



Minnesota kids need help...on average over 15,000 kids are removed each year from their homes due to concerns for their wellbeing. 60% are victims of Neglect, often due to Poverty.

OUR SOLUTION: **CarePortal is care-sharing technology that connects vulnerable children and families to people who want to serve them.** Social workers uncover the needs. CarePortal makes local churches, businesses, and individuals aware, giving them a real time opportunity to respond and care for children in their own community. To learn more watch [How it Works](#) at careportal.org, or see the graphic on the reverse of this sheet.

Reversing the foster care crisis across Minnesota requires public/ private collaboration between child-serving stakeholders, local churches, and the community.

CarePortal makes the connections.

1100 requests met to serve children and their families

91% of requests met by a local church team

3,300 children served

97% of caseworkers felt supported by the faith community

98% of caseworkers agree their request improved child wellbeing

4.9 out of 5 stars; Average rating from CarePortal users



MN CarePortal Network

15 Agencies

local child-serving organizations submitting requests on behalf of children

60 Church Teams

responding to needs with the purpose of helping

12 Champions

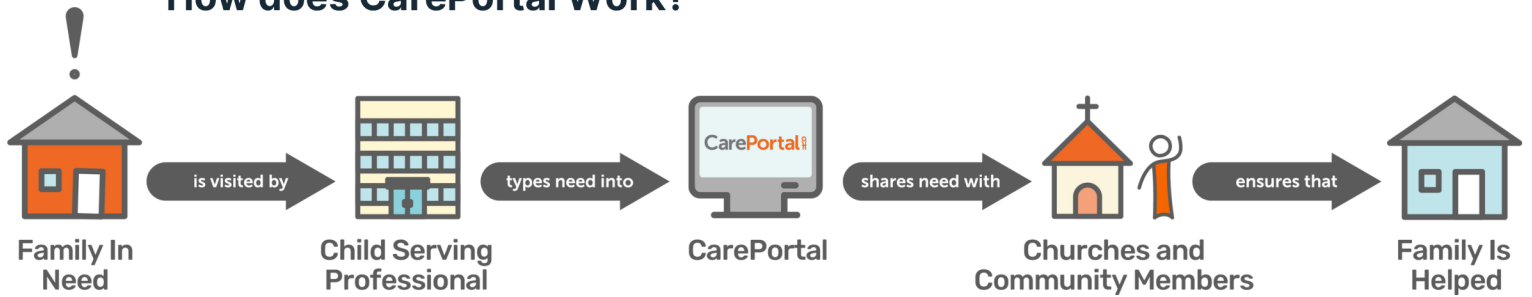
local businesses, organizations, and individuals funding requests



CarePortal Minnesota

Real transformation is emerging in communities to reverse our nation’s foster care crisis as a result of **meaningful connections formed through CarePortal. Meeting practical needs** - like furniture for a single mom to provide a stable home for her children or funding a necessary car repair so a dad can get to work and pay the bills – **unleashes the power of community to reimagine care for kids that is local, proactive, and effective.**

How does CarePortal Work?



2025 Legislative Appropriation Request

Our plan aims to expand CarePortal’s reach to 37 counties across the state by early 2028, with a particular emphasis on the northern region, where high poverty rates and out-of-home child placements are significant concerns.

To support this growth, **we seek \$300K in state funding for SFY '25-'26 and \$500K for SFY '26-'27.** CarePortal would supplement these funds by covering roughly 30% of costs through private contributions. This investment would enable us to extend services from the current four counties to around 20 within this biennium, prioritizing areas with the highest need, as determined by MN DHS data.

For more information contact:
CarePortal Minnesota Area Director Tim Heroff at tim.heroff@careportal.org



March 24, 2025

Representative Kotyza-Witthuhn, Chair
Children and Families Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative West, Chair
Children and Families Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for technology portals to connect families and individuals with support systems ([HF 1824](#))

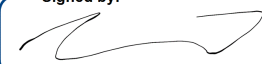
Dear Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn, Chair West, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Olmsted County, I write to respectfully urge your support for HF 1824. Thank you for hearing the bill and for the opportunity to comment.

This letter aims to highlight the local impact CarePortal has had on children and families in Olmsted County, and to encourage support for the expansion of the program across the state of Minnesota. CarePortal is a community-driven, collaborative organization that harnesses local generosity to connect people to critical basic needs. Regardless of locality, research has demonstrated that providing children and families with concrete supports in times of need reduces the likelihood of child maltreatment.

