CONTINUING CARE GRANTS

Aging and Adult Services Grants
Aging and adult services grants provide: nutritional services; transportation, chore services and other social support services; health screening and promotion services; older adult volunteer community services projects; care and one-on-one attention for special needs children (through the Foster Grandparents program); assistance with daily activities for frail older adults; information, assistance, and counseling about Medicare and other supplemental insurance choices; assistance to access free or discounted prescription drugs; respite and other supportive assistance to family caregivers; and expansion and development of more home and community services and housing options. Services are targeted to people with the greatest social and economic needs.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$13,954,000	$13,960,000	$27,914,000

Alternative Care Grants
Grants pay for at-home care and community-based services for adults 65 and over who are assessed as needing nursing facility care, and have income and assets inadequate to fund nursing facility care for more than 180 days.

- Eliminates coverage of adult foster care, assisted living and residential care services under the alternative care program.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$58,278,000	$45,944,000	$104,222,000

Long-Term Care and Home-Based and Community-Based Care Employee Scholarship Program
Scholarship program which enables current long-term care and home- and community-based care employees to pursue a degree or credential that will lead to career advancement with the provider or in the fields of long-term care, including home care or care of persons with disabilities, or nursing.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (SR)	$392,000	$864,000	$1,256,000

Note: Funding is a transfer from the board of nursing account to the general fund.

- For additional information, see the long-term care and home-based and community-based employee scholarship program section on pages 18 and 19 of this summary.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP) POLICY CHANGES

Note: The following CCAP policy changes have various effective dates and related funding changes. Please see the health and human services omnibus bill and fiscal tracking sheets for further information.

Absent Day Policy

Limits the number of absent days for which a provider may be reimbursed to 25 days per child, or 10 consecutive days, in a fiscal year. Allows for an exception if a child has a documented medical condition that causes more frequent absences.

Parent Co-payments

Establishes a new fee schedule for families on the BSF, MFIP and TY child care assistance programs.

CCAP Parent Fee Schedule (effective January 1, 2006)							
Income Range (percent of the federal poverty guidelines)	Co-payment* (percentage of adjusted gross income)		Income Range (percent of the federal poverty guidelines)	Co-payment* (percentage of adjusted gross income)		Income Range (percent of the federal poverty guidelines)	Co-payment* (percentage of adjusted gross income)
0-74.99%	$0/month		145.00-149.99%	3.97%		200.00-204.99%	9.92%
75.00-99.99%	$5/month		150.00-154.99%	3.97%		205.00-209.99%	12.22%
100.00-104.99%	3.23%		155.00-159.99%	4.75%		210.00-214.99%	12.65%
105.00-109.99%	3.23%		160.00-164.99%	4.75%		215.00-219.99%	13.09%
110.00-114.99%	3.23%		165.00-169.99%	5.51%		220.00-224.99%	13.52%
115.00-119.99%	3.23%		170.00-174.99%	5.88%		225.00-229.99%	14.35%
120.00-124.99%	3.60%		175.00-179.99%	6.25%		230.00-234.99%	15.71%
125.00-129.99%	3.60%		180.00-184.99%	6.98%		235.00-239.99%	16.28%
130.00-134.99%	3.60%		185.00-189.99%	7.35%		240.00-244.99%	17.37%
135.00-139.99%	3.60%		190.00-194.99%	7.72%		245.00-249.99%	18.00%
140.00-144.99%	3.97%		195.00-199.99%	8.45%		250%	ineligible
*Note: A family's monthly co-payment is the fixed percentage established for the income range multiplied by the highest possible income within that income range.							

Child Care Provider Reimbursement Rates

- Modifies the maximum provider reimbursement rate for child care assistance to be the lesser of the 75 percentile rate as surveyed by the commissioner or the previous year's rate for like-care arrangements in the county increased by 1.75 percent. *[Note: In 2003, the maximum rates under CCAP were frozen for the FY 2004-2005 biennium at the 2003 level. This policy change partially continues the rate freeze through the FY 2006-2007 biennium with a 1.75 percent adjustment to be implemented in January 2006].*
- Modifies the maximum provider reimbursement rate paid in counties with regional or statewide cells to the higher of the 100th percentile of the 2002 market rate survey data or the rate identified in DHS Bulletin No. 03-68-07. Considers these rates as the previous year's rates for purposes of the 1.75 percent increase as described above to be implemented in January 2006.
- Allows the commissioner to establish the 75th maximum rate based on like-care arrangements in a county, region, or category when the number of providers responding to the survey in a county or multi-county region is too small.

