



## Agency Overview

Tikki Brown | Commissioner

Ashley Reisenauer | Chief Financial Officer

# Department of Children, Youth, and Families – Overview



# Department of Children, Youth, and Families

On July 1 2024, Minnesota launched a new state agency to create a sustainable, public face for children's issues in state government with aligned outcomes and policy, improving the front door for services, easing access and navigation for families, and improving services overall.





# Agency Vision

## Agency Vision

A Minnesota where all children, youth and families are valued, treated equitably and thriving.

## One Minnesota Vision

To make Minnesota the best state in the country for children to grow up in – those of all races, ethnicities, religions, economic statuses, gender identities, sexual orientations, (dis)abilities, and zip codes.



# Placing Children at the Center of Government

Our state depends on the success of Minnesota children, youth, and families. The creation of a new DCYF can achieve:

- 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.



# Who do we serve each month?



77,384

People served  
through MFIP



13,747

Child Care  
Assistance  
Program



10,553

Early Learning  
Scholarship  
recipients



19,132

Families served in  
Northstar for  
Children



440,490

People receive  
food assistance  
through SNAP



500,000

Parents &  
children receive  
child support  
services

# Programs Transferred or to be Transferred to DCYF

## **Children and Family Services at the Department of Human Services:**

- Management Operations and Business Integration
- Child Care Services
- Child Safety and Permanency
- Child Support
- Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division
- Office of Economic Opportunity

## **Office of Inspector General & Department of Human Services Operations:**

- Licensing functions for family child care, child care centers, certified child care centers, and child family foster care settings.
- Program integrity units for related Children and Family Services (CFS) programs
- DHS Central Operations functions - Human Resources, Finance, General Counsel, Compliance, and Management Services, etc.

## **Programs from Office of Teaching and Learning at the Department of Education:**

- Early Learning Services Division (except Part B 619)
- After-School Community Learning Grant (will transfer if additional funding is appropriated)

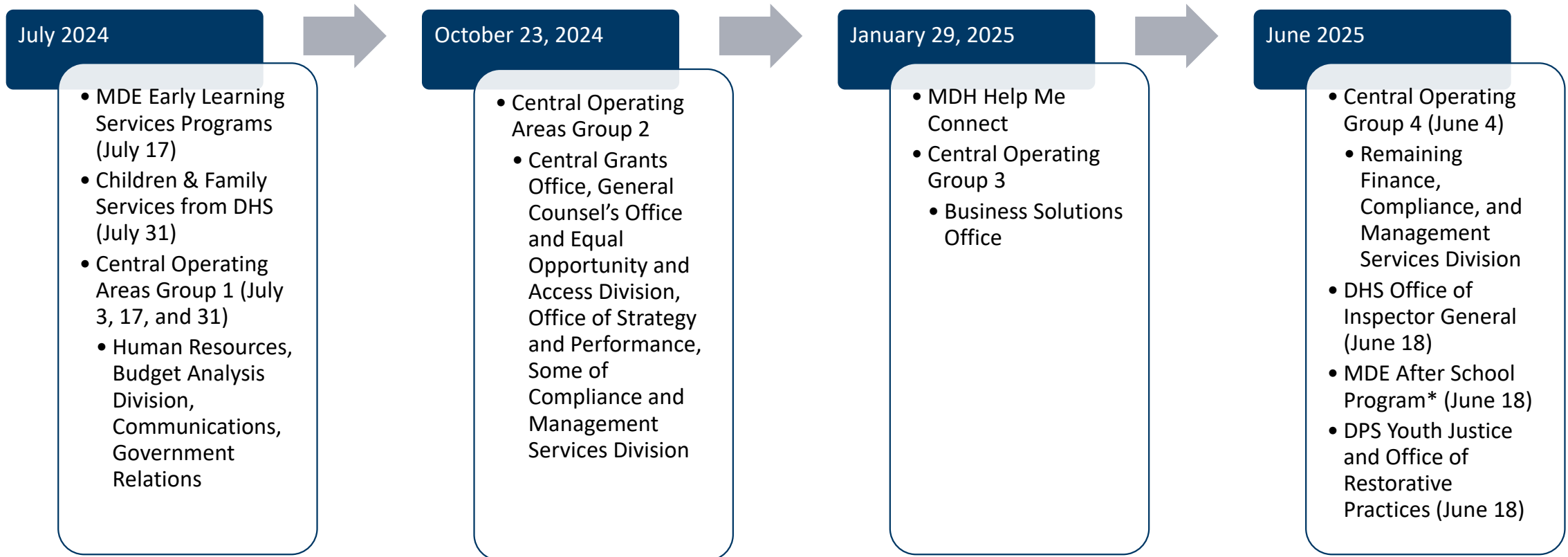
## **Programs from Department of Public Safety**

- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- Youth Intervention Program Grant
- Youth Justice Office
- Office of Restorative Practices

## **Program from Child and Family Health Division at Minnesota Department of Health**

- Help Me Connect

# Planned DCYF Transfer Timeline



Planned program transfers may be delayed or cancelled to prevent service disruptions, ensure adequate infrastructure is in place for program success, or to accommodate federal approval timelines

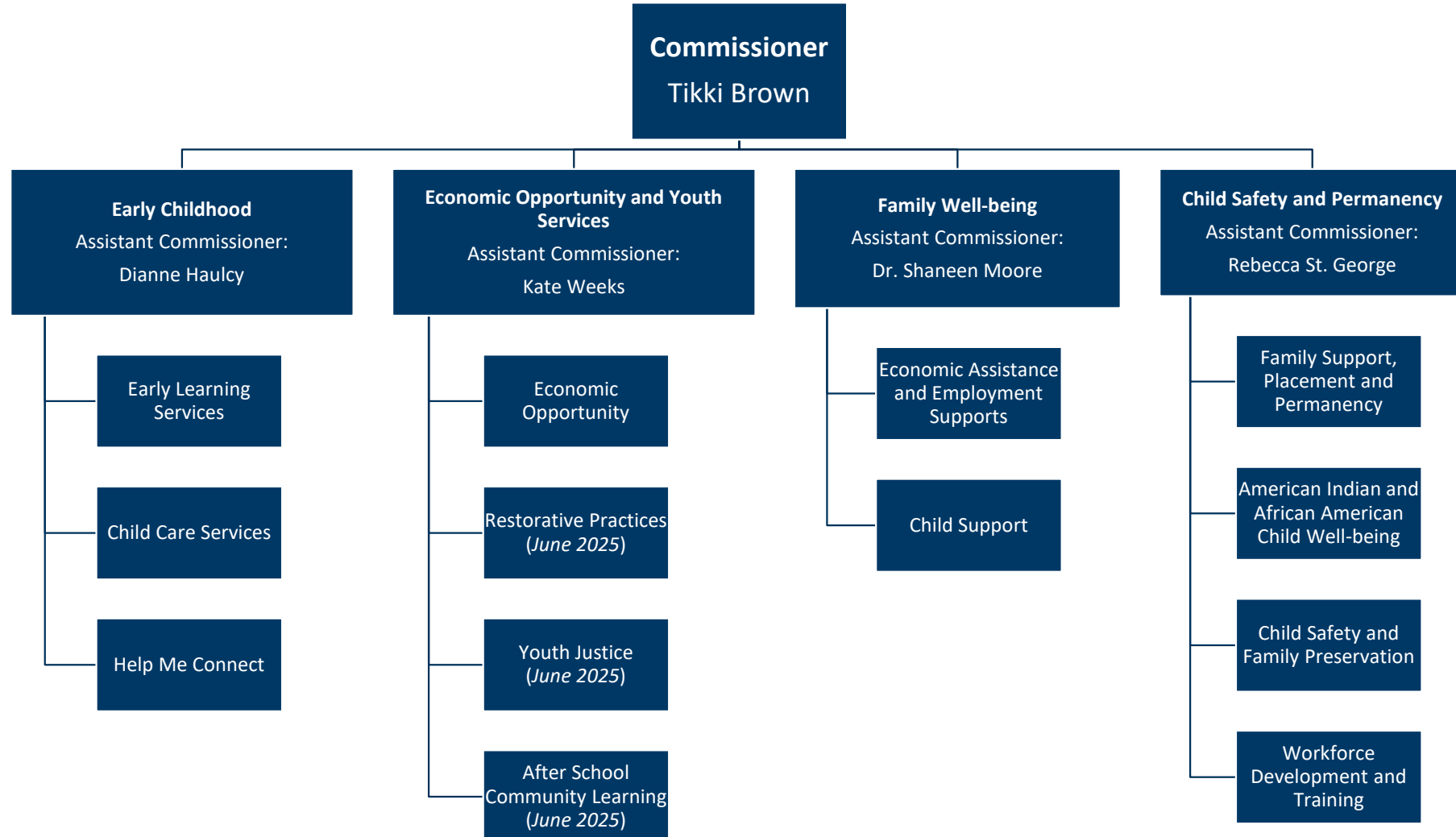
*\*The After-School Community Learning Grant Program is planned to transfer if additional funding is appropriated*



