

Program: Grant Programs

Activity: Child & Community Service Grants

Child Protection:

(http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_000152)

Adult Protective Services Unit:

(http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_005710)

AT A GLANCE

In 2021:

- 24,583 assessments and investigations of child abuse and neglect involving 32,347 children were finalized.
- 1,719 children were either adopted or had a permanent transfer of legal custody to a relative.
- 57,180 reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult were received, screened, and dispatched.
- 27,969 reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult were assessed by a county.
- 7,962 reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult were investigated by a county.
- All funds spending for the Children & Community Services activity for FY 2019 was \$94 million. This represented 0.5 percent of the Department of Human Services overall budget.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

Under the state Vulnerable Children and Adult Act, Child and Community Services Grants provide funding to support core safety services for vulnerable children and adults, including response to reports of maltreatment, assessments of safety and risk, case management, and other supportive services that help keep children and adults safely in their own homes.

The grants provide funding that supports counties' administrative responsibility for child protection services and foster care. The funding also helps counties purchase or provide these services for children, vulnerable adults and families.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Funding through these grants provides core safety services that focus on preventing or remedying vulnerable adult maltreatment and child maltreatment, preserving and rehabilitating families, and providing for community-based care. Services include:

- Response to reports of child and adult maltreatment and assessment of safety and risk of harm.
- Adoption and foster care supports for children.
- Case management and counseling.

Children and Community Services Grants provide child protection services to help keep more children out of foster care and safely with their families, and to decrease the disproportionate number of children of color in out-of-home placements. They help ensure that vulnerable children and adults are better protected and receive support services in their communities.

These grants include state funds and the federal Social Services Block Grant and are allocated to counties through the state's Vulnerable Children and Adult Act.

This budget activity also includes a smaller set of grant funds to support initiatives by the White Earth Nation and Red Lake Nation to operate their own human service systems.

RESULTS

The Department of Human Services monitors the performance of counties in delivering child welfare and adult protective services. Minnesota outcomes meet or exceed most federal child welfare standards. Efforts to engage families early and collaboratively with evidence-based interventions have resulted in improved safety and timely permanency outcomes for children.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Quality	Percent of children not experiencing repeated abuse or neglect within 12 months of a prior report	94.3%	94.5%	91.8%	91.0%	91.0%	93.8%	94.5%	94.2%
Quality	Percent of all children who enter foster care in the previous year that are discharged to permanency (i.e., reunification with parents, caregivers, living with relative, guardianship, adoption) within 12 months	60.0%	56.1%	50.6%	47.5%	48.6%	49.5%	46.0%	48.7%
Quality	Percent of all children in foster care who had been in care between 12 and 23 months on the first day of the year that were discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the year	50.0%	44.8%	48.1%	51.2%	58.9%	55.5%	52.4%	54.3%
Quality	Percent of all children in foster care who had been in care for 24 months or more on the first day of the year that were discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the year	17.4%	23.1%	25.2%	28.8%	34.0%	33.3%	32.4%	37.7%

Performance Measures notes:

Measures provided by the Child Safety and Permanency Division at the Department of Human Services.

Also see the DHS Child Welfare Data Dashboard (<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/child-welfare-data-dashboard/>).

The legal authority for the Vulnerable Children and Adult Act is in M.S. chapter 256M (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256M>). This Act establishes a fund to address the needs of vulnerable children and adults in each county under a service plan agreed to by each county board and the commissioner of human services.

Child & Community Service Grants

Activity Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
1000 - General	59,201	59,575	59,353	60,856	60,856	60,856
2005 - Opiate Epidemic Response		5,235	5,220	26,395	39,319	15,635
3000 - Federal	30,353	30,151	30,498	30,742	30,742	30,742
Total	89,554	94,961	95,071	117,993	130,917	107,233
Biennial Change				28,550		25,086
Biennial % Change				15		12

Expenditures by Category

Operating Expenses	(35)	377	32			
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	89,589	94,583	95,040	117,993	130,917	107,233
Total	89,554	94,961	95,071	117,993	130,917	107,233

Child & Community Service Grants

Activity Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
1000 - General						
Direct Appropriation	59,201	59,701	61,251	60,856	60,856	60,856
Cancellations		126	1,898			
Expenditures	59,201	59,575	59,353	60,856	60,856	60,856
Biennial Change in Expenditures				1,433		1,503
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				1		1

