



Implementation of 2021 Legislation  
Children and Family Services Administration



# Economic Assistance

# Financial Assistance for Struggling Families

- Almost 28,000 families receiving MFIP assistance received the one-time \$435 COVID relief payment in October 2021.
- MFIP COLA: The first annual cost of living adjustment (1.4%) implemented Oct. 1, 2021.
  - Future annual adjustments will be made Oct. 1 of each year.

- The option to receive applications, do interviews and orientation for MFIP by phone was implemented Sept. 1, 2021.
- The ability for eligibility workers to clarify incomplete MFIP Household Report Forms by phone was implemented July 1, 2021.

- Developing guidance clarifying that business accounts used for paying personal expenses will count in determining benefits for self-employed individuals receiving child care or cash assistance.
  - May 1, 2022 implementation.

# Improving performance

- To reduce the error rate in SNAP benefits to below 6%:
  - Filled 3 of 5 new staff positions. Hiring underway for last 2.
  - Creating new case review tool to support local agencies in quality assurance work.
  - Expanded training of local staff underway.
  - Providing technical assistance to counties and tribes who are under corrective action plans.
  - Analyzing policy and procedures for reducing most frequent reporting errors.

# Clarity in Program Administration

- Clarifying Public Assistance Statutes
  - These technical changes primarily maintained current practice.
  - Manuals reviewed and revised to ensure accurate guidance on the affected policies.

- **Tribal access to state food shelf funding**
  - 2 tribes applied for and received funding in 2021.
  - DHS expects more tribes to apply and receive funding in the future.
- **Clarifying that tribes administering MFIP can also administer Emergency Assistance.**
  - White Earth Nation administers emergency assistance for tribal members.

- Community Action Program formula change and funding increase
  - New funding formula and increase implemented and contracts are in place.
- To align with law making high school students eligible for unemployment insurance, public assistance policy exempts that income as of June 30, 2021.

# Addressing Homelessness

- **Emergency Shelter Grants**

- \$2 million in homeless shelter renovation funding has been put out in an RFP with applications due January 28, 2022.

- **Emergency Services Program (ESP) grants**

- Additional \$12 million in ESP funding has been awarded to homeless shelters through a competitive RFP process.

- **Report to Legislature – Homeless Youth**

- Working with Minnesota Management and Budget to identify a vendor.
- Report is due December 15, 2022.



# Child Welfare

# Family First Prevention Services Act

- **Statutory Changes**
  - New and amended definitions
  - Residential programs
  - Juvenile treatment screening team and qualified residential treatment program (QRTP) assessment
- **Aftercare Supports Consultation**

# Family First Prevention Services Act

- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
  - QRTPs in MN
  - Dept. support for accreditation
  - Training provided
  - Guidance

- Northstar Federal Compliance
  - Federal compliance
- Tribal Training and Certification Partnership
  - ICWA training for counties
  - Child welfare training for American Indian tribes

- Foster Care Licensing Guidance
- Reporting Substance Use in Pregnant Women

# Greater Equity for Families in Child Protection

- Appointment of legal counsel in child protection cases
  - Development of funding formula
- Foster family recruitment and licensing technology
  - RFI report



# Child Support

# Improvements for low income child support payers

- Child Support Task Force recommendations
  - Changes the guidelines eff. Jan. 1, 2023 including the guideline table and how expenses for non-joint children are considered
- Elimination of interest on child support arrears effective Aug. 1, 2022

- Credit Reporting Changes, eff. Jan. 1, 2023
  - Allows discretion in reporting and allows a payment agreement to avoid reporting
- Transfer of child support cases to tribal court
  - Allows a MN court to transfer a case to a tribe when IV-D services are being received.

- Changes to good cause
  - Allows a parent to appeal a denial of good cause immediately, before sanction applies

# Thank You!