



Building the Department of Children, Youth, and Families

In the historic 2023 legislative session, Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan, the Minnesota Legislature, and leaders for children and families worked in partnership to pass legislation establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) along with a thoughtful transition process to launch the new agency. The new agency will serve as a sustainable, public face for children's issues in state government.

On July 1, 2023, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families Implementation Office launched at Minnesota Management & Budget to provide administrative support and project management for the transition of identified programs.

When will the transition occur?

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families will be established on July 1, 2024, with a commissioner appointed by the governor. Programs will transfer to the new agency from the Departments of Human Services, Education, Public Safety, and Health between July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025.

How does this transition impact the services provided by these programs?

No changes to service delivery due to this transition will occur before July 1, 2024. You should continue accessing services as usual. Once program transfers begin, preventing and limiting any disruptions to service is a priority so that the children, youth, and families served by these programs can continue getting the resources they need.

What is moving?

Programs identified to transfer from their current agencies to DCYF include:

- **Children and Family Services** at the Department of Human Services
- **Related functions of the Office of Inspector General & Department of Human Services Operations**
- **Programs from the Office of Teaching and Learning** at the Department of Education
- **Youth Justice Programs** from the Department of Public Safety
- **Help Me Connect** from the Child and Family Health Division at Minnesota Department of Health

Find more information at
mn.gov/mmb/dcyf-implementation

Impact

The creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families means a recognizable public face and a clear front-door in the state's mission to prioritize children. It will improve communication outlets focused on youth and families, maximize and coordinate funding, align outcomes, and convene leadership to improve access to services for children, youth, and families.



Youth Investment

The new agency will bring together programs for children and youth from intentional prevention to downstream services, creating space for investment in students outside of the classroom and in their community. The agency will lead to:

- Focusing investments and out-of-school programs on upstream solutions rather than downstream public safety and corrections interventions.
- Leadership and aligned outcome measures focused on youth needs across our state systems; and
- Coordination across child welfare, mental health, and detention systems.

Family Well-Being Programs

The new agency will elevate in leadership and structure a safety net of programs available to families that keep our Minnesota neighbors safe, healthy, fed and better able to reach their full potential by making sure:

- Economic and food assistance programs remain top priorities so every child has easy access to opportunities that are culturally relevant and help them learn, grow and thrive;
- Unified statewide networks of community resource centers are implemented to promote family and community well-being; and
- Our government follows research that points to the importance of a multi-generation approach, focusing services and opportunities for adults who play key roles in the lives of children as the most meaningful, equitable impact.

Early Childhood Programs

The new agency will consolidate early childhood programs – including child care assistance, early learning scholarships, mixed delivery pre-K, and other child care functions like licensing – to streamline and better coordinate child care and early learning services and improve outcomes for children, families, and the early childhood workforce. Building off recent early childhood system coordination successes, the creation of DCYF will lead to:

- 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 to better support that critical sector; and
- A common application and entry point for families to apply for and be referred to early childhood programs and services.

This new agency is a transformational investment in the programs that serve Minnesota's most precious resource – our children, youth, and families.