2005 - Opiate Epidemic Response

Direct Appropriation		5,580	9,797	26,395	39,319	15,635
Cancellations		345	4,577			
Expenditures		5,235	5,220	26,395	39,319	15,635
Biennial Change in Expenditures				26,381		23,339
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						74

3000 - Federal

Balance Forward In	23					
Receipts	30,330	30,151	30,498	30,742	30,742	30,742
Expenditures	30,353	30,151	30,498	30,742	30,742	30,742
Biennial Change in Expenditures				736		244
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				1		0

Program: Grant Programs

Activity: Child & Economic Support Grants

SNAP (<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/economic-assistance/food-nutrition/programs-and-services/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program.jsp>)

Economic Opportunity (<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/program-overviews/economic-supports-cash-food/office-of-economic-opportunity/>)

AT A GLANCE

- More than 445,000 Minnesotans receive help through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) every month with an average monthly benefit of \$190 per person.
- More than 10,500 people receive emergency shelter and services annually
- More than 1,400 individuals receive Transitional Housing Program services annually
- Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) has helped people save nearly \$4.65 million and acquire over 2,500 long-term financial assets since 1998.
- All funds spending for the Child & Economic Support Grants activity for FY 2021 was \$1.3 billion. This represented 6.5 percent of the Department of Human Services overall budget.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

People living in poverty often face numerous barriers and have complex needs. The Department of Human Services administers nearly 200 grants annually to more than 100 organizations to help people in poverty meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter through the Children and Economic Support Grants. Funds are also used to help people get the skills and knowledge to improve their economic stability. Without these funds, more people would be hungry, homeless, and poor.

The largest part of this budget activity is federal funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Outreach and nutrition education are conducted under this activity. These efforts help keep more people fed and healthy.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Children and Economic Support Grants fund food, housing, poverty reduction, and financial capability services for low-income families and individuals. These services are designed to:

- Help people buy food
- Ensure people eligible for SNAP know about the program
- Educate people on nutrition and food preparation
- Help legal non-citizens 50 years and older who do not qualify for federal SNAP due to citizenship status purchase food
- Fund food banks, food shelves and on-site meal programs
- Help homeless individuals and families to find safe and stable housing
- Provide supportive services to people experiencing long-term homelessness
- Provide emergency shelter and essential services for homeless adults, children, and youth
- Provide specialized emergency shelter and services for youth who have been victims of sex trafficking
- Fund, train, and provide technical assistance to counties and tribes for services to reduce barriers for long-term homeless adults, youth and families

These grants also support:

- Programs administered by regional Community Action Agencies that help low-income people become more economically secure.
- Financial capability services through the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) and related financial education initiatives.

In addition to the federal SNAP funding, other funding sources include state grants, federal grants from the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and private foundations.

RESULTS

Several programs, such as the Transitional Housing Program and Homeless Youth Act help people with their shelter needs.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Percent of Transitional Housing Program participants that moved into permanent housing	77%	73%	2020 2021
Results	Percent of BIPOC Transitional Housing Program participants that moved into permanent housing	75%	71%	2020 2021
Quality	Percent of Transitional Housing Program participants experiencing long-term homelessness that moved into permanent housing	64%	68%	2020 2021
Quantity	Number of youth heads of household served in Homeless Youth Act-funded emergency shelter or housing	1,265	1,758	2020 2021

Measures provided by Economic Assistance & Employment Support Division at the Department of Human Services.

The legal authority for the Children and Economic Support Grants activities comes from:

Minnesota Food Assistance Program, M.S. sec. 256D.053 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256D.053>)

Community Action Programs, M.S. secs. 256E.30 to 256E.32 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256E.30>)

Transitional Housing Programs, M.S. sec. 256E.33 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256E.33>)

Minnesota Food Shelf Program, M.S. sec. 256E.34 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256E.34>)

Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM), M.S. sec. 256E.35

(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256E.35>)

Emergency Services Grants, M.S. sec. 256E.36 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256E.36>)

Homeless Youth Act, M.S. sec. 256K.45 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256k.45>)