OTHER CHILD CARE POLICY CHANGES

Family Child Care and Child Care Center Licensing

- Directs licensed family child care providers and child care centers to post any correction order, order of conditional license, license suspension, temporary immediate suspension, fine, or revocation in a conspicuous place to the people receiving services and all visitors to the facility for two years. If a maltreatment investigation memorandum accompanies an order, suspension, fine or revocation, it must also be posted.
- Mandates providers provide written notification to parents of children considering enrollment of a child or parents of an enrolled child if the program employs or has living in the home any individual who is the subject of a set-aside or variance.
- Provides that the commissioner shall not issue a license or may suspend or revoke a license or impose a fine if an individual living in the household where the licensed services will be provided has been disqualified and the disqualification has not been set aside.
- Adds an exception to the five-year prohibition from granting a license following revocation based on disqualification. Allows a license to be granted when the person with the disqualification no longer resides in the home and is prohibited from residing in or returning to the home. If the disqualified person is a minor, the license restriction applies until the minor becomes an adult and permanently moves away from home or five years, whichever is less.

Training Requirements

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Provides that when children are present in a licensed child care center or licensed family child care home, at least one staff person must be present who has been trained in CPR and in the treatment of obstructed airways. States CPR training must be documented, repeated at least once every three years, and specifies the type of training that is acceptable.

Shaken Baby Syndrome

Adds a training requirement on the reduction of risk of shaken baby syndrome for staff that care for infants in licensed family child care and child care centers. Requires the commissioner of health to make a video presentation on the dangers associated with shaking infants and young children available for viewing by all licensed providers as part of their initial and annual training. Also requires the commissioner to provide copies of an approved video on the dangers associated with shaking infants and young children to child care providers and interested individuals, at cost. Allows legal nonlicensed providers to participate in a video presentation session at their option. Adds that foster care providers who care for infants must receive training on reducing sudden infant death syndrome and shaken baby syndrome.

Child Care License and Background Study Fees Report

Requires the commissioner of human services in conjunction with the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators and the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association to examine and make recommendations on the feasibility of a statewide standard for setting license fees and background study fees for licensed family child care providers. Requires a report due January 15, 2006.

Child Care Center License Fees

- Reduces the annual license fee schedule by 25 percent for child care centers based on licensed capacity. Modified fees range from $225 (capacity of 1 to 24 persons) to $1,500 (capacity of 225 or more persons).

HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS POLICY CHANGES

Note: The following health care policy changes have various effective dates and related funding changes. Please see the health and human services omnibus bill and fiscal tracking sheets for further information.

Medical Assistance (MA)
Medical Assistance (MA), Minnesota's Medicaid program, is a program jointly funded from the state and federal governments to pay for health care services provided to low-income individuals and families who meet specified eligibility criteria, and income and asset limits.

Eligibility Verification
Requires the commissioner of human services to:
- Require women who are applying for the continuation of medical assistance coverage following the end of the 60-day postpartum period to update their income and asset information and to submit any required income or asset verification;
- Determine the eligibility of private-sector health care coverage for infants less that one year of age and pay for private-sector coverage if this is determined to be cost-effective;
- Modify the application for Minnesota health care programs to require more detailed information related to verification of assets and income;
- Verify assets and income for all applicants and renewals; and
- Require recipients to report new or an increase in earned income within ten days of the change, verify new or an increased income that affects eligibility, and disenroll recipients who fail to provide verification.

Eligibility Changes
Eliminates state-only funded MA coverage for pregnant women who are undocumented or nonimmigrants who have other health insurance.

Covered Services
Prohibits MA coverage of:
- Hospital emergency room visits or services provided that are not for emergency and emergency poststabilization care or urgent care;
- Newborn circumcision, unless the procedure is medically necessary or required because of a well-established religious practice; and
- Drugs covered under Medicare Part D, for individuals eligible for drug coverage under that program.

Co-Payments
Reduces the monthly maximum co-payment for prescription drugs from $20 to $12.

Prior Authorization for Services
Requires prior authorization for reimbursement for specified services.

Dental Services
Removes the $500 annual benefit limit for coverage of dental services for adults age 21 years and over who are not pregnant and restores the services covered to those covered prior to 2003.

HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED

MinnesotaCare
MinnesotaCare is a state funded program that provides subsidized health care coverage to low- and moderate-income families and individuals who meet specified eligibility requirements, income and asset limits, and do not have access to affordable health insurance. Enrollees pay a premium based on income.