# DCYF Executive Leadership Team

- Commissioner
- Deputy Commissioner (Vacant)
- Assistant Commissioners
- Business Integration Director
- Chief Business Technology Officer
- Chief Compliance Officer
- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Chief Transformation Officer
- Communications Director
- County Relations Director
- Equity and Engagement Director
- Executive Director of Tribal Relations
- General Counsel
- Government Relations Director
- Inspector General

# DCYF Administrations



# Child Safety and Permanency Division

## Assistant Commissioner Rebecca St. George

Provides supervision and oversight of Minnesota's child welfare system, including prevention, family preservation, child protection, foster care, and permanency.

Supports laws and policies intended to reduce overrepresentation of children in the child protection system due to race, political status, disability status, and poverty.

Develops policies and best practice guidance, and provides grant funding to support better outcomes for at-risk children and families and ensure effective implementation of state and federal laws

Trains approximately an average of 233 workers per month through the Child Welfare Training Academy in partnership with the University of Minnesota

# Early Childhood Administration

## Assistant Commissioner Dianne Haulcy

**The Early Childhood administration supports programs that help young children receive the best start in life, including help finding quality and affordable child care and early learning programs that support early child development and thriving families**

**34 Head Start and Early Head Start programs served 13,593 children and families in FY 2023**

**Issues approximately \$12 million in payments per month to child care workers through the Great Start Compensation Support Program established in 2023**



# Economic Opportunity and Youth Services

## Assistant Commissioner Kate Weeks

**This administration combines the Office of Economic Opportunity, formerly at DHS, and the Office of Restorative Practices and Youth Justice Office, including the Youth Intervention Grant Program from DPS.**

**Youth Intervention Program funding supports almost 100 youth-serving programs statewide.**

**Supports over 300 food shelves and meal programs in Minnesota.**

# Family Well-Being Administration

## Assistant Commissioner Dr. Shaneen Moore

**Supports programs that form the social safety net for children and families by providing food assistance, cash assistance, child support services, and employment services and other supports.**

