

One Minnesota Budget

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



April 4, 2023 – House Health Finance and Policy

Presented by leaders from the Children's Cabinet and the Departments of Human Services

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Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Proposal Presentation

- **Presenters**

- DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead
- Erin Bailey, MMB Assistant Commissioner and Children's Cabinet Executive Director
- Tikki Brown, DHS Assistant Commissioner

- **Overview**

- Centering Minnesota's children and families
- Proposal to fund and create a transition office and process, core programs
- Opportunities in creating a new child-centered agency

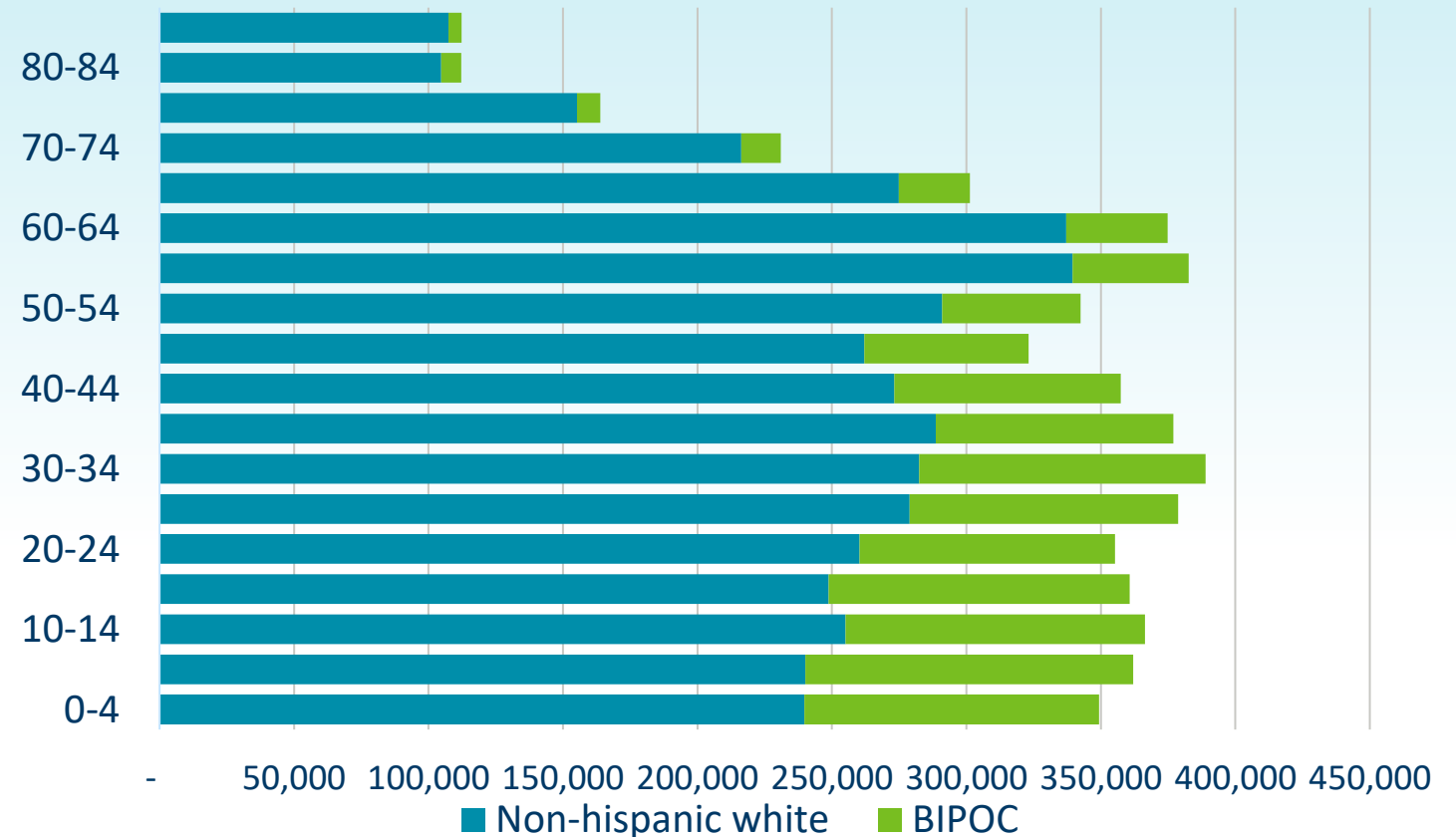
Centering Minnesota's Children and Families

Erin Bailey, MMB Assistant Commissioner and Children's Cabinet Executive Director

Data Snapshot on Minnesota's Children, Youth, and Families

- **1.4 million Minnesotans (1 in 4) are children**
 - 1/3 live in lower income families
 - 347,748 are young children age 0-5
 - 979,696 are school-age age 6 to 18
- **Youth (age 15 to 24) - 730,000 in MN**
 - 5% youth ages 16 to 19 years were not attending school and not working in 2021
- **646,410 Minnesota families with children**
 - 98% of lower income families have at least one adult who works

Child population is most racially diverse age group in the state



Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center, U.S. Census Bureau 2021 American Community Survey

Source: ipums.org from 2019 U.S. Census Bureau data

Practicing Child-Centered Government

Although Minnesota is ranked as a top state to live and work, this is not yet true for every Minnesotan. Our systems have not led to equitable outcomes for our children, and today race, zip code, and income are too often determinants of opportunity.