Child & Economic Support Grants

Activity Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
1000 - General	58,721	23,116	28,910	33,334	32,740	32,740
1251 - COVID-19 Minnesota		4,446				
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	140	138	140	140	140	140
2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue	365	182	7			
3000 - Federal	525,876	1,180,901	1,248,996	1,563,222	1,247,574	1,246,352
3010 - Coronavirus Relief	3,668	77,344	21,961			
3015 - ARP-State Fiscal Recovery			38,000	13,900		
Total	588,770	1,286,126	1,338,014	1,610,596	1,280,454	1,279,232
Biennial Change				1,073,714		(388,924)
Biennial % Change				57		(13)

Expenditures by Category

Operating Expenses	81	12,400	220			
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	588,689	1,273,726	1,337,794	1,610,596	1,280,454	1,279,232
Total	588,770	1,286,126	1,338,014	1,610,596	1,280,454	1,279,232

Child & Economic Support Grants

Activity Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
1000 - General						
Balance Forward In		1,422		594		
Direct Appropriation	60,277	24,240	29,740	32,740	32,740	32,740
Transfers In	1,675	1,675	1,675	1,675	1,675	1,675
Transfers Out	1,675	1,675	1,675	1,675	1,675	1,675
Cancellations	134	2,546	236			
Balance Forward Out	1,422		594			
Expenditures	58,721	23,116	28,910	33,334	32,740	32,740
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(19,593)		3,236
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(24)		5

1251 - COVID-19 Minnesota

Balance Forward In		386				
Direct Appropriation	386	13,300				
Cancellations		9,240				
Balance Forward Out	386					
Expenditures		4,446				
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(4,446)		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						

2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In	47	47	49	47	47	47
Transfers In	140	140	140	140	140	140
Transfers Out			2			
Balance Forward Out	47	49	47	47	47	47
Expenditures	140	138	140	140	140	140
Biennial Change in Expenditures				2		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				1		0

2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In	0	182	7			
Receipts	365					
Expenditures	365	182	7			
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(540)		(7)

Child & Economic Support Grants

Activity Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(99)		

3000 - Federal

Balance Forward In	58	1,764	2,084	1	1	1
Receipts	525,922	1,181,176	1,246,914	1,563,222	1,247,574	1,246,352
Transfers Out	50					
Balance Forward Out	53	2,039	1	1	1	1
Expenditures	525,876	1,180,901	1,248,996	1,563,222	1,247,574	1,246,352
Biennial Change in Expenditures				1,105,441		(318,292)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				65		(11)

3010 - Coronavirus Relief

Direct Appropriation	3,668	78,817	22,040			
Cancellations		1,474	79			
Expenditures	3,668	77,344	21,961			
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(59,051)		(21,961)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(73)		

3015 - ARP-State Fiscal Recovery

Balance Forward In			1,000			
Direct Appropriation			39,000	12,900	0	0
Balance Forward Out			1,000			
Expenditures			38,000	13,900		
Biennial Change in Expenditures				51,900		(51,900)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						(100)

Program: Grant Programs**Activity: Refugee Services Grants**<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/services/refugee-assistance/>

AT A GLANCE

- In state fiscal year (FY)19 an average of 1,549 people per month received employment and social services through Refugee Services grants.
- The average monthly cost per recipient in FY19 was \$417 for employment-related services, such as assessment, employment development planning, supported job search, placement and follow-up services.
- All funds spending for the Refugee Services Grants activity for FY21 was \$4.7 million. This represented 0.02% of the Department of Human Services overall budget.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

Refugees are individuals who fled their country of origin and are unable to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution. When no other options exist, the United States, as well as most Western nations, provides refugees an opportunity for permanent resettlement. Most refugees resettled in Minnesota over the last decade have been from Somalia, Burma, Laos, Ethiopia, Liberia, Bhutan, Iraq and Moldova.

Refugee Services Grants aid refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking to resettle in Minnesota. These federally funded grants are provided to state and local agencies, including county and voluntary resettlement agencies, school districts, and community agencies to enhance human, health, educational, employment and training services. Absent these services, fewer refugees will find work and more will lack the medical, social and financial supports necessary to resettle successfully.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Refugee Resettlement Programs Office works with many others to support the effective resettlement of refugees in Minnesota by coordinating services to help refugees transition to life in the United States. These services may include: resettlement and placement; food, cash and health care assistance; employment services; or social services.