Eligibility Changes

- Specifies a pregnant woman enrolled in MinnesotaCare is eligible for coverage of all services provided under the medical assistance program retroactive to the date of conception (was previously date when pregnancy was medically diagnosed).
- Requires applicants and enrollees seeking renewal to verify both earned and unearned income, and to submit names and contact information for employees to verify whether the applicant or enrollee, and any dependents, are eligible for employer-subsidized coverage.
- Requires an individual under 21 years of age enrolled in a program of study at a postsecondary education institution, including an emancipated minor and an emancipated minor's spouse, must not have access to health coverage through the institution to be eligible for MinnesotaCare.

Co-Payments

Adds the following additional co-payments: $3 per nonpreventive visit and $6 for nonemergency visits to a hospital-based emergency room.

Premium Changes

- Increases premiums by approximately 8 percent for MinnesotaCare enrollees, except children under 150% of the FPG.
- Changes the adjustment in premiums due to increased income to the time the income is reported (formerly, premiums were not adjusted until eligibility renewal).

Prior Authorization for Services

Requires prior authorization for reimbursement for specified services.

Dental Services

Removes the $500 annual benefit limit for coverage of dental services.

Outreach Grants

MinnesotaCare outreach grants address the importance of maintaining insurance coverage and on how to obtain coverage through the MinnesotaCare program in areas of the state with high uninsured populations.

- Repeals MinnesotaCare outreach grants effective August 1, 2005.

Limited MinnesotaCare Benefits Coverage for
Certain Single Adults and Households without Children

- Eliminates the $5,000 annual cap on benefits.
- Allows diabetic supplies and equipment to be covered.
- Allows services to be provided by a physician, physician ancillary, chiropractor, psychologist, or licensed independent clinical social worker, if within the provider's scope of practice.

Effective January 1, 2006

Note: For additional information on Limited MinnesotaCare Benefits Coverage see MN Statutes 256L.035.

HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED

General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC)
GAMC is a state funded program that pays for certain health care services for low-income Minnesota residents who meet specified eligibility requirements and income and asset limits and are not eligible for other health care programs.

Eligibility and Program Changes

- Allows GAMC to be paid for a temporary period for applicants and renewals processed on or after September 1, 2006, for those with gross incomes not exceeding 75% FPG and with countable assets that do not exceed $1,000 per assistance unit.
- Requires enrollees be enrolled in MinnesotaCare (with specified exemptions) as adults without children, immediately following approval of GAMC for the rest of their six-month eligibility period, until their six-month renewal.

Co-Payments

- Eliminates the $3 co-payment for nonpreventive visits.
- Reduces the monthly maximum co-payment for prescription drugs from $20 to $12.

Prior Authorization for Services

Requires prior authorization for reimbursement for specified services.

Dental Services

Removes the $500 annual benefit limit for coverage of dental services.

Limited Benefits Coverage for Single Adults and Households without Children

- Requires county agencies to enroll single adults and households with no children enrolled in GAMC in MinnesotaCare.
- Requires county agencies to pay premiums for single adults and households without children formerly enrolled in GAMC and enrolled in MinnesotaCare until the six month renewal and gives county agencies the option of continuing to pay premiums past the six-month renewal.
- Exempts single adults and households formerly enrolled in GAMC and enrolled in MinnesotaCare from MinnesotaCare's requirements regarding assets, insurance barriers (MinnesotaCare enrollees must have no insurance for four months prior to application), until the six month renewal.

OTHER HEALTH CARE POLICY CHANGES

Medicare Prescription Drug Subsidy
Requires the commissioner to perform all duties necessary to administer eligibility determinations for the Medicare Part D prescription drug subsidy and facilitate the enrollment of eligible medical assistance recipients into Medicare prescription drug plans as required by the federal Medicare modernization act effective July 1, 2005.

LONG-TERM AND CONTINUING CARE POLICY CHANGES

Nursing Facility Rate Increases
Increases nursing facility and intermediate care facility for people with mental retardation (ICF/MR) operating payment rates by:

- 2.2553 percent for the rate year beginning October 1, 2005, and
- 1.2553 percent for the rate year beginning October 1, 2006.

Specifies seventy-five percent of the new money must be used to increase wages, benefits, and pay associated with all employees, except management fees, the administrator, and central office staff.

Nursing Facility Reimbursement System
Requires the commissioner to establish a value-based nursing facility reimbursement system that will provide facility-specific, prospective rates for nursing facilities participating in the MA program. Requires rates to be determined using an annual statistical and cost report, using a total payment rate composed of: direct care services, support services, external fixed, and property-related components. Specifies the components of the total payment rate shall be adjusted for quality of services provided, recognition of staffing levels, geographic variation in labor costs, and resident acuity. Requires the commissioner to phase in the new reimbursement system beginning October 1, 2007, with full phase-in to be completed by October 1, 2011.