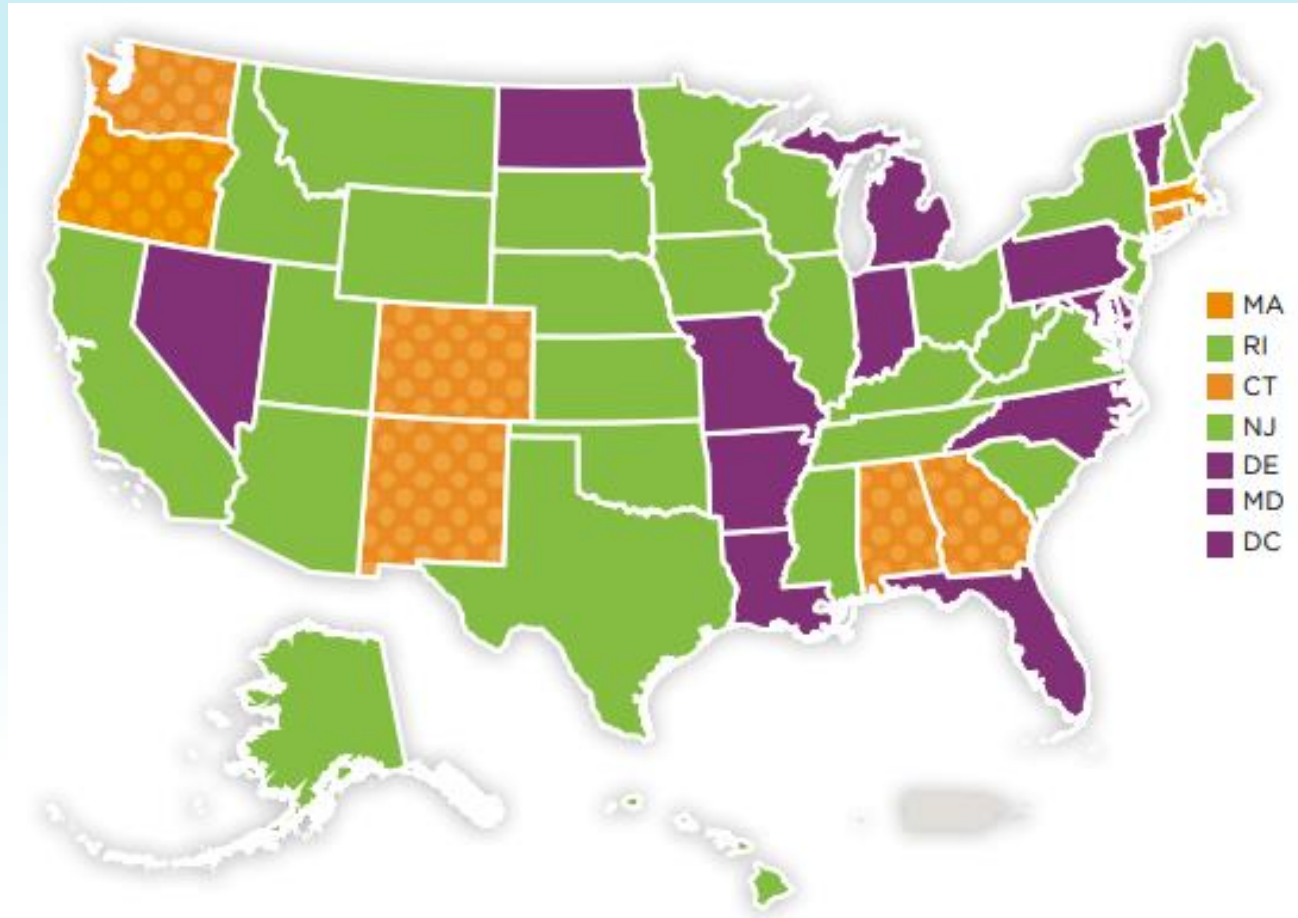
- Families and those who work with them are asking for coordination, engagement, and culturally and individually responsive programs that meet their children’s needs throughout their development.
- Governance reports, cross-agency work, OLA reports, and learnings from other states, have built the case for additional alignment.
- It’s time for Minnesota to create an agency centered on children, similar to governance structures in more than half of states.

