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## Quarterly Report on DCYF Transfers

July – September 2024

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## Summary of Report

Our state depends on the success of Minnesota children, youth, and families. Although Minnesota frequently ranks as a top state in which to live and work, this is not true for every child. Our systems have not led to equitable outcomes for our children, and today race, ZIP code, and income are too often determinants of opportunity. State leaders have been charged with the opportunity and responsibility to think differently and improve the effectiveness of services for children and families who need them most.

In 2023, Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan worked with the Minnesota Legislature to propose and pass legislation establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF): a permanent state agency and commissioner focused on elevating children and families in policy and budget decisions.

The legislation implementing DCYF created a two-year transition process, beginning July 1, 2023, to transfer identified programs and associated finances and functions to the new agency. It also established reporting requirements related to implementation of the new agency. This report provides an update on the transfers of responsibilities and programs to the Commissioner of DCYF from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), in accordance with Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 70, Article 12, Section 30, Subdivision 1(g), which states:

*(g) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must provide four successive quarterly reports to relevant legislative committees on the status of transferring programs; responsibilities; not public data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 8a; and personnel under this section. The first report must cover the quarter starting July 1, 2024, and each report must be submitted by the 15th of the month following the quarter end.*

## Transfer of Responsibilities and Programs

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) was implemented on July 1, 2024. Since that time, the Commissioner of Children, Youth, and Families has assumed responsibility for participation in and/or leadership of workgroups and task forces that were previously the responsibility of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

DCYF has assumed responsibility for participation in or leadership of the following workgroups or task forces:

- American Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council
- Children's Justice Initiative
- Community Resource Centers Advisory Council
- Interagency Early Intervention Committees
- Local Child Abuse Prevention Councils
- Task Force on Pregnancy Health and Substance Use Disorders
- Advisory Council on Interstate Adult and Juvenile Supervision

- Children's Justice Act Task Force
- Family Child Care Training Advisory Committee
- Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)
- Supreme Court Council on Child Protection and Maltreatment Prevention

Additionally, as a cabinet-level agency, the Commissioner of DCYF has been added as a member of the [Children's Cabinet](#).

Since July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of DCYF has assumed responsibility for all programs that have been transferred from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Department of Human Services. Here is a comprehensive list of programs that have been transferred to DCYF.

## **Programs from the Department of Human Services**

### ***Children and Family Services***

Programs from the Children and Family Services Administration transferred to DCYF in July 2024, including the following divisions.

#### **Business Integration Division**

The Business Integration Division represents all program areas in the department's modernization efforts. The division's work includes addressing program simplification and alignment opportunities, continuous improvement, and business and technology transformation. Staff collaborate with leadership and MNIT to establish data standards, tools, and information management practices and to ensure existing information systems serve Minnesotans' needs and comply with state and federal requirements. The Social Services Information System (SSIS) teams provide user support, subject matter expertise, and leadership related to the case management system for child welfare and other programs.

#### **Child Care Services Division**

The Child Care Services Division oversees Tribal and county administration of Child Care Assistance Program subsidies for families with low incomes. It works in partnership with communities and other state agencies to develop high-quality and accessible child care options, provide information for families on these options, and support Minnesota's child care workforce. It is responsible for the oversight of numerous grants and systems to support child care providers and early childhood education. The division brings together interested and affected groups representing Minnesota's racial, cultural, and geographic diversity to identify challenges and barriers to promote an effective early childhood system and community-developed solutions. Programs include:

- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Child Care Aware Grants
- Child Care Access Grants
- Child Care Provider Technology Grants
- Child Care Workforce Development Grant
- Child Care Wayfinder
- Develop: Minnesota's Quality Improvement & Registry Tool
- Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program
- Early Childhood and School-Age Professional Development System

- Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention
- Facility Improvement Loans and Grants
- Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Grant Program
- Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program
- Migrant Child Care Services
- Minnesota Tribal Resources for Early Childhood Care (MNTRECC)
- Parent Aware Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Preschool Development Grant (in partnership with MDE and MDH)
- School Age Care Continuous Improvement and Accreditation Program
- Family Child Care Shared Services Grants
- TEACH Scholarships
- REETAIN Wage Bonuses
- Whole Family Systems Grant Program (in partnership with EAESD & CSP)

### **Child Safety and Permanency Division**

The Child Safety and Permanency Division oversees prevention and early intervention services, adolescent services, family preservation services, child protection services, and emergency and transitional housing for homeless youth. It is also responsible for the oversight of out-of-home placement, including foster care, American Indian child welfare, and adoption services. The division provides statewide, competency-based child welfare training in partnership with counties. This includes working with Tribes, counties, other state agencies, community-based agencies, and others to secure positive child and family outcomes for those served by the child welfare system, preventing child maltreatment, and intervening when child maltreatment occurs. Work units and programs include:

- Adolescent Services
- Adoption Assistance
- African American Child Well-being Unit
- American Indian Child Welfare Initiative
- American Indian Well Being Unit
- Case Review Unit
- Change Management Unit
- Child Welfare
- Child Protection
- Child Protection Grants
- Child Protection Opioid Allocation
- Children in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment
- Community Based Child Abuse Prevention
- Community Resource Centers
- Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)
- Extended Foster Care
- Family First Prevention and Early Intervention Allocation Program
- Family First Prevention Services Act Kinship Navigator Program
- Family Foster Home Recruitment
- Federal Title IV-E and related programs

- Foster Care and Permanency Planning
- Guardianship of Children in Foster Care
- Indian Child Welfare Grants
- Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- Juvenile Safety and Placement
- Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy
- Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) and ICWA Compliance
- Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act
- Minor Parent Services
- Northstar Care for Children (Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship Care)
- Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP)
- Permanency Quality Assurance
- Post Adoption Search
- Post Permanency Support Services Grants
- Public Private Adoption Initiative (PPAI)
- Qualified Individual Program Grant
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Assessment Grant
- Quality Parenting Initiative Grant Program
- Relative Custody Assistance
- Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors
- Research and Evaluation Unit
- Safe Place for Newborns
- Successful Transitions to Adulthood for Youth (STAY in the Community)
- Supporting Relative Caregiver Grant
- Tribal Child Welfare, including Prevention and Early Services Grants

### **Child Support Division**

The Child Support Division, with their partners, collects, processes, and distributes child support payments. It provides training, manuals, information, policy, and technical support for county staff and partners. The division supervises county administration of Minnesota's child support program while working collaboratively with other agencies and partners to locate parents; establish parentage; establish, modify, and enforce support obligations; and collect and disburse payments. Work units and programs include:

- Advancing Equity Grant
- Child Support Payment Center
- County and Public Help Desk
- Division Operations and Grant Management
- Paths to Parenthood Grant
- Performance Analysis and Systems
- Policy and Planning
- Program Support
- SAVES Grant
- System Modernization and Strategic Planning

- Training

### **Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division**

The Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division supervises and supports county and Tribal administration of cash and food programs for families and individuals with low-income while managing benefit issuance through Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT). Services and programs are designed to strengthen Minnesota families and individuals by helping them meet their basic needs as they go to work, look for work, attend school or are unable to work. The division develops and implement policy; delivers statewide training; develops bulletins and manuals; and provides system and policy support to counties, tribes, and community partners. The division is also responsible for program data and analysis, program integrity, quality assurance and outcome evaluation for Minnesota’s economic assistance programs. Programs and work units include:

- Diversionary Work Program (DWP) (Legislation signed into law repealed this program effective March 1, 2026)
- Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)
- Emergency Assistance (EA)
- Minnesota Food Assistance Program (MFAP)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Minnesota Whole Family Systems Initiative
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- SNAP Employment and Training (E&T)
- Summer EBT
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Work Units:
  - Call Center
  - Local Agency Support
  - MFIP Policy
  - Research and Operations
  - SNAP Quality Assurance
  - SNAP Policy
- SNAP E&T
- Tribal Affairs

### **Equity and Inclusion Office**

The role of this team is to build capacity of staff and implement systemic interventions to advance equity within the department. In practice, this team leads and champions equity alignment and goals for employees and communities; implements the Equity Policy; reinforces compliance; educates staff on how to integrate an equity lens into their work to ensure equitable access and outcomes from programs; supports the intercultural development of employees; oversees the Equity Committee; and advises the Division Equity Teams.