Most refugees who resettle in Minnesota are members of families with minor children who qualify for the same cash assistance (Minnesota Family Investment Program) and health care programs available to state residents with low incomes. Refugees who do not qualify for one or both of these programs can apply for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). These programs are available for the first eight months after refugees arrive in Minnesota. Applications for these programs are taken at county human services agencies and at voluntary resettlement agencies for refugees in the Twin Cities metro area and Olmsted County. The Resettlement Programs Office works to ensure existing systems and supports that are available to Minnesota residents are also accessible to residents with refugee status.

In addition, Refugee Services Grants support limited supplemental services for refugees, including:

- Supported employment services and transportation
- Case management services
- Information and referral
- Translation and interpreter services
- Citizenship and naturalization preparation services
- Refugee student services
- Health screening coordination

Grants are used to supplement existing services to better meet the needs of refugees through local community partners, counties, and refugee communities to ensure refugees and their families are healthy, stable, and live and work in strong, welcoming communities. The activity is funded with federal grants from the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

RESULTS

The DHS Resettlement Programs Office uses several client outcome indicators to measure performance and determine the effectiveness of our grant management activity.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Percent of refugees receiving health screening within 90 days of arrival	97%	97%	Sept 2019 Sept 2020
Result	Job retention rate within 90 days	81%	76%	Sept 2019 Sept 2020
Quantity	Average hourly wage	\$13.03	\$14.75	Sept 2019 Sept 2020

Performance Measure Note: The average hourly wage is the average wage over the previous year for all participants.

The legal authority for the Refugee Services Grants activities comes from federal law: 45 CFR 400

Refugee Services Grants

Activity Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue		815	900			
3000 - Federal	4,727	4,788	16,205	14,526	15,451	15,451
3010 - Coronavirus Relief		711				
Total	4,727	6,314	17,105	14,526	15,451	15,451
Biennial Change				20,590		(729)
Biennial % Change				186		(2)
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>						
Operating Expenses	582	457	554	850	930	930
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	4,145	5,857	16,551	13,676	14,521	14,521
Total	4,727	6,314	17,105	14,526	15,451	15,451

Refugee Services Grants

Activity Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue						
Balance Forward In			76			
Receipts		185	824			
Transfers In		630				
Expenditures		815	900			
Biennial Change in Expenditures				85		(900)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						

3000 - Federal

Balance Forward In			0			
Receipts	4,727	4,788	16,205	14,526	15,451	15,451
Expenditures	4,727	4,788	16,205	14,526	15,451	15,451
Biennial Change in Expenditures				21,216		171
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				223		1

3010 - Coronavirus Relief

Transfers In		740				
Transfers Out		29				
Expenditures		711				
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(711)		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						

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Office of Ombudsperson for Families

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<https://mn.gov/ombudfam/>

AT A GLANCE

- Minnesota has 1,301,219 children with 37,649 children alleged victims of maltreatment.
- Minnesota ranks 3rd in the US for overall child well-being, up from 4th (2021 KIDS COUNT Data Book).
- Minnesota saw a reduction in the number of children in out-of-home care, by 0.9% from 2018 to 2019.
- More **children stay longer in out-of-home placements** and the number of kids of two or more races in out-of-home care continues to increase. Rates for African American/black, and white children have decreased; the rate for Latino/ Hispanic as well as Asian/ Pacific Islander children remained the same.
 - African American children were **2.6** times more likely, and those identified as
 - Children of two or more races were **5.8** times more likely than white children to experience care, based on Minnesota population estimates from 2019 (Minnesota's *Out-of-home Care and Permanency Report, 2020*).

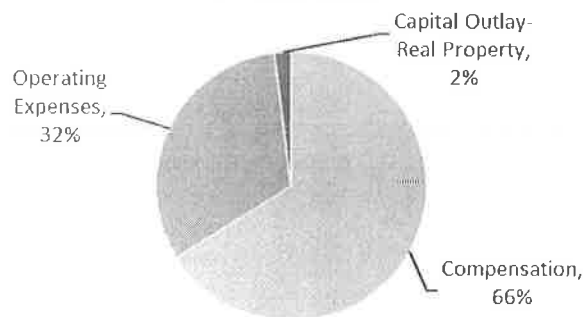
PURPOSE

The Office of Ombudsperson for Families (OBFF) is an independent state agency whose goals are to: (1) reduce racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionality in Minnesota's child welfare system; (2) improve outcomes for children and families involved in child protection cases; (3) ensure all laws governing the protection of children and families are implemented in a culturally and linguistically competent manner; and (4) ensure adherence to laws protecting children and families in decision-making processes. We work to resolve complaints from families who have been negatively impacted by child welfare social service agencies.