**Minnesota's food and nutrition programs help households with low incomes get the food they need.**

**Minnesota's cash assistance programs help families with low incomes move to economic stability through work.**

**Receive and process approximately \$640 million in child support payments each year.**

# DCYF Financial Information

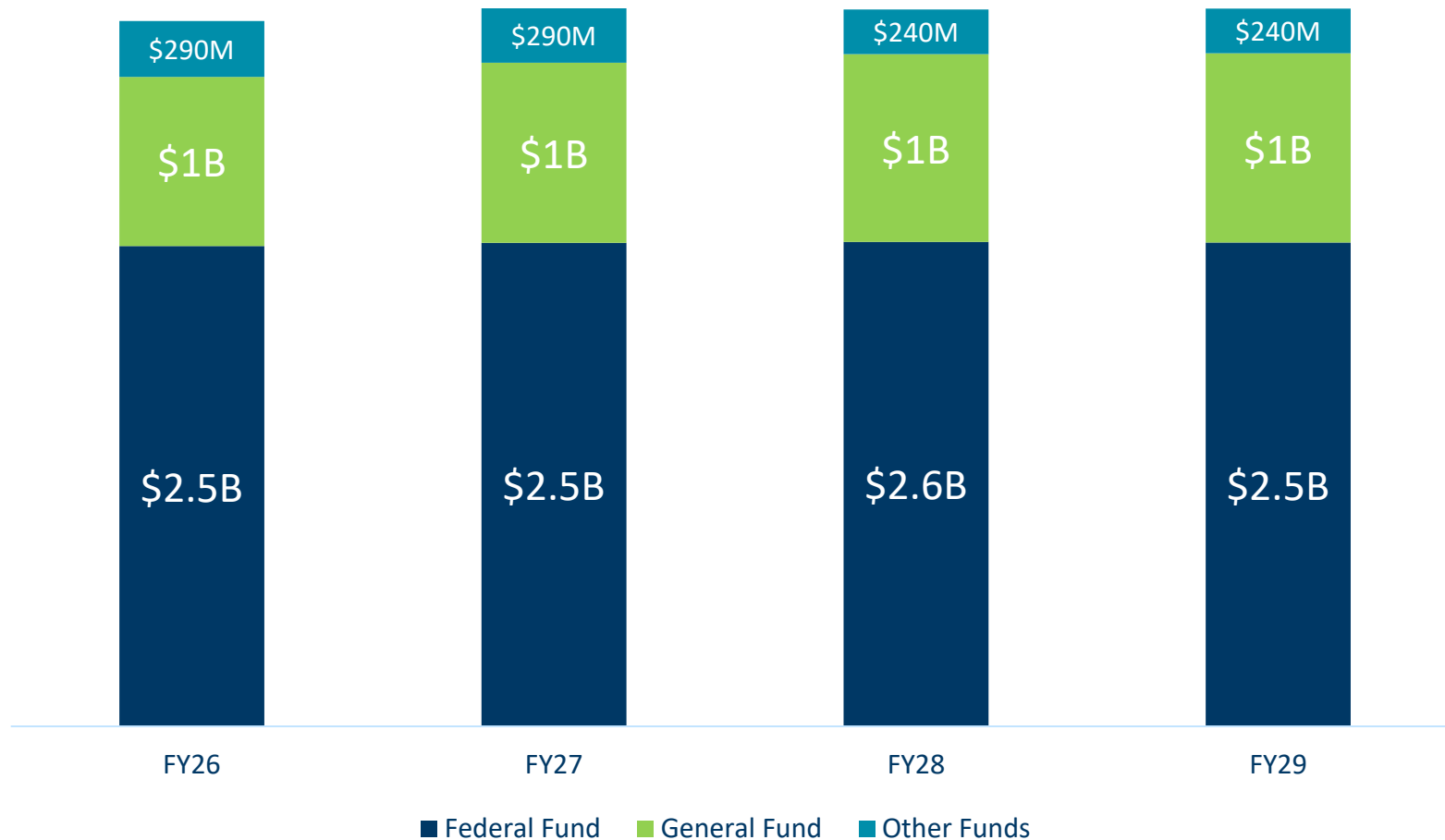


# SFY 2025 Transition Year Accounting Structure

- With feedback from partner agencies, DCYF will continue using accounting structures in the originating agencies at the Department of Education (MDE), the Department of Health (MDH), and the Department of Human Services (DHS) during the SFY 2025 transition year.
- Relying on the existing departmental accounting structures will provide more flexibility during the transition year as programs and staff move to the new agency.
- While funding will remain in the existing account structures, DCYF leadership will manage spending and priorities.
- Interagency agreements and approval structures in the financial system are used to manage operations and processes.