Since 2020, Olmsted County has submitted 734 requests to the CarePortal network and 87% of them have been met; providing local children and families with things like bed frames, mattresses, sheets, clothing, and other basic necessities that contribute to wellbeing. We estimate about 1,517 children in Olmsted County have been served since the beginning of our partnership. By supporting organizations like CarePortal, we can contribute to community-driven approaches to better the lives of children and families in Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration of HF 1824.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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3/24/2025 | 1:58 PM CDT

Mark Thein, Chair
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners

HENNEPIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 24, 2025

Representative Kotyza-Witthuhn
Co-Chair, House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn and Members of the House Children and Families Committee:

We are writing to express our support for HF1824 (Rehrauer), which would appropriate funds to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to create and implement technology portals to connect vulnerable children and families with community support systems. Hennepin County has valued working with one such entity – CarePortal – since October of 2023. We would highlight several things of value about CarePortal’s work:

- **Assistance is well tailored to meet specific, demonstrated needs of families.** The communication between County social workers and CarePortal helps to ensure that assistance is targeted at what a family needs. Social workers are able to work with families to identify specific assistance – which would help to either decrease risk or to increase safety and wellbeing for a family – and communicate that information to CarePortal. This communication helps to ensure that the additional assistance provided is well tailored to the needs of families.
- **Flexibility to meet unique needs of families.** CarePortal has useful flexibility in what kinds of assistance they can provide. One family we worked with had a small living space without enough room for a table for the family to eat meals around together. The family identified that it would be helpful to have a moveable center island in the kitchen that they could use to eat meals together and then move out of the way for the children to have the space to play. This is the kind of unique request that CarePortal was able to meet and improve the family’s ability to spend time comfortably together in their home.

- **Timely responses to meet immediate needs.** CarePortal is often able to provide assistance more quickly than the County or community-based resources. We worked recently with a newly arrived family who was in immediate need of diapers. CarePortal responded to a request and provided diapers to the family in less than 24 hours. Another individual we worked with was nine months pregnant, working, and living in her car. She was approved for housing that was immediately available, but she was physically unable to move her things out of her storage unit. CarePortal was able to find two people to help her move her items the same day. She then gave birth the following day and was able to return to a furnished home with all of her possessions.
- **Treating families with dignity.** Families who work with CarePortal also appreciate that their assistance is provided with care, compassion and without judgement. Families report to us that they feel respected and given the ability to identify what would be most helpful for them. CarePortal is also often able to connect families with lasting community supports.

Hennepin residents have benefited from the assistance provided by CarePortal and we would encourage your support for House File 1824 (Rehrauer).

Thank you.