Our mission is to ensure that children and families are protected by law in all child placement proceedings conducted by public and private agencies and organizations.

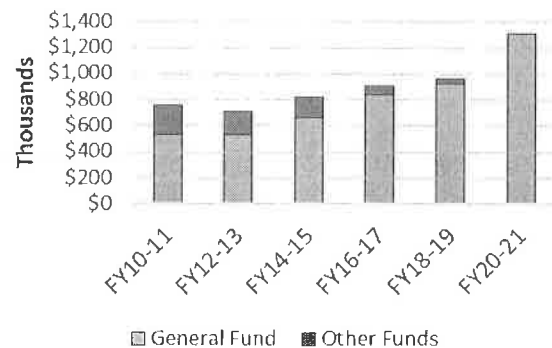
BUDGET

Spending by Category
FY 2021 Actual



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

Characteristics of Children in Out-Of-Home Care: Number and percentage by race/ethnicity of children in care in 2019, and 2020

<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	<i>2019 Enterers</i>	<i>2019 %</i>	<i>2019 Continuers</i>	<i>2019 %</i>	<i>2020 Enterers</i>	<i>2020 %</i>	<i>2020 Continuers</i>	<i>2020 %</i>
African American/Black	931	15.2%	1,502	15.9%	664	13.8%	1,352	15.4%
American Indian	827	13.5%	2,243	23.7%	706	14.7%	1,884	21.4%
Asian Pacific Islander	105	1.7%	163	1.7%	61	1.3%	144	1.6%
Two or more races	1,245	20.3%	1,643	17.3%	1,029	21.4%	1,840	20.9%
Unknown/declined	123	2.0%	114	1.2%	84	1.7%	80	0.9%
White*	2,890	47.2%	3,811	40.2%	2,268	47.1%	3,497	39.8%
Total	6,121	100%	9,476	100%	4,812	100%	8,797	100%
Hispanic (any race)	617	10.1%	1,000	10.6%	516	10.7%	878	10%

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services

*White children remain the largest group, both entering and continuing in care in 2020, accounting for 47.1% of enterers and 39.8% of continuers. African American/Black children's percentage of enterers, at 15.4% was surpassed this year by children identified as Two or More Races and became enterers at 20.9%.

STRATEGIES

- **Taking Complaints** - Complaints include a person making a specific claim against a county child welfare agency, or its agent; a public or private child placing agency, or its agent; the courts; the Guardian Ad Litem Program; and others. A person may call to complain about current laws, policies, and practices. Specific examples of types of complaints include but are not limited to the following: Children not placed with their families or relatives; relatives and families not being considered for permanency placement; transportation limitations; untimely or unavailable treatment; inadequate housing; confusion from the court process/system; unhelpful public entities (e.g., county child protection, public defender office); and lack of cultural sensitivity.
- **Investigation** - The Ombudspersons make recommendations on cases regarding non-compliance with state or federal laws and policies. These cases include, but are not limited to possible bias, discrimination, lack of culturally appropriate services, and inadequate linguistic and cultural sensitivity.
- **Monitoring** – (a) Monitor agency compliance with all laws governing child protection and placement that impact children of color; (b) document and monitor court activities in order to heighten awareness of diverse belief systems and family relationships; (c) ensure experts from the appropriate community of color are used as court advocates and are consulted in placement decisions that involve children of color; (d) ensure Guardians ad Litem and other individuals from communities of color are used in court proceedings to advocate on behalf of children of color; and (e) provide training programs for bilingual workers.
- **Public Policy Development** - The Ombudspersons work to effect policy changes when current policies do not reflect best practices. Examples of some of the initiatives on which the Ombudspersons have worked include the Minnesota Supreme Court Children's Justice Initiative (CJI); Minnesota Department of Human Services Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force; Minnesota Child Welfare Training System (MNCWTS); Ramsey County Citizen Advisory Panel; and Hennepin County Child Protection Task Force. These initiatives and task forces have had an ongoing and positive impact on reducing racial disparities and disproportionality in child welfare; and improving outcomes for children and their families involved in child protection cases.