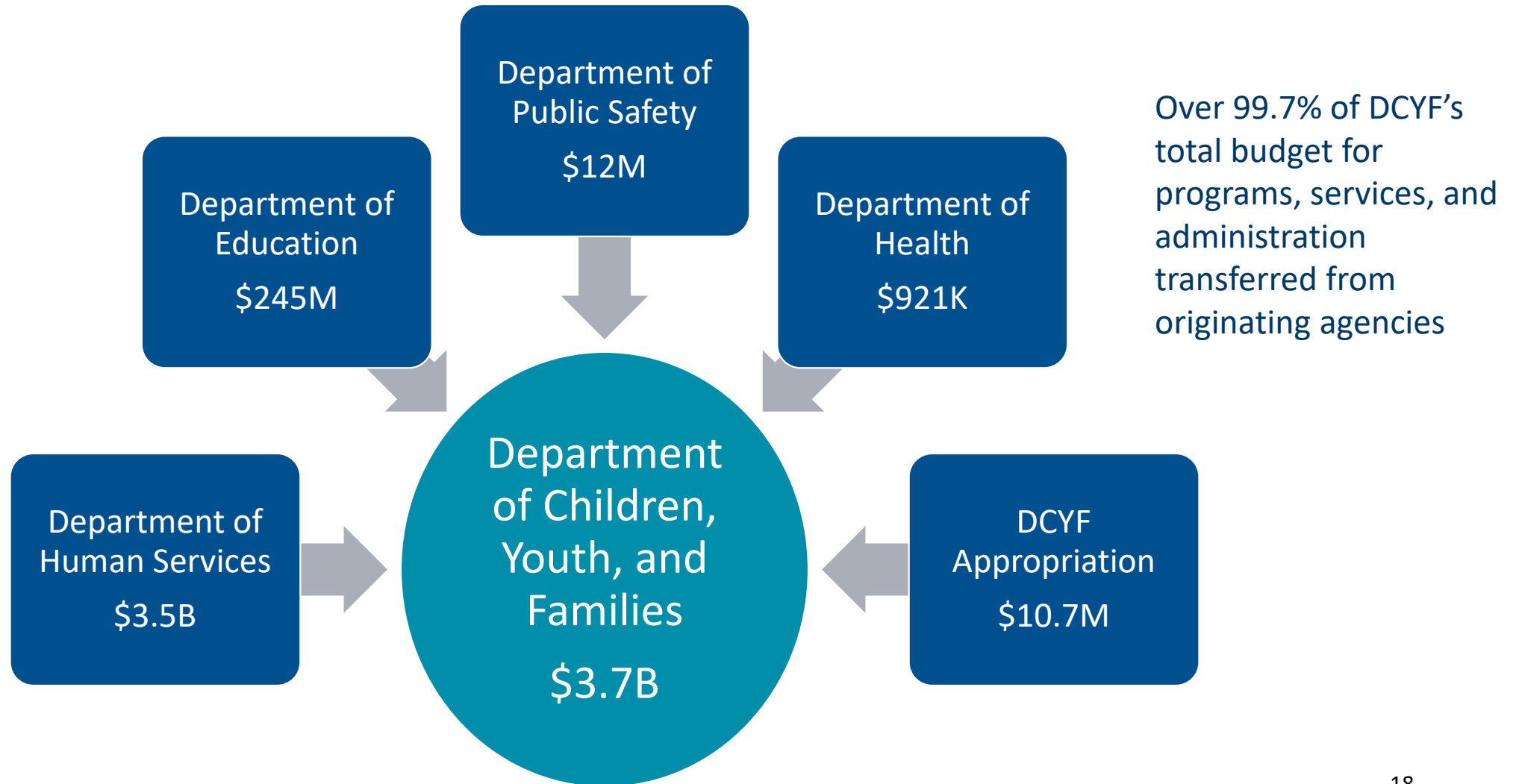


# DCYF Total Expenditures

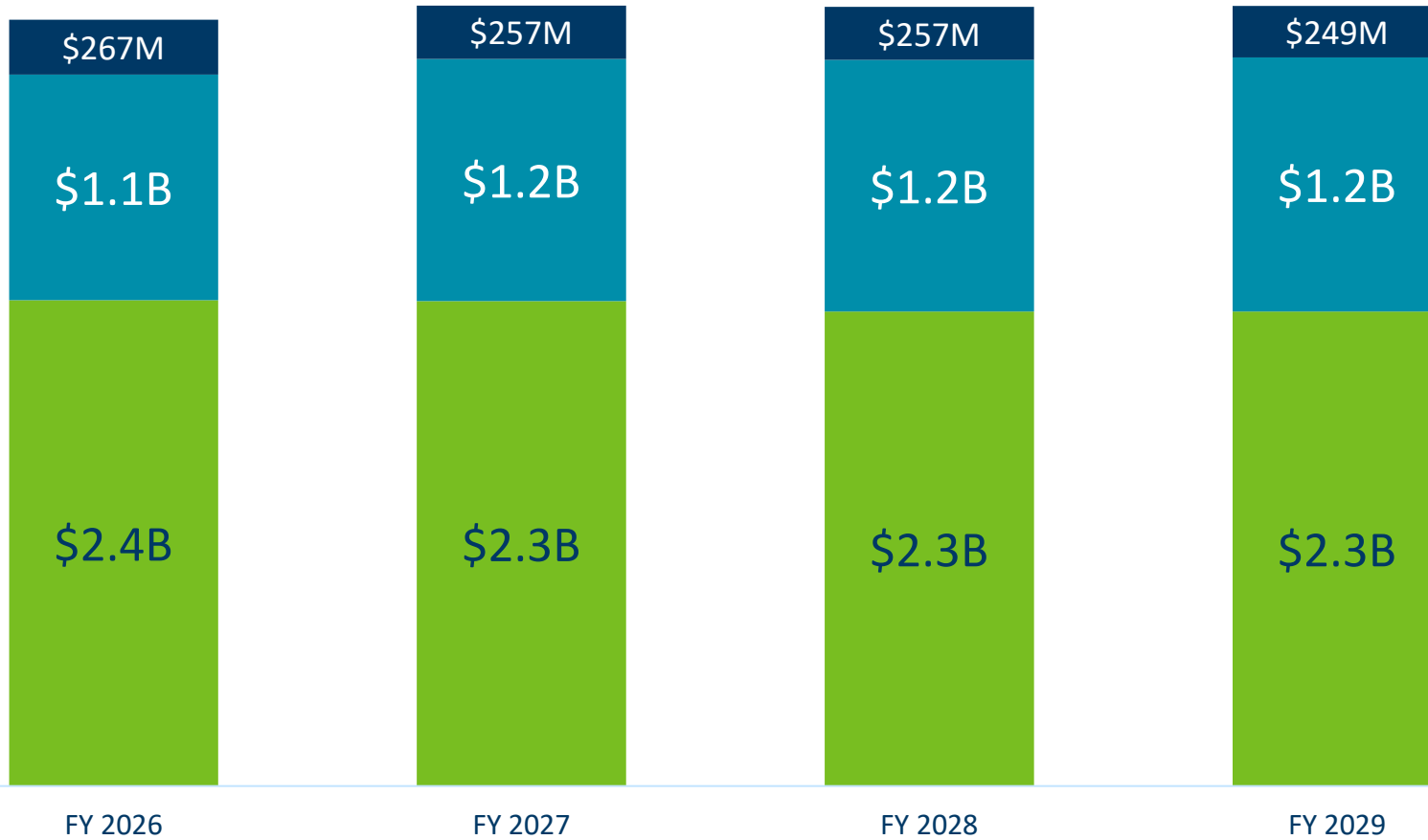


- DCYF's total expenditures are about \$3.7 billion per year
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest general fund budget among state agencies
- Federal funds make up about two-thirds of DCYF's budget
- Oversees an additional \$1 billion in pass-through and fiduciary funds, including over \$640 million in the child support program