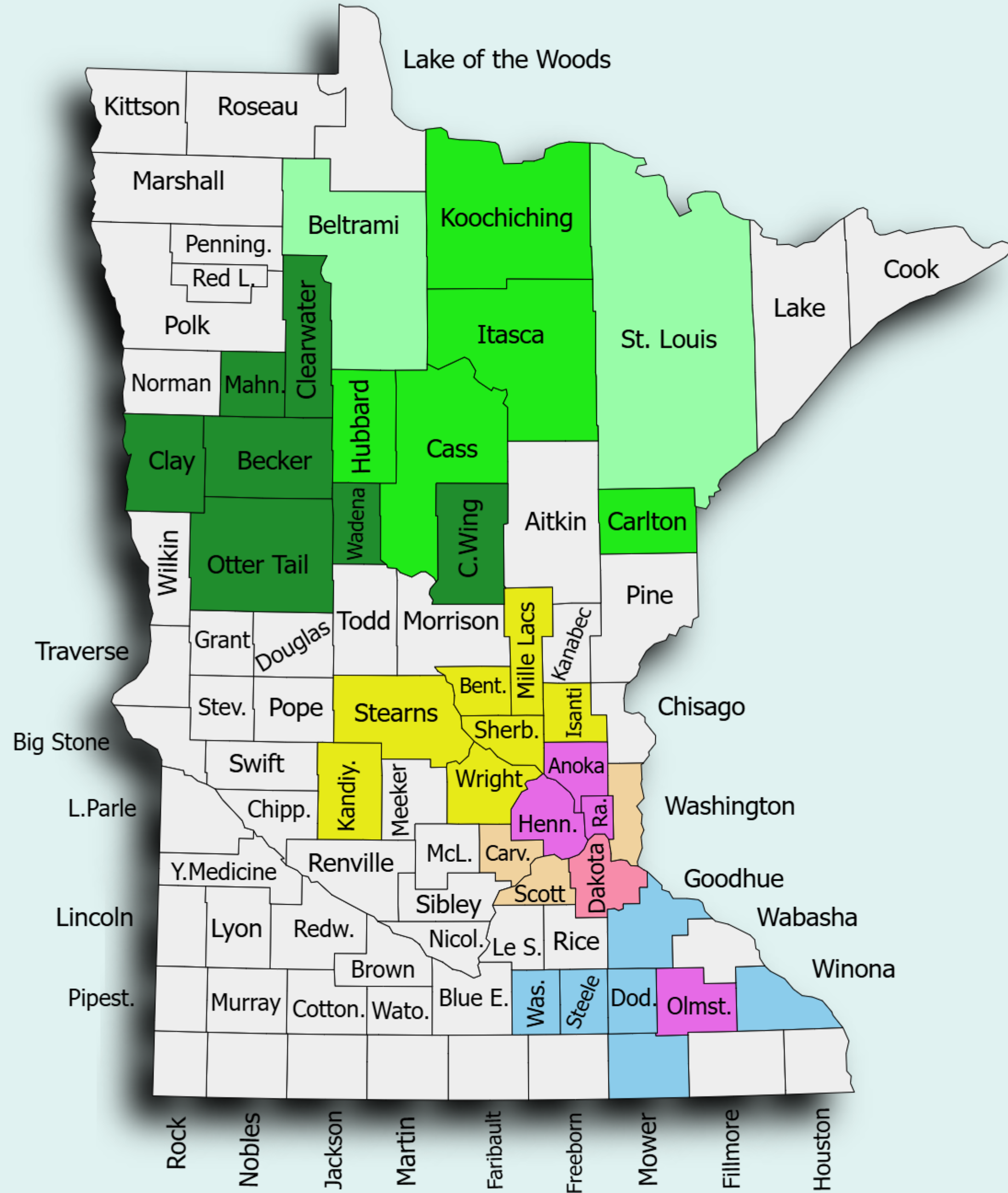
Sincerely,



Irene Fernando, Chair
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0040
hennepinD2.com | hennepin.us



MN CarePortal Plan 8A





Anoka County

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Community Social Services and Behavioral Health

March 26, 2025

Rep. Kari Rehrauer
Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street, 5th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Kotyza Witthuhn, Co-Chair West, Members of the House Children and Families Committee,

Anoka County's Children and Family Services area (child protection) has been partnering with CarePortal (connecting technology platform of The Global Orphan Project) since 2022. A soft launch, pilot project, began in July of 2022 with training staff in the Family Assessment unit on how to utilize CarePortal as a "requesting agency" of Tier 1 physical items to support children and families on their caseloads. During that time and since then, CarePortal has been conducting outreach to onboard "responding agencies" (churches and community partners) across Anoka County and beyond.

Over the past two years, this collaborative private/public partnership with CarePortal has grown and expanded, meeting the needs of 235 children and their families involved with Children and Family Services at a cost savings to the county. The prompt generosity of the people from the responding agencies has been remarkable! Items provided include new mattresses, bed frames, bedding, dressers, furniture, housewares, clothing for children, groceries, cleaning supplies, baby items, and more. These primarily new, donated goods have helped to strengthen families, reunify families, make and preserve kinship placements (relative foster care), improve well-being of children, and provide a valuable service to the county.

Locally, Mark Lenz, CarePortal Regional Manager, county staff and volunteers from the responding agencies have teamed together to deliver items to families' homes with permission from the families. They have delivered large items (beds, furniture, kitchen tables and chairs, etc.), assembled bunk beds and completely set up children's bedrooms. Here is a specific example: An urgent request was made by a county child welfare professional for a family whose home had burned down. A rapid, generous response came from the CarePortal member churches/partners to assist the family with their immediate needs and temporary housing. The social worker stated, "I can't say enough about the work and difference this program makes for the families we work with."

Meeting People's Needs Through Quality Services

Community Social Services & Behavioral Health
Government Center ▲ 2100 3rd Avenue N, Suite 500 ▲ Anoka, MN 55303-5049
PHONE: 763-324-1400 ▲ FAX: 763-324-1110

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

In January, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution formally accepting gifts and extending its' grateful appreciation for the partnership and for items donated by CarePortal's local network of member churches and community partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Borrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Borrell" clearly distinguishable.

George Borrell, Director
763-324-1409

CC: Senator Liz Boldon
Mark Lenz, CarePortal Regional Manager