RESULTS

<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>2019 Report</i>	<i>2020 Report</i>
Complaints and Inquiries received*	2,586	1,601
Consultations/resolutions	1,068	705
Investigations	122	64

**This measure tracks the number of calls/complaints to OBFF to make inquiries, lodge a complaint, or request information about the child protection system and how to navigate it. The Office of Ombudsperson for American Indian Families was created July 1, 2021, and now services Minnesota Families of American Indian heritage.*

Changes in Minnesota Child Protection Laws (2015) greatly affected the number of telephone calls and complaints to the OBFF (2017-2019). Consequently, the OBFF provided more consultations and case resolutions to complainants, as well as more investigations of CHIPS cases. As noted in Minnesota's Annual Child Maltreatment Report, 2020, fewer reports were made to child protection agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in fewer alleged victims being screened in for child protection reports and fewer children entering out-of-home care. Pre-pandemic, Title IV-E of the Social Security Act made possible the use of Title IV reimbursement for a portion of the costs for placement prevention services for children and their caregivers determined eligible. These provisions were added in the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) of 2018. The OBFF participated in the following workgroups to assist MN DHS in drafting its five-year FFPSA plan: identifying candidacy; description of the types of prevention services and programs expected to improve outcomes for children and families; how those services/programs will be monitored; and defining Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) as promising, supported, or well-supported practices.

As a result of the foregoing, the OBFF, community members, and legislators made a recommendation to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to create an African American Child and Family Well Being Unit. DHS' Child Safety and Prevention Division received funding and has fully staffed the African American Child and Family Well Being Unit. This unit will work in collaboration with the OBFF to support safety and best practices for culturally affirming prevention and family preservation strategies. This will be a focused effort on understanding and addressing the disproportionate overrepresentation in Minnesota's child protection, foster care, and permanency systems for African American children and families.

The OBFF continues a working relationship with Partnerships for Permanence and Annie E. Casey Foundation. Through this collaboration, we have developed Leaders Changing the System (LCS) Network Advisors (2020). This group is comprised of child welfare community leaders, experts, allies and advocates, targeting young adults who have aged out of child welfare as an adoptee or foster youth. The purpose of the network is to share knowledge, resources, and help develop strategies to elevate the voices of Black young leaders and seasoned professionals with lived experience. LCS is a coalition of individuals with personal experience and expertise that can help reform strategies/practices that directly impact Black families and children represented in the child welfare system. In this climate of racial justice awareness, the creation of such a network is timely and necessary.

M.S. 257.0755 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=257.0755>) provides the legal authority for the Office of Ombudsperson for Families

Ombudsperson for Families

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
1000 - General	621	695	494	983	744	744
2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue	0				58	89
Total	621	695	494	983	802	833
Biennial Change				161		158
Biennial % Change				12		11
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>						
Ombudspersons for Families	621	695	494	983	802	833
Total	621	695	494	983	802	833
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>						
Compensation	423	460	378	517	650	647
Operating Expenses	189	222	115	466	152	186
Capital Outlay-Real Property		12	0			
Other Financial Transaction	9	1	1			
Total	621	695	494	983	802	833
<u>Full-Time Equivalents</u>						
	4.81	4.81	4.86	5.50	7.00	7.00

Ombudsperson for Families

Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
1000 - General						
Balance Forward In		94		239		
Direct Appropriation	714	723	733	744	744	744
Transfers Out		60				
Cancellations		62				
Balance Forward Out	93		239			
Expenditures	621	695	494	983	744	744
Biennial Change in Expenditures				161		11
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				12		1
Full-Time Equivalents	4.81	4.81	4.86	5.50	7.00	7.00

2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In	378	473	565	493	562	573
Transfers In	92	92	69	69	69	69
Transfers Out			140			
Balance Forward Out	470	565	493	562	573	553
Expenditures	0				58	89
Biennial Change in Expenditures				0		147
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						

Ombudsperson for Families

Agency Change Summary

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2023 Appropriations	744	744	744	1,488
Forecast Base	744	744	744	1,488
Dedicated				
Fund: 2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending		58	89	147
Forecast Base		58	89	147

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<https://mn.gov/oaif/>

AT A GLANCE

- New agency created by the legislature in 2021
- Collaborates with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
- Monitors cases and investigates complaints of non-compliance from American Indian families negatively impacted by child welfare social service agencies