# Where did the DCYF budget come from?



# DCYF Expenditures (All Funds)



- DCYF has a large grant portfolio. Over 60% of the agency's expenditures are in grant programs
- About 30% of the expenditures are in forecast programs
- 7% of expenditures support program administration and operations

*Includes all funds  
Source: BPAS Data*

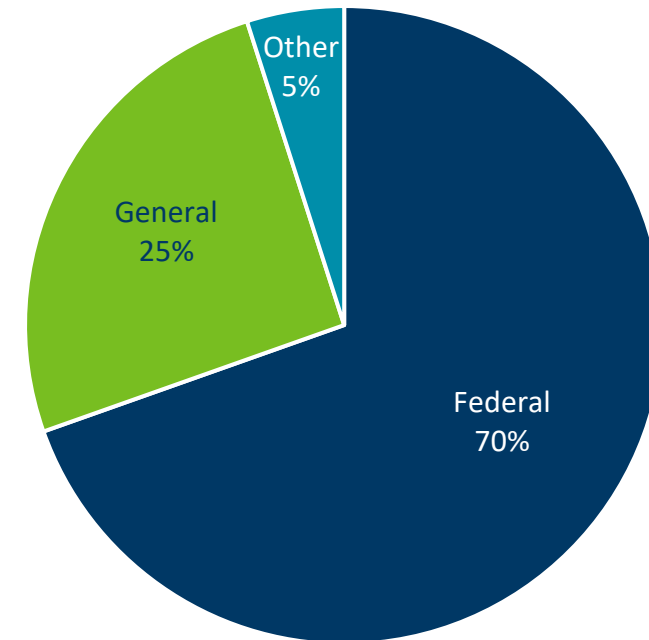
■ Grant Programs ■ Forecast Programs ■ Administration

3/3/2025

# Total Grant Program Expenditures – FY 2026

Budget Activity	FY 2026
Support Services	\$200M
Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance	\$254M
Child Care Development	\$176M
Child Support Enforcement	\$4M
Children's Services	\$92M
Child and Community Services	\$121M
Child and Economic Support	\$1.3B
Early Learning	\$191M
Youth Services	\$10M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2.4B</b>

Grant Expenditures by Fund

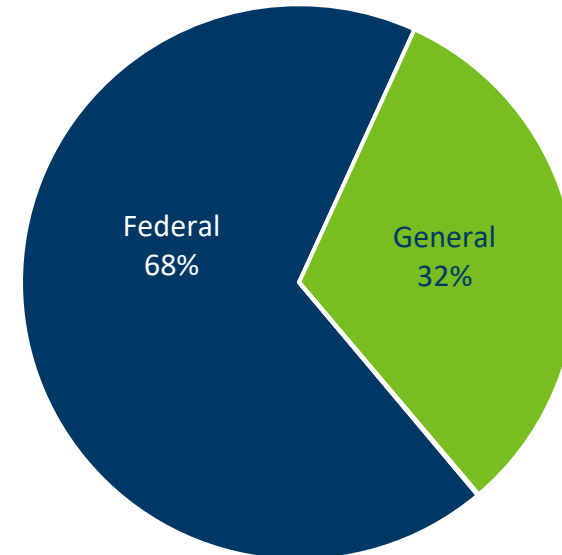




# Total Forecast Program Expenditures – SFY 2026

Forecast Program Spending by Fund

Budget Activity	SFY 2026
Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)	\$638M
MFIP Child Care Assistance	\$221M
Northstar Care for Children	\$235M
Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)	\$40M
Health & Developmental Screening	\$4M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.1B</b>



*Includes FY 2026 all funds  
Source: BPAS Data*

# OIG Transfer – Licensing



# Transfer of Licensing Functions to DCYF

June 2025:  
DCYF OIG  
Established

Family child care licensing

Child care center licensing

Child care center certification

Child foster care licensing

Private child-placing agency licensing

# Licensed Child Care Regulation – A Partially Delegated System

No changes to which programs are directly licensed by the State of Minnesota and which programs are licensed by the counties.