Source: Early Childhood Minnesota: Indicators and Strategies for Minnesota’s early childhood system, joint report of Minnesota Build and Minnesota Early childhood Comprehensive Systems (Wilder, 2008)

Learning from MN History and Governance

- **1995** – Legislation passed to replace the Department of Education with the more broadly-focused Department of Children, Families, and Learning
- **2003** – Programs distributed back to MDE, MDH, and DHS by Governor Pawlenty
- **2010** – Minnesota's Early Childhood Advisory Council task force recommended freestanding, cabinet level office of early learning; Office of Early Learning created in 2011
- **2019** – Preschool Development Grant strategic plan calls on need for enhanced and coordinated early childhood systems, program access, and funding.
- **2022** – Early Childhood Governance Report created roadmap and steps to consider.
- **2023** – Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan propose a transition process with dedicated time and people to better center children, youth, and families in state governance.

National Trends & Governance Evolution



- **8 states** have **created** a new entity to oversee early care and education components.
- **13 states plus D.C.** have **consolidated** several agencies or programs into an existing entity that oversees multiple components.
- **29 states** have agencies that provide programs and services that require a **coordinated** approach between agencies.

Adapted from:

Education Commission of the States, "Early Care and Education Governance," updated July 30, 2021, <https://www.ecs.org/early-care-and-education-governance/> (download PDF infographic);

What Minnesota Needs for Successful Governance Change

- **Start with key challenges** (*in this case feedback from families, communities, and agency staff and programs*)
- **Plan for governance change, using dedicated time, staff, resources** (*proposed in this budget item*).
- **Engage with leaders and secure buy-in** (*ongoing, and an underpinning of the proposal*)
- **Figure out the nuts and bolts of business systems** (*funded through the transition process*).
- **Factor in and sort out the implications of a governance change for local service providers and state-local roles** (*funded through the transition process*).
- **Determine the funding and resources needed to advance the state's childhood efforts** (*ongoing*).



Adapted from *State-level governance for early childhood programs in Minnesota*, January 2022.

Proposed Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Erin Bailey, MMB Assistant Commissioner and Children's Cabinet Executive Director

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

- **Establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families would enable:**
 - A recognizable public face and a clear front-door in the state's quest to prioritize children;
 - Improved communication outlets focused on youth and families;
 - Increased opportunities to maximize and coordinate funding, align outcomes and convene leadership to improve access to services;
 - Consolidated holistic supports moving us closer to ensuring every child has a safe place to call home, no child goes hungry, and youth have the resources and supports to succeed inside and outside of the classroom; and
 - Sharpened focus of current agencies.

Focus for Department of Children, Youth and Families

- **Principles:**

- Whole family focus
- Focus on a child throughout their life, from intentional prevention to downstream services
- Consolidation of early childhood programs
- Services are easy to access / navigate (“front door”)
- Cross-agency coordination will still be needed (one agency can’t do everything)
- Improved and more equitable outcomes achieved for all races, incomes, economic statuses or place of being

Core programs proposed to move into the 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								

Implementation Team & Transition Fund

The bill obtains authority and resources to support creation, alignment, and launch of a two-year process of moving core child, youth, and family support programs to the new agency that would begin July 2024.

This transition office will be established on July 1, 2023 and:

- Consist of a team at Minnesota Management and Budget.
- Be responsible for leading the establishment of DCYF and planning for the transition of programs to it, including elements related budget, finance, legal, human resources, IT, policy, public engagement, and project management.
- Leverage the transition account funding for the purposes of building the shell of a new agency, including staff, space, IT, equipment, etc. and supporting existing agencies with one-time transition costs.
 - One-time appropriation to the Commissioner of MMB in FY 2024. The Commissioner may transfer funds to other agencies, including DCYF once established on July 1, 2024.

Programs Proposed to Transfer

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Children and Family Services –The proposal includes all of Children and Family Services, with the exception of certain housing grants and administration of those grants within the Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division. Divisions include:

- Management Operations and Business Integration
- Child Care Services (Child Development Services; oversight of Child Care & Development Block Grant)
- Child Safety and Permanency
- Child Support
- Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division (except housing programs)

Office of Inspector General & DHS Operations

- Licensing functions for family child care, child care centers, certificated child care centers, and child foster care.
- Program integrity units for related Child and Family Service (CFS) programs
- DHS Central Office functions - Human Resources, Finance, General Counsel, Compliance, and Management Services, among others.

Programs Proposed to Transfer, continued

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

Office of Teaching and Learning

- Early Learning Services division
 - Except Part B 619 and certain grant programs
- After-School Community Learning Grant Program (2023 Governor's Budget Proposal)

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Office within Office of Justice Programs

- Youth Justice Office



Opportunities in Creating a New Child-Centered Agency

Assistant Commissioner Tikki Brown (DHS)

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.



What is possible, continued

Consolidating early childhood programs to better coordinate child care and early learning services:

- Improved outcomes for **children, families, and the early childhood workforce.**
- **Improved coordination** of child care and early learning provider registration, communication, payment, and ongoing regulatory requirements.
- **Aligned administration** that allows for **centralized funding prioritization**, including building reimbursement methodologies for child care that better support that critical sector.
- **A common application and entry point** for families to apply for and be referred to early childhood programs and services.



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.

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Thank You!