PURPOSE

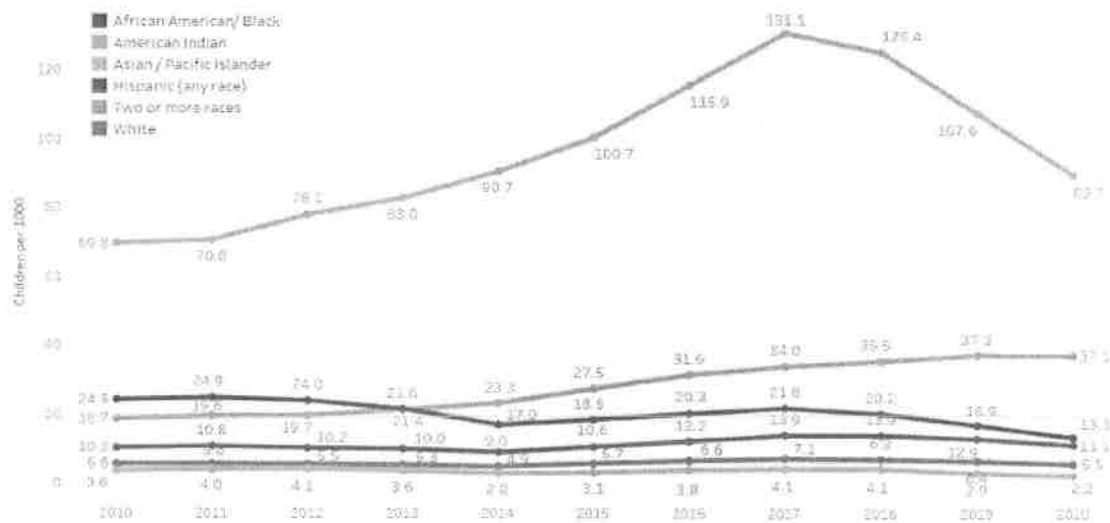
According to Minnesota's 2020 Out-of-Home Care and Permanency Report (published January 2022):

- 13,442 children were placed in out-of-home care; 2,563 (19%) of those were American Indian.
- American Indian children stay in care for two years or longer compared to other groups.

As shown in the figure below, the rate per 1,000 children in out-of-home care has been declining since 2017, and the rate of American Indian children has seen a dramatic reduction from a high of 131.1 per 1,000 children in the Minnesota population in 2017 to 89.7 per 1,000 in 2020.

[Note: Native children remain the most likely group in the state and nation for removal from their homes.]

Rate of Minnesota Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2010-2020 (by race/ethnicity)



The Office of Ombudsperson for American Indian Families (OAIF) is a new independent agency, created by legislation in July 2021. However, since 1991, there has been an Ombudsperson for American Indian Families working to serve American Indian Families involved in child protection. The OAIF works independently and in collaboration with the American Indian Community-Specific Board. The Board is appointed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. The Ombudsperson monitors cases and investigates complaints of non-compliance of statutes, rules, and laws, and educates the legal community and the American Indian Community about the Child Protection Process. The OAIF mission is "Preserving the Indian Family."

BUDGET

The OAIF's budget was seeded in July 2021 with \$190,000. Since this is a newly created agency, there is no historic data to report.

STRATEGIES

As shown in the above figure, there is great disparity and over-representation of American Indian children who are in out-of-home care. The OAIF seeks to close the gap and emphasize the importance of an antiracist child welfare system that dedicates resources to enable Minnesota's American Indian children and families to achieve their full potential. Effective strategies are needed at every stage of the child welfare continuum process: prevention, screening and assessment, decision-making, providing culturally specific and responsive services, ensuring that fathers are being provided notice and a case plan, and including the tribes at every stage when a child is tribally affiliated.

To begin the process, the OAIF will learn national best practices and develop creative messaging so children are not removed from their homes at such high rates. When and if they need to be removed, it is our goal to ensure they are placed with family instead of strangers and to prioritize reunification. The OAIF three-year plan is to:

- Establish new networks to begin building effective coalitions.
- Assess strategies to address over-representation.
- Implement an action plan.
- Propose legislative packages on policy directions.

The OAIF will continue to take complaints and inquiries, monitor cases for non-compliance, investigate cases when necessary, and develop public policy.

RESULTS

The Ombudsperson for American Indian Families was previously with the Office of Ombudsperson for Families (OBFF) and the results below are data for the three-year period prior to the legislation creating the OAIF. This data provides information on the effective work the Ombudsperson for American Indian Families did from 2018 to 2020. When the OBFF reported their data, it was reported cumulatively and did not disaggregate the data for each of the Ombudspersons. The data below is what the Ombudsperson for American Indian Families reported.