Long-Term Care Partnership Program
Requires the commissioner of human services, in cooperation with the commissioner of commerce, to establish the Minnesota partnership for long-term care program to provide for the financing of long-term care through a combination of private insurance and medical assistance (MA). Specifies the requirements individuals must meet to participate in the partnership program and how eligibility for medical assistance is determined for individuals who meet those requirements. Allows the commissioner to alter partnership program requirements and establish additional requirements for approved policies in order to comply with federal law or waiver authority. Allows the commissioner to suspend implementation of the program until the next legislative session if it is determined that the federal legislation or waiver is likely to impose substantial unforeseen costs on the state budget. Provides that if any section is prohibited by federal law, no provision shall be implemented until federal law allows full implementation.

Provision of Long-Term Care Insurance
Allows any political subdivision, or two or more political subdivisions acting jointly, to contract with an insurance company for the voluntary purchase of long-term care insurance by employees and dependents.

LONG-TERM AND CONTINUING CARE POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED

Long-Term Care and Home-Based and Community-Based Care Employee Scholarship Program
Program Criteria

- Requires the commissioner (within the limits of appropriations specifically available for this purpose) to provide funding to qualified provider applicants for employee scholarships for education in nursing and other health care fields.
- Specifies employee scholarships must be for a course of study that is expected to lead to course advancement with the provider or in the field of long-term care, including home care or care of persons with disabilities, or nursing.
- Specifies providers must use it to award scholarships to employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week for the provider.
- Prohibits management staff, registered nurses, and therapists from being eligible for this program.

Providers and Funding

- Lists providers eligible to apply to participate in the scholarship program and selection criteria. Specifies a medical assistance rate increase of up to two-tenths percent (.2%) of the medical assistance reimbursement rate to fund scholarships.
- Requires repayment of the funds that are not used to fund scholarships.
- Specifies if applications exceed available funding, funding shall be targeted to providers that employ a higher percentage of paraprofessional staff or have lower rates of turnover of paraprofessional staff.
- Allows the commissioner to recalculate the rate adjustment during subsequent years and consider the provider's success at granting scholarships based on the amount spent during the previous year and the availability of appropriations to continue the program.

Report and Evaluation

Specifies reporting requirements of participating employers. Requires the commissioner to report to the legislature annually, beginning March 15, 2007, on the use of the funding.

LONG-TERM HOMELESS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Requires the commissioner to establish the long-term homeless supportive services fund to provide integrated services needed to stabilize individuals, families, and youth living in supportive housing.

- Requires the commissioner, in consultation with specified entities, to develop application requirements and make funds available with the goal of providing maximum flexibility in program design.
- Specifies the factors on which proposals will be evaluated, the outcomes projects that are selected will be expected to further, and the services eligible for funding.
- Requires an assessment of whether the definition of long-term homelessness (defined as lacking a permanent place to live continuously for one year or more or at least four times in the past three years) impacts the ability of families with minor children experiencing homelessness to obtain services necessary to support housing stability.

MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (MFIP) POLICY CHANGES

Note: The following policy changes have various effective dates and related funding changes. Please see the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill and fiscal tracking sheets for further information.

Treatment of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Income

Reduces the cash portion of the MFIP grant by up to $125 for an MFIP assistance unit that includes one or more SSI recipients who reside in an MFIP household and would otherwise be included in the MFIP assistance unit but are excluded solely due to the SSI recipient status (with specified exemption). If the SSI recipient or recipients receive less than $125 of SSI, only the amount received shall be used in calculating the MFIP cash assistance payment. [In 2003, the cash portion of the MFIP grant was reduced by up to $125 per SSI recipient who resided in the household.]

Overview of Employment and Training Services

Adds a requirement that job counselors explain to MFIP participants the probationary employment periods new employees may serve after being hired and any assistance with job training services that may be available.

HEALTH

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY HEALTH PROMOTION

Home Visiting and Nutritional Services

Promotes family health and economic self-sufficiency through public health nurse home visits and addresses nutritional issues of women, infants, and young children through WIC clinic services.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$4,000,000	$4,000,000	$8,000,000

Infant Mortality Rates: Decreasing Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Grants for local or regional projects and initiatives directed at reducing health disparities by decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$2,000,000	$2.000,000	$4,000,000

OTHER

Health Professional Educational Forgiveness Loan

Funding for the implementation of the health professional education loan forgiveness program for nurses.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding	$95,000	$155,000	$250,000

HEALTH - CONTINUED

OTHER - CONTINUED

Shaken Baby Video

Funding to the commissioner of health to provide a video to hospitals on shaken baby syndrome.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total
Funding (SR)	$13,000	$0	$13,000

Note: Funding from the special revenue fund. The commissioner is to assess a fee to the hospitals and to deposit revenue received in the special revenue fund.