**Child Care Centers (CCC)** are directly licensed by DHS.

- Licenses are issued directly by DHS
- DHS licensors conduct inspections and visits
- DHS issues licensing actions
- There were 1,791 licensed centers as of February 2025

**Family Child Care (FCC)** is licensed through a delegated system with counties.

- DHS licenses FCC providers based on counties' recommendations
- County licensors conduct inspections and visits
- Counties recommend licensing actions to be issued by DHS
- There were 5,756 licensed FCC providers as of February 2025

# Child Foster Care Licensing

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County agencies have the primary responsibility for licensing and monitoring child foster care

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22 private child foster care licensing and placement agencies also provide licensing services

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DHS-OIG Licensing establishes licensing standards

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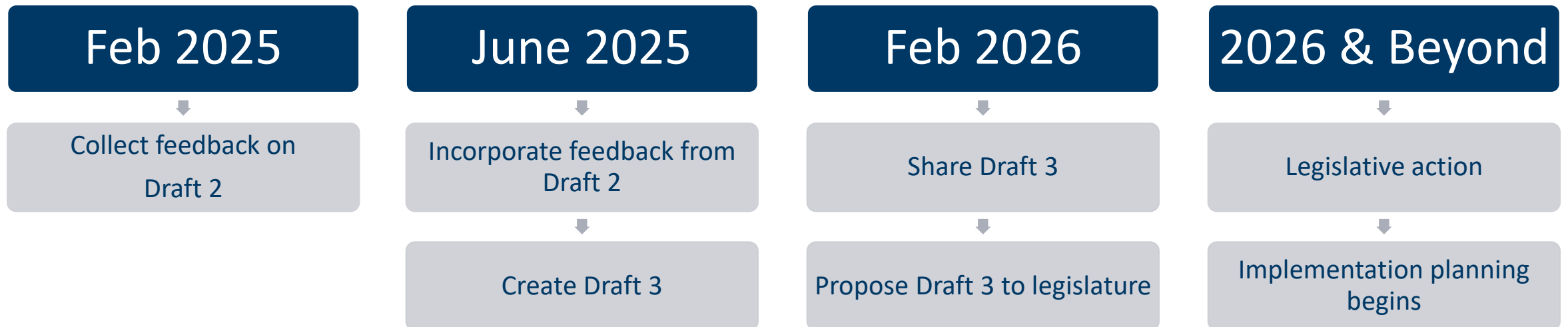
Child foster care licensing transfers to DCYF in June 2025

# Child Care Revised Licensing Standards - Continuity

Licensing modernization will continue at DCYF

No anticipated changes to the engagement and revision plan established by DHS-Licensing

Leadership will support seamless transfer of responsibilities



# OIG Transfer – Program Integrity



# Commitment to Program Integrity

Minnesota is a state committed to helping people — and we're committed to providing services that improve the lives of Minnesotans.

Fraud against public programs is unacceptable. It is not a victimless crime, and it harms the same people we're trying to help with these services.



# Program Integrity – DCYF Programs

Program integrity functions for DCYF programs will transfer from DHS-OIG to DCYF in June, 2025

## Child Care Audits & Investigations

- Prevents, detects and investigates provider fraud, abuse, and error in the Child Care Assistance Program and the Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program

## Fraud Prevention Investigations

- Supports counties and Tribal Nations that investigate allegations of fraud involving people receiving SNAP and MFIP benefits

# DHS-OIG Program Integrity Tools

The DHS-OIG detects and investigates fraud, abuse, and errors when they find it

Investigations result from tips and data analysis

OIG refers cases of suspected fraud to law enforcement partners for criminal investigation and prosecution

- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for child care provider fraud
- Counties for SNAP and MFIP recipient fraud

OIG takes administrative action when it finds fraud, waste, and abuse

- Correction orders, stipulated provider agreements, monetary recoveries, fines, payment withholds, suspensions, terminations

# Questions?