



DCYF 2024 Legislative Session Recap

From: Stephanie Hogenson, Children's Cabinet Policy Director

DCYF Legislative Changes and Investments

- DCYF critical operating needs and intergovernmental advisory council funded at the Governor's request.
- Policy language was included to require the DCYF commissioner to designate someone to lead coordination for children with disabilities and mental health needs within the agency and across agencies.
- Recodification bill passed in March and amendments to the bill passed at the end of session.
- Additional program transfers proposed by the Administration were included, except, due to legislator concerns, the legislation did not include the transfer of the DHS Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) housing and homelessness programs
- Investments and policy changes in programs transferring



Central Operations Resources for DCYF & Originating Agencies

\$2M in FY 24-25 and \$12M in FY 26-27

- 1) Priority investments related to legislative recommendations and community feedback on the importance of engagement, partnership, and navigation
 - Including funding for administration, reimbursement and staffing for the intergovernmental advisory council
- 2) Addressing critical operating resources related to the DCYF transition
 - A. Invests in critical agency operations to support high-quality services at DCYF
 - B. Addresses critical gaps in central functions at originating agencies (DHS and MDE) resulting from transferring resources



Responding to Specific Legislative & Community Recommendations

Leadership roles to support:



- Stronger state **partnerships** with counties and tribes
 - **Intergovernmental Advisory Council** management for intentional partnership with 87 counties and 11 tribes (as desired)
 - Strong Tribal consultation and coordinated connections between tribal offices and state programs
- **Coordination** of services for
 - Children and youth **mental health** services
 - **Children who have disabilities**
- **Family navigation** and partner relationships
 - \$340k in FY 2024-25 and \$1.458m in FY 2026-27

Intergovernmental Children, Youth, and Families Advisory Council

- Established in the 2024 Session under **MSS 124A.045** to provide advice, consultation, and recommendations to the commissioner on the planning, design, administration, funding, and evaluation of services to children, youth, and families.
 - Recommendation was co-developed with counties and Tribes, as directed in DCYF establishing legislation
 - Modeled after MDH's State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC)
- **Membership:**
 - Each participating Tribal Nation, AMC, and MACSSA must codevelop a process to administer the committee that ensures each participating Tribal Nation and each county are represented
 - Each Tribal Nation has the choice to participate and can join at any time.
 - Committee members or their alternates can be reimbursed for allowable expenses while engaged in their official duties as committee members.
- Must **meet at least quarterly** and special meetings may be called by the committee chair or a majority of the members.

DCYF Recodification Bill

- Work on the bill started last summer and was signed into law in March
 - [Minnesota 2024 Session Law, Chapter 80](#)
- Per DCYF establishing statute the language must facilitate the transfer of responsibilities, authorities, and the related operational functions needed to implement the necessary legal changes and responsibilities under the DCYF establishing legislation.
- The bill was technical in nature and avoided new policy decisions.
- The bill copied and transferred DHS and MDE general authorities into existing relevant statutes (e.g. Minnesota Data Practices Act) and commissioner authorities into Chapter 142A
- The bill recodified most, but not all, DHS, MDE and DPS statutes of programs transferring to DCYF into Chapters 142A-G.

Recodification Overview

Current Chapter	New Chapter
245A, Human Services Licensing	142B, Department of Children, Youth, and Families Licensing*
245H, Certified License-Exempt Child Care Centers	142C, Certified License-Exempt Child Care Centers
<i>Relevant MDE Statutes: 124D, 119A, 121A</i>	142D, Early Care and Learning
119B, Child Care Programs	142E, Child Care Programs
245.771; relevant sections of 256D and 256E	142F, Food and Community Supports Programs
256P, Minnesota Family Investment Program	142G, Minnesota Family Investment Program

Child Welfare Statutes Not Recodified

- 256N (Northstar)
- 257 (Children, Custody, Legitimacy)
- 259 (Change of name, adoption)
- 259A (adoption assistance)
- 260 (Juvenile Court; Child Placement; Compacts)
- 260C (Juvenile Safety and Placement)
- 260D (Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment)
- 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)

DCYF Legislative Program Transfers

- Programs transferring per language passed (all from DHS except one noted below)

- American Indian Food Sovereignty program
- Capital for Emergency Food Distribution Facilities
- Community Resource Centers Diaper Distribution Grant Program
- Family First Prevention Services Act Support and Development Grant Program
- Family First Prevention Services Act Kinship Navigator Program
- Family First Prevention and Early Intervention Allocation Program
- Grants for Prepared Meals Food Relief
- Independent Living Skills for Foster Youth
- Legacy adoption assistance
- Opiate Epidemic Response Fund
- Quality Parenting Initiative Grant Program
- Relative Custody Assistance Reimbursement to Counties and Tribes for Certain Out-Of-Home Placements
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Outreach
- Grow Your Own for Early Childhood Educators (MDE)

- OEO Housing Programs that weren't included in program transfer language

- Emergency Shelter Facilities Grants
- Emergency Services Program
- Emergency Solutions Grant
- Transitional Housing Program
- Homeless Youth Act
- Shelter-Linked Youth Mental Health
- Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing
- Homeless Youth Cash Stipend Pilot

Investments in Programs and Services Transferring

- Legislation that passed also included funding and policy changes for many programs and services transferring to DCYF including:
 - Funding to establish the permanent federal Summer EBT program
 - \$10 million to start upgrading the Social Services Information System (SSIS)
 - Funding for other child welfare related work groups and initiatives
 - Funding for food banks and shelves
 - Establishing 5,200 additional voluntary prekindergarten seats and language putting all of public prekindergarten programs be under a single set of standards and requirements
 - Enabling additional funds appropriated to Early Learning Scholarships to be used to implement program and IT system updates.

Thank You!

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