

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **Exclude Census Worker Income** (DWP, MFIP, RCA, CCAP, GA, MSA, and Housing Support) – **effective July 1, 2023**
- **Exclude Income Received from Health and Human Services Lived-Experience Engagement Efforts** (DWP, MFIP, RCA, CCAP, GA, MSA, and Housing Support) – **effective August 1, 2023**
Encourage engagement with our families that have lived experience and should have a voice in our program policies
- **Drug Testing Reform** – **effective August 1, 2023**
Removes requirement to conduct random drug testing; removes sanction penalties/DISQ for testing positive – Agencies can provide drug treatment options instead of sanctioning or closing a case
- **Exclude Tribal Per Capita Income (proposal from the Housing and Support Services Division)** – **effective January 1, 2024**
- **People with U-visas eligible for MFIP and GA** – **effective March 1, 2024**
Immigrants with U-visa (victims of crime)
- **Removal of nonrecurring unearned income and lump sum income** – **effective July 1, 2024**
- **Excluding RSDI at or below SSI level for MFIP and CCAP** – **effective September 1, 2024**
- **MFIP Housing Assistance Grant Annual COLA** – **effective October 1, 2024**
- **6-month budgeting** – **effective March 1, 2025**
Aligns with SNAP program budgeting
- **DWP repeal** – **effective March 1, 2026**
- **MFIP sanction reform** – **effective May 1, 2026**
Removal of the 10% and 30% sanction. The new sanction amount will be 5% of the MFIP benefits

2. NOITS PILOT PROJECT

Title: NOITS Pilot Beginning End of June (Exact Date TBD)

- Beginning in the last week of June and lasting approximately 9 months, the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) will be piloting a new version of the DHS-3175, Notice of Intent to Sanction (NOITS). The new piloted version will be generated in Workforce One for cases with an EVEN Record ID Number. Cases with an ODD Record ID Number will continue to generate the current version of the NOITS. **There are no changes to policy or to how the NOITS is completed within Workforce One.** A PDF version of the new NOITS is available [HERE {LINK}](#) in SIR and [HERE {LINK}](#) on the Employment Services Resource Page on CountyLink as a reference. The pilot NOITS will not be available in eDocs until or unless permanent revisions are made to this form.
- The pilot will be used to gather data about how to further improve the NOITS and to determine areas where additional training resources may be needed.
- Note: The Record ID Number in Workforce One is different from a MAXIS case number. This number is exclusively used within Workforce One and is unique to each individual person record.

3. MFIP/DWP/TRIBAL TANF CONFERENCE PRESENTER FORM:

- The conference planning committee is seeking presentation proposals for a keynote speaker and breakout presenters at the upcoming Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)/Diversionary Work Program (DWP)/Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Conference.

MFIP/DWP/Tribal TANF Conference

September 26-28, 2023

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

This conference will be virtual and is free to attend.

Theme: Improving the Lives of Children Living in Poverty.

Audience: County and Tribal Nation eligibility workers, employment counselors, and anyone working with the MFIP/DWP/Tribal TANF programs.

Keynote Presentation Time:

Tuesday, September 26th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (speaking from approx. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM)

Breakout Session Times:

Wednesday, September 27th from 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Wednesday, September 27th from 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Thursday, September 28th from 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Note: Approximately 5 breakout sessions will run concurrently at each of these times.

If you are interested in presenting, please complete the Presenter Proposal Form no later than **July 1st, 2023**. Please submit one proposal for each presentation topic.

<https://forms.office.com/g/c8HKqGNSj3>

If your presentation is selected, the conference planning committee will contact you by August 1st, 2023 to finalize the conference schedule. If you have any questions about completing this form, e-mail kayla.merrill@state.mn.us.

- If you are interested in learning more or would like to view the 2022 conference recordings and materials, visit the MFIP/DWP/Tribal TANF Conference CountyLink webpage: https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionS electionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=mndhs-061150

4. DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES (DCYF)

Gov. Tim Walz signed into law two marquee pieces of legislation that will bring big changes to the Department of Human Services over the coming 18 months and will pave the way for two new state agencies.

A provision in the Health and Human Services Omnibus Budget bill creates the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). Most programs in DHS' Children and Family Services Administration and some in the Office of the Inspector General, as well as some operational functions, will be folded into the new agency. In addition, a provision in the Human Services Omnibus Budget bill separates Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) from DHS and establishes the specialized behavioral health care system as a standalone agency.

Neither of the changes will take place immediately. The legislation establishes an Implementation Office within Minnesota Management and Budget to guide the transition of the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning July 1. DHS leaders are involved in the planning with the Implementation Office.

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

This represents historic investments in Minnesota's children, youth, and families.

Creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families does not take effect immediately. The new law funds the Implementation Office, led by Minnesota Management and Budget experts, who will plan for the new department over the next year. The following year, staff will transfer to the new department. Your involvement and partnership will be important in this planning and transition work. Several programs related to children and youth currently run by the Minnesota Departments of Human Services, Public Safety and Education will be included in and transferred to the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families. These programs will be moved between July 2024 and July 2025, with flexibilities built in to adjust as needed.

The new department will include from the Department of Human Services:

- All Children and Family Services staff except our colleagues working in our housing and homelessness prevention areas:
 - Business Integration
 - Child Care Services
 - Child Safety and Permanency
 - Child Support
 - Economic Assistance and Employment Supports
 - Management Operations
- Some staff from Office of Inspector General functions, including:
 - Licensing functions related to childcare, child foster care and certification of license-exempt childcare centers.
 - Program integrity functions related to the Child Care Assistance Program, Minnesota Family Investment Program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- Some staff providing operational expertise from other areas of the Department of Human Services.

The proposal also incorporates:

- From the Minnesota Department of Education:
 - After-School Community Learning Grant Program
 - Early Childhood Family Education
 - Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening
 - Early Learning Scholarships
 - Head Start Program/Early Head Start

- Voluntary Pre-K, School Readiness Plus
- Part C Early Intervention Services; visit the department's webpage, Part C FAQ (mn.gov), for more information
- Preschool Development Grant
- School Readiness
- From the Department of Public Safety:
 - Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
 - Youth Intervention Program grant
 - Youth Justice Office

The timeline for this process laid out in the bill:

- July 1, 2023: Implementation Office is established at Minnesota Management and Budget.
- July 1, 2024: Department of Children, Youth, and Families commissioner appointed, department established.
- July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2025: Programs transferred to Department of Children, Youth, and Families.
- July 1, 2025: Deadline for all core programs to be transferred to Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

Direct Care and Treatment

Formal separation is slated to become effective on Jan. 1, 2025. Our facilities, programs and services will continue to operate as normal. Our working relationships with labor unions, counties, courts, law enforcement, advocates and other partners will continue as usual. During the transition period, DCT will remain part of DHS.

The new department will be headed by a five-member executive board appointed by Gov. Tim Walz. One of the first tasks will be to define the responsibilities, powers, and function of the board, and prepare proposed legislation to be considered by state lawmakers during the 2024 legislative session. There will be many other practical decisions and tasks along the way as we lay the foundation for the new agency.

The decision to separate DCT from DHS comes after more than a decade of discussion among state lawmakers, DHS leaders, prior governors, advocates, and other partners.

Among other benefits, the change will allow DCT to function more like other health care systems, according to industry standards and best practices, and to be overseen by a board of directors and a leadership team that is deeply experienced in health care operations and management.