- For further information, please see the shaken baby syndrome training requirements section on page 14 and the education about the dangers of shaking infants and young children section on this page.

HEALTH POLICY CHANGES

Education About the Dangers of Shaking Infants and Young Children

Establishes requirements for hospitals regarding educating parents about the dangers of shaking infants and young children.

Education by Hospitals

Requires hospitals to make a video presentation on the dangers associated with shaking infants and young children available to the parents of each newborn delivered in the hospital. Requires hospitals to request both parents view the video when possible. Requires the commissioner of health to provide copies of an approved video, at cost, to a hospital and any interested individuals.

Education by Health Care Providers

Requires the commissioner to establish a protocol for health care providers to educate parents and primary caregivers about the dangers associated with shaking infants and young children. Specifies the commissioner must request that family practice physicians, pediatricians, and other pediatric health care providers review these dangers at each well-baby visit with parents and primary caregivers of infants and young children up to the age of three.

Postpartum Depression Education and Information

- Requires the commissioner of health to work with health care facilities, licensed health and mental health care professionals, mental health advocates, consumers, and families in the state to develop materials and information about postpartum depression, including treatment resources.
- Requires physicians, traditional midwives, and other licensed health care professionals providing prenatal care to women to have information about postpartum depression available to women and their families.
- Requires hospitals and other health care facilities in the state to provide departing new mothers and fathers and other family members, as appropriate, with written information about postpartum depression, including its symptoms, methods of coping with the illness, and treatment resources.
  Effective August 1, 2005.

HEALTH POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED

Lead Risk Assessment in Children and Pregnant Women

- Lowers the venous blood lead level requiring lead risk assessment within ten working days for children from 20 micrograms to 15 micrograms of lead per deciliter.
- Lowers the venous blood lead level requiring lead risk assessment within 48 hours for children and pregnant women from 70 micrograms to 60 micrograms of lead per deciliter.
- Lowers the venous blood lead level of a child or a pregnant female from at least 20 micrograms to at least 15 micrograms of lead per deciliter that allows (within the limits of appropriations) the assessing agency to identify the child's or pregnant female's known addresses for the previous 12 months and take other specified actions.
  Effective August 1, 2005

Cervical Cancer Elimination Study

Requires the commissioner of health to:

- Develop a statewide integrated and comprehensive cervical cancer prevention plan including activities that identify and implement methods to improve cervical cancer screening rates in Minnesota;
- Identify and examine limitations and barriers to providing cervical cancer screening, diagnosis tools, and treatment; and
- Submit a report to the legislature by January 15, 2006 on: the plan, methods for monitoring the results of cervical cancer screening improvement activities and recommended changes to existing laws, programs, or services in terms of reducing the occurrence of cervical cancer by improving insurance coverage for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

OTHER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATION

Small Employer Flexible Benefits Plans Regular Session – Chapter 132, H.F.1809.

[This provision was in the omnibus insurance bill.]

- Allows small employers (less than 50 employees) to offer health insurance without the coverages or requirements mandated by state law (e.g., prenatal care, maternity care, well-child visits, mammography, mental health and chemical health, and a requirement that policy rates cannot be based on gender, etc.).
- Requires the small employer to be given a written list and description of the coverages otherwise required by law that are modified or excluded in the health plan prior to sale of the health benefit plan.
- Specifies the insurer must require that a copy of the written list of the coverages otherwise required by law that are modified or excluded in the health plan be provided to each employee who is eligible for health coverage under the employer's plan prior to the effective date of the health benefit plan.

Important Note: Federal law requires maternity benefits for businesses that offer health insurance with 15 or more employees and this law and other applicable federal laws would still be required.

Crib Safety Regular Session - Chapter 139, H.F. 987

Specifies the actions the commissioner of human services, licensed child care providers, commercial users, and lodging establishments need to take to address crib safety standards and regulations.
Effective January 1, 2006.

OTHER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LEGISLATION - CONTINUED

Optional Record of Birth Resulting in Still Birth Provided Regular Session - Chapter 60, H.F. 947
Allows parents to request an optional record of birth resulting in stillbirth that is as similar as possible to the form of a record of live birth.
Effective August 1, 2005.