- Agency Equity Policy
- Employee Support and Resources
- Equity Committee and Division Equity Teams

- Inclusive Development
- Strategy and Consultation

### **Management Operations Division**

Management Operations oversees operational and legislative budgets, personnel, and special projects. It is also responsible for business continuity, compliance, enterprise risk management and managing communications.

- Communications
- Data/Compliance
- Finance
- Legislative Affairs
- Legislative Budget

### **Office of Economic Opportunity Division**

The Office of Economic Opportunity works to remove the barriers imposed by poverty on the health and development of individuals, children, and families at the community level through Community Action Agencies and food shelves. It oversees numerous grants.

Homelessness programs from the Office of Economic Opportunity were also intended to transfer with the rest of the Children and Family Services Administration. However, during the 2024 legislative session, a group of legislators strongly advocated that homelessness service providers continue at DHS.

In response, DHS has decided to separate the Behavioral Health, Housing and Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Administration into two separate administrations, creating the Behavioral Health Administration, and the Homelessness, Housing and Support Services Administration to allow for greater focus on these two important program areas. The Homelessness, Housing and Support Services Administration will be responsible for policy and grant-making for all adults and youth experiencing homelessness in Minnesota and will administer adult income support services.

- Work units that will transfer to DCYF include:
- American Indian Food Sovereignty Funding Program
- Capital for Emergency Food Distribution Facilities
- Community Action Programs
- Diaper Distribution Grant Program
- Early Childhood Learning and Child Protection Facilities
- Family Assets for Independence (FAIM)
- Grants for Prepared Meals Food Relief
- Minnesota Food Bank Program
- Minnesota Food Shelf Program
- SNAP Education
- SNAP Outreach
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

## Programs from the Department of Education

### *Office of Teaching and Learning*

#### **Early Learning Services Division**

Except for the programming and support for Part B 619, programs from the Early Learning Services Division transferred to DCYF in July 2024:

- Children's Savings Account Startup program
- Early Childhood Curriculum Grants
- Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program
- Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening program
- Early Learning Scholarships
- Executive Function Across Generations program
- Great Start Scholarship program
- Grow Your Own Program
- Parent Aware Public Program Support
- Parent Child Plus program
- Part C Early Intervention Services
- Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
- School Readiness
- Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and School Readiness Plus programs (SRP)

Additionally, pursuant to Laws of Minnesota, [Chapter 80](#) (the DCYF Recodification Bill), the powers and responsibilities related to the transfers of these programs included within that Act are effective on the respective dates of transfer mentioned above. All necessary federal approvals related to the transfer of these responsibilities and programs have been secured.

## **Not Public Data**

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and Minnesota Session Law 2023, Chapter 70, Article 12, Section 29, provide express authority for data sharing between the Department of Children, Youth, and Families and the agencies from which programs are transferring to DCYF.

To document the agencies' sharing of data, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families entered into interagency agreements for the transition year with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education. Each interagency agreement highlights the agencies' obligations to comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and Minnesota Session Law 2023, Chapter 70, Article 12, Section 29. In addition, the interagency agreements specify the anticipated data sharing needs to continue these programs and services without interruption.

## Personnel

Since its implementation on July 1, 2024, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families has brought on more than 518 full-time and part-time employees. Four hundred sixty-two employees transferred from the Department of Human Services and 30 transferred from the Department of Education. DCYF has also welcomed 31 employees as new hires. Fourteen employees currently support the Commissioner of DCYF on the agency's Executive Leadership team.