<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>2018 Report</i>	<i>2019 Report</i>	<i>2020 Report</i>
Complaints and Inquiries received*	932	1,035	879
Consultations/resolutions	428	556	583
Investigations	63	60	64

*This measure tracks the number of calls/complaints to make inquiries, to lodge a complaint, or request information about the child protection system and how to navigate it.

The legal authority for the OAIF is Minn. Stat. 3.9215 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2021/cite/3.9215>

The legal authority for the American Indian Community Specific Board is Minn. Stat. 3.9216

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/3.9216>

Ombudsperson for American Indian Families

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
1000 - General			169	211	190	190
2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue				53	53	53
Total			169	264	243	243
Biennial Change				433		53
Biennial % Change						12

Expenditures by Program

Ombudsperson for American Indian Families			169	264	243	243
Total			169	264	243	243

Expenditures by Category

Compensation			112	117	119	120
Operating Expenses			57	147	124	123
Capital Outlay-Real Property			0			
Other Financial Transaction			1			
Total			169	264	243	243

Full-Time Equivalents

			0.73	1.00	1.00	1.00
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Ombudsperson for American Indian Families

Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
1000 - General						
Balance Forward In				21		
Direct Appropriation			190	190	190	190
Balance Forward Out			21			
Expenditures			169	211	190	190
Biennial Change in Expenditures				380		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						(0)
Full-Time Equivalents			0.73	1.00	1.00	1.00

2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue

Balance Forward In				163	133	103
Transfers In			163	23	23	23
Balance Forward Out			163	133	103	73
Expenditures				53	53	53
Biennial Change in Expenditures				53		53
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						

Ombudsperson for American Indian Families

Agency Change Summary

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2023 Appropriations	190	190	190	380
Forecast Base	190	190	190	380
Dedicated				
Fund: 2001 - Other Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	53	53	53	106
Forecast Base	53	53	53	106

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AT A GLANCE

- The Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson was created in 2022
- The Office is tasked with supporting and advocating for youth in the foster care system

PURPOSE

The Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson was created during the 2022 legislative session. The authorizing legislation created an Ombudsperson appointed by the Governor, and created a board of stakeholders, including youth currently in the foster care system to oversee the work of the Ombudsperson. This law also specifies the Ombudsperson “may investigate decisions, acts, and other matters related to the health, safety, and welfare of youth in foster care to promote the highest attainable standards of competence, efficiency, and justice for youth who are in the care of the state.” The law also directs the office “shall provide outreach, resources, and assistance to youth in foster care by directly engaging with youth in residential treatment facilities, group homes, and family foster homes.”

BUDGET

As a newly established office, the Ombudsperson does not have historical spending. They do have a general fund appropriation of \$775 thousand in fiscal year 2023, and \$726 thousand general fund base in fiscal year 2024 and beyond. Currently, the only funds available to the agency are general fund appropriations, however, the Ombudsperson has statutory authority to seek public grants and accept private awards to carry out the duties of this office.

STRATEGIES

Strategies for the new office will be determined by the new Ombudsperson and board overseeing the work of the ombudsperson.

RESULTS

The results for the new office will be determined by the new Ombudsperson and board overseeing the work of the ombudsperson.

Minnesota Laws 2022, Chapter 63 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2022/0/Session+Law/Chapter/63/>) established the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson.

Foster Youth Ombudsperson

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
1000 - General				775	726	726
Total				775	726	726
Biennial Change				775		677
Biennial % Change						
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>						
Foster Youth Ombudsperson				775	726	726
Total				775	726	726
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>						
Compensation				405	405	405
Operating Expenses				350	301	301
Other Financial Transaction				20	20	20
Total				775	726	726
<u>Full-Time Equivalents</u>						
				4.00	4.00	4.00

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
1000 - General						
Direct Appropriation				775	726	726
Expenditures				775	726	726
Biennial Change in Expenditures				775		677
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						
Full-Time Equivalents				4.00	4.00	4.00

Foster Youth Ombudsperson

Agency Change Summary

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2023 Appropriations	775	775	775	1,550
Base Adjustments				
Current Law Base Change		(49)	(49)	(98)
Forecast Base	775	726	726	1,452