Post-Adoption Services Data Collection Regular Session – Chapter 129, H.F. 2192
Directs the commissioner of human services to collect data from all adoption agencies for six months to establish benchmarks to evaluate post-adoption search services and develop best practice guidelines. Requires the commissioner to include an assessment of the data collected and the best practice guidelines developed in a report to the legislature by February 1, 2006.

Mental Health Counseling Support to Farm Families and Business Operators First Special Session - Chapter 1, S.F. 69
[This provision was in the omnibus agriculture, environment and economic development bill.]
Provides mental health counseling support for farm families and business operators through farm business management programs at Central Lakes College and Ridgewater College.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$100,000	$100,000	$200,000

HIGHER EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION - CHAPTER 107, H.F. 1385

Post-Secondary Child Care Grant Program
Helps low-income students with young children pay for child care while the student attends classes. Grant awards are based on family income and size and are made available to students who: have children 12 years and under (14 years and under if the child has a disability); do not receive assistance under the Minnesota Family Investment Program(MFIP); and need child care assistance in order to attend an eligible Minnesota post-secondary school.

- Increases the maximum child care grant by $100 to $2,300 per child, per academic year for a full-time student.
- Provides an additional semester of eligibility for a child care grant to a student who withdraws from enrollment in a postsecondary institution for active military service.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$4,743,000	$4,743,000	$9,486,000

SUPREME COURT

Civil Legal Services
Provides civil legal services for more than 20,000 vulnerable Minnesotans whose incomes are below the federal poverty guidelines to (1) protect the safety of children and help families break the cycle of abuse; (2) assist in securing child support and federal aid for low income families; (3) assist farm families to remain on their homesteads; (4) help prevent homelessness; (5) repair substandard housing; and (6) assist adults to move from welfare to work by overcoming legal obstacles.

- Specifies $887,000 of the funding each year is to be used to improve the access of low-income clients to legal representation in family law matters.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$12,320,000	$12,320,000	$24,640,000

Note: Total 06-07 funding was increased by $10 million dollars from a recording fee surcharge.

Children In Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) Working Group
Requires the state court administrator to convene a working group on CHIPS proceedings to study and make recommendations by January 15, 2006 on the appropriate assignment and use of limited public defender resources and ways to minimize CHIPS proceedings through early intervention initiatives such as family group conferencing, mediation, and other innovative strategies.

PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Battered Women Shelter Grants
Battered women shelter grants are made to shelter programs and safe houses located throughout the state that provide 24-hour emergency housing and support services to victims of domestic abuse and their children. These grants reimburse providers for the costs of food, lodging and security.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$15,779,000	$15,779,000	$31,558,000

Note: Funding reflects an increase of $400,000 each year.

Crime Victim Assistance Grants
Crime victim assistance grants fund programs that serve victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse and general crime.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$6,454,000	$6,454,000	$12,908,000

Note: Funding reflects an increase of $1,270,000 each year.

Homelessness Pilot Projects
Authorizes grants to organizations in Hennepin, Ramsey and one county outside the metro area that provide homeless outreach and a bridge to stable housing and services to the homeless. Grants must be used for two-year pilot projects that reduce recidivism and promote stronger communities through street and shelter outreach.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$400,000	$0	$400,000

Note: Specifies this is a one-time appropriation and requires entities inside the seven-county metro area to provide a 50 percent match and entities outside the seven-county metro area to provide a 25 percent match.

PUBLIC SAFETY - CONTINUED

Human Trafficking Assessment, Policy Development, and Implementation.
Funding to conduct the study and assessment of human trafficking

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$50,000	$50,000	$100,000

- For further information, see the human trafficking section on page 26 of this summary.

Youth Intervention Program
Provides prevention and early intervention services for at-risk youth to prevent their involvement in the juvenile justice system, including: leadership development, mentoring, restorative justice services, pre-court diversion services, counseling services, education programs, and gender or culturally specific program services.

- Transfers the youth intervention program to the department of public safety from the department of employment and economic development.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$1,452,000	$1,452,000	$2,904,000

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION (BCA)

Methamphetamine Enforcement and Awareness
Funds ten new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agents to be dedicated to methamphetamine drug enforcement, including the investigation of manufacturing and distributing methamphetamine and related violence.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$2,000,000

OTHER

Department of Human Rights
The mission of the Department of Human Rights is to stop illegal discrimination and further equal opportunity for all people in Minnesota. The department pursues this mission through a coordinated program of law enforcement, prevention education, and community-based conflict resolution.

