

One Minnesota Budget

Proposal to establish and transition to a Department of Children, Youth, and Families



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Why a state agency centered on children, youth, and families?

Establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families would enable:

- A clear front-door and a recognizable public face;
- Improved communication outlets focused on children and families;
- Coordinated and maximized funding;
- Aligned outcomes for children and families; and
- Improved access to services.

Guiding Principles

- ❖ Whole family focus
- ❖ Focus on a child throughout their life
- ❖ Consolidation of early childhood programs
- ❖ Services are easy to access / navigate (“front door”)
- ❖ Cross-agency coordination still needed
- ❖ Improved and more equitable outcomes achieved for all races, incomes, economic statuses or place of being

Proposed Department of Children, Youth, and Families

The Walz-Flanagan Administration proposes to create a Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) that reimagines our state government structures to elevate child, youth, and family priorities and funding needs by providing focused leadership in our executive branch and with the legislature.

Core programs proposed to move to new agency:

- Child care and early learning programs
- Child Support, Child Safety and Permanency, and other family-focused community programs
- Economic support and food assistance programs
- Youth opportunity and older youth investments



Bill to Create the Department of Children, Youth, and Families

The bill obtains the necessary authorities to establish and operate DCYF including by:

- Funding implementation team and transition fund;
- Establishing the Department effective July 1, 2024 with a Commissioner appointed on the same day;
- Adding the Department to existing authorities and establishing administrative controls of the Commissioner;
- Directing transfer of core programs between July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025;
- Providing employee protections;
- To the extent not prohibited by law, allows coordinating activities, improving service delivery, and implementing innovative practices, research, or evaluation;
- Creates a systems account (modeled after existing DHS system account) to enhance computer systems necessary for the efficient operation of the programs; and
- Providing instructions to the revisor.

	FY2023				FY2024				FY2025				FY2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2023 Session Changes				Proposal				Implementation Office Active								
				Leadership recruitment				New Agency Active								
				Agency Transition Fund Available												
				IT planning and infrastructure				Transfer Core Programs								
2024 Session Changes				Potential Transfer of Non-Core Resp; any continued Core transfers												
				Revisor bill development				Revisor Bill								

What is possible

- Create a **central state vision** to ensure Minnesota families are able to reach their full potential.
- **A researched-backed multi-generation approach**, focusing services for adults who play key roles in the lives of children as a source of meaningful, equitable impact.
- Prioritizing **economic and food assistance programs** so every child has access to culturally relevant opportunities to help them learn, grow, and thrive.
- Coordinated **implementation of unified statewide networks of community resource centers**.
- **Prioritizing youth with leadership and aligned outcomes**, focusing **upstream** rather than on costly downstream public safety and corrections as the only strategies.



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Thank you!