	FY 06	FY 07	Total (FY 06-07)
Funding	$3,490,000	$3,490,000	$6,980,000

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY CHANGES

Human Trafficking

Statewide Human Trafficking Assessment

Requires the commissioner of public safety, in cooperation with local authorities, to collect, share, and compile trafficking data among government agencies to assess the nature and extent of trafficking in Minnesota. Specifies the commissioner shall elicit the cooperation and assistance of government agencies and nongovernmental organizations as appropriate to assist in the collection of trafficking data and direct the appropriate authorities in each agency and organization to make best efforts to collect information relevant to tracking progress on trafficking. The information to be collected may include, but is not limited to:

- The numbers of arrests, prosecutions, and successful convictions of traffickers and those committing trafficking related crimes;
- Statistics on the number of trafficking victims, including demographics, method of recruitment, and method of discovery;
- Trafficking routes and patterns, states or country of origin, transit states or countries;
- Method of transportation if any transportation took place; and
- Social factors that contribute to and foster trafficking, especially trafficking of women and children.

Requires the commissioner to report a summary of findings and any other information the commissioner deems relevant to the issue of trafficking in Minnesota by September 1, 2006, and annually thereafter.

Definitions

Defines “blackmail,” “debt bondage,” “forced labor or services,” “labor trafficking,” “labor trafficking victim,” “sex trafficking” and “sex trafficking victim.” Expands the definition of “promotes the prostitution of an individual” by adding sex trafficking of an individual.

Trafficking Penalties

Labor Trafficking

Allows for a statutory maximum sentence of 15 years and/or a $30,000 fine for a person who knowingly engages in the labor trafficking of another. Provides consent or age of the victim is not a defense.

Sex Trafficking

Allows for a statutory maximum sentence of: (1) 20 years and/or a $40,000 fine; or (2) 15 years and/or a $30,000 fine, depending on the age of the victim (higher sentences for traffickers of victims under 18 years).

Unlawful Conduct with Respect to Documents in Furtherance of Labor or Sex Trafficking

Allows for a statutory maximum sentence of five years and/or a $10,000 fine for a person to knowingly destroy, conceal, remove, confiscate, or possess any passport, immigration document, or other government identification document of another person:

- In the course of violating or with the intent to violate labor trafficking or solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution laws; and
- To prevent or restrict or attempt to prevent or restrict, without lawful authority, a person’s liberty to move or travel, in order to maintain the person’s labor or services, if that person is or has been a victim of labor trafficking or solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution.

Provides consent or age of the victim is not a defense.

Labor or Sex Trafficking Crimes – Civil Liability and Corporate Liability

- Allows a labor trafficking victim to bring a civil lawsuit against a person who violates the labor trafficking or unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of labor or sex trafficking laws; and
- Provides if a corporation or business enterprise is convicted of labor trafficking, unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of labor or sex trafficking, or solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution, the court may order specified remedies relating to the entity’s business status (e.g., order its dissolution or reorganization, etc.) in addition to other applicable penalties.
- Provides consent or the age of the victim is not a defense to a labor or sex trafficking crime.

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY CHANGES - CONTINUED

Human Trafficking - continued

Affirmative Defense

Provides an affirmative defense to a charge under the prostitution crime involving patrons, prostitutes, and individuals housing prostitutes law if a defendant proves by a preponderance of evidence that she/he is a labor or sex trafficking victim and committed the act only under compulsion by another who by explicit or implicit threats created a reasonable apprehension that if she/he did not commit the act, the other person would inflict bodily harm upon her/him.

Disposition of Certain Forfeited Proceeds

Provides proceeds from forfeitures resulting from prostitution and trafficking offenses be distributed as follows:

- 40 percent to the appropriate local agency for the use of law enforcement;
- 20 percent to the county attorney or other prosecuting agency that handled the forfeiture; and
- 40 percent to the commissioner of public safety for distribution to crime victim organizations providing services to victims of trafficking offenses.

Requires the commissioner of public safety to report annually to the Legislature on the money forwarded to the commissioner under this section and distributed to crime victims' organizations providing services to trafficking victims.

Domestic Violence and Other Crime Provisions

Domestic Assault by Strangulation

Defines "strangulation" and provides that domestic assault by strangulation is a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than three years and/or to payment of a fine of not more than $5,000. Adds the crime of domestic assault by strangulation to the list of qualified domestic violence-related offenses (which allows enhanced penalties to apply when a person commits more than one qualified domestic violence-related offense within a certain time frame). Adds domestic assault by strangulation to the list of crimes subject to firearm restrictions.

Domestic Abuse No Contact Order

Expands the circumstances domestic abuse no contact orders can be issued by a court against a defendant in a criminal proceeding to include: harassment or stalking committed against a family or household member; violation of an order for protection order; and violation of a prior domestic abuse no contact order.

Prohibition Against Employer Retaliation –Domestic Abuse Hearings and Restraining Order Hearings

Prohibits employer retaliation against a victim who takes a reasonable time off from work to obtain relief under the Domestic Abuse Act (e.g. attend order for protection hearings) or attend harassment restraining order hearings. Requires an employee to give 48 hours advance notice when possible and to provide verification that supports the employee's reason for being absent upon request of the employer. Specifies all information related to the employee's leave shall be kept confidential by the employer. Establishes a misdemeanor penalty and allows a finding for contempt of court for an employer who violates this section. Allows for back wages and reinstatement to an employee discharged in violation of this section and establishes a civil cause of action for recovery of damages for an aggrieved employee.

Harassment and Stalking Crimes

Modifies the harassment and stalking crimes to include new forms of technology. Provides that in the case of wireless or electronic communication, the case may be prosecuted where the actor or victim resides.

STATE GOVERNMENT

REGULAR SESSION - CHAPTER 156, H.F. 1481

Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women (LCESW)

- Repeals Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 3.9222, which eliminates the commission, its duties and its members.
- Requires the Legislative Coordinating Commission to study and report to the Legislature on all matters relating to the economic status of women during the biennium ending June 30, 2007.

◆ Note: See the Economic Development Policy Changes section on page 7 of this summary for subsequent action on the Office on the Economic Status of Women that occurred in the Economic Development bill (First Special Session Chapter 1, S.F. 69).

Coya Knutson Memorial

- Requires the commissioner of administration to establish a memorial in the Capitol building honoring Coya Knutson.
- Allows the commissioner to accept donations from nonstate sources for the memorial

ABBREVIATIONS

ABE	Adult Basic Education
BOA	Board on Aging
BSF	Basic Sliding Fee
CCAP	Child Care Assistance Program
CCDF	Child Care Development Fund
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
DHP	Displaced Homemakers Program
DHS	Department of Human Services
DWP	Diversionary Work Program
ECFE	Early Childhood Family Education
ENABL	MN Education Now and Babies Later
FPG	Federal Poverty Guidelines
FPSP	Family Planning Special Projects Grants
FY	State Fiscal Year (July 1st to June 30th)
GAMC	General Assistance Medical Care
GF	General Fund
HCAF	Health Care Access Fund
ICF/MR	Intermediate Care Facility for People with Mental Retardation
LCESW	Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women
LCC	Legislative Coordinating Commission
LEAP	Labor Education and Advancement Program
MA	Medical Assistance
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MELF	Minnesota Early Learning Foundation
MJSP	Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership
MFIP	Minnesota Family Investment Program
MYP	Minnesota Youth Program
PDP	Prescription Drug Program
OIC	Opportunity Industrialization Center
SR	Special Revenue
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TY	Transition Year
WIC	Women, Infants and Children
WKDF	Workforce Development Fund

2005 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

2005 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)								
Size of Family Unit	**75% FPG**	**100% FPG**	**115% FPG**	**150% FPG**	**175% FPG**	**200% FPG**	**250% FPG**	**275% FPG**
1	$ 7,178	**$ 9,570**	$ 11,006	$ 14,355	$ 16,748	$ 19,140	$ 23,925	$ 26,318
2	$ 9,623	**$ 12,830**	$ 14,755	$ 19,245	$ 22,453	$ 25,660	$ 32,075	$ 35,283
3	$ 12,068	**$ 16,090**	$ 18,504	$ 24,135	$ 28,158	$ 32,180	$ 40,225	$ 44,248
4	$ 14,513	**$ 19,350**	$ 22,253	$ 29,025	$ 33,863	$ 38,700	$ 48,375	$ 53,213
5	$ 16,958	**$ 22,610**	$ 26,002	$ 33,915	$ 39,568	$ 45,220	$ 56,525	$ 62,178
6	$ 19,403	**$ 25,870**	$ 29,751	$ 38,805	$ 45,273	$ 51,740	$ 64,675	$ 71,143
7	$ 21,848	**$ 29,130**	$ 33,500	$ 43,695	$ 50,978	$ 58,260	$ 72,825	$ 80,108
8	$ 24,293	**$ 32,390**	$ 37,249	$ 48,585	$ 56,683	$ 64,780	$ 80,975	$ 89,073

100% FPG Source: Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 33, February 18, 2005