

Boards Under Jurisdiction of Health & Human Services

Veterans Home Board

651-296-2073 Sandy Larson, Steve Musser, Exec Director

Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board 612-627-6000 Mary Hedges Exec. Dir.

Minnesota State Council on Disability

651-296-6785 6-1743 Executive Director, Joan M. Willshire

Ombudsman for Mental Health and Mental Retardation

651-297-7288

Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans Sharon Voesch

651-296-0382 800-657-3591

Ombudsman for Families

Asian Pacific Families Nengchu Bauz 643-2514

African American Families Ann Hill

American Indian Families Dawn Blanchard 643-0523

Spanish Speaking Families Position unfilled 642-897-2537

Health Related Boards as Defined in Chapter 214

Behavior Health & Therapy - 612-617-2192

Chiropractors Board

Larry Spicer (612) 617-2222

Dentistry Board

612-617-2250 Marshall Shragg

Dietetics & Nutritional Practice

612-617-2175 Laurie Mickelson

Marriage & Family Therapy Board

612-617-2220

Medical Practice Board

612-617-2130 Robert Leach

Nursing Board

612-617-2270 Shirley Brekken

Minnesota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators

612-617-2117 Randy Snyder

Optometry Board

612-617-2173 Laurie Mickelson

Pharmacy Board

612-617-2201 David Holmstrom

Physical Therapy Board

612-627-5406 Stephanie Lunning

Podiatry Board

612-617-2200 Keith Houland

Psychology Board

612-617-2230 Pauline Walker- Singleton

Social Work Board

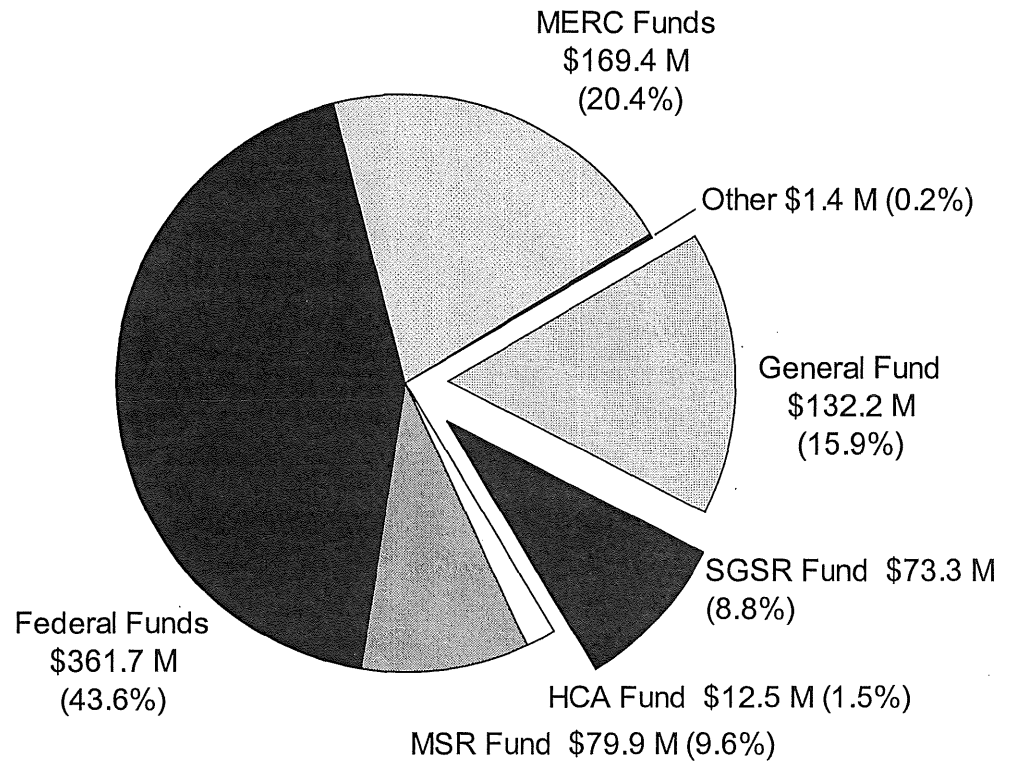
612-617-2100 Frank Merriman 2108

Veterinary Medicine Board 612-617-2170

Where our funding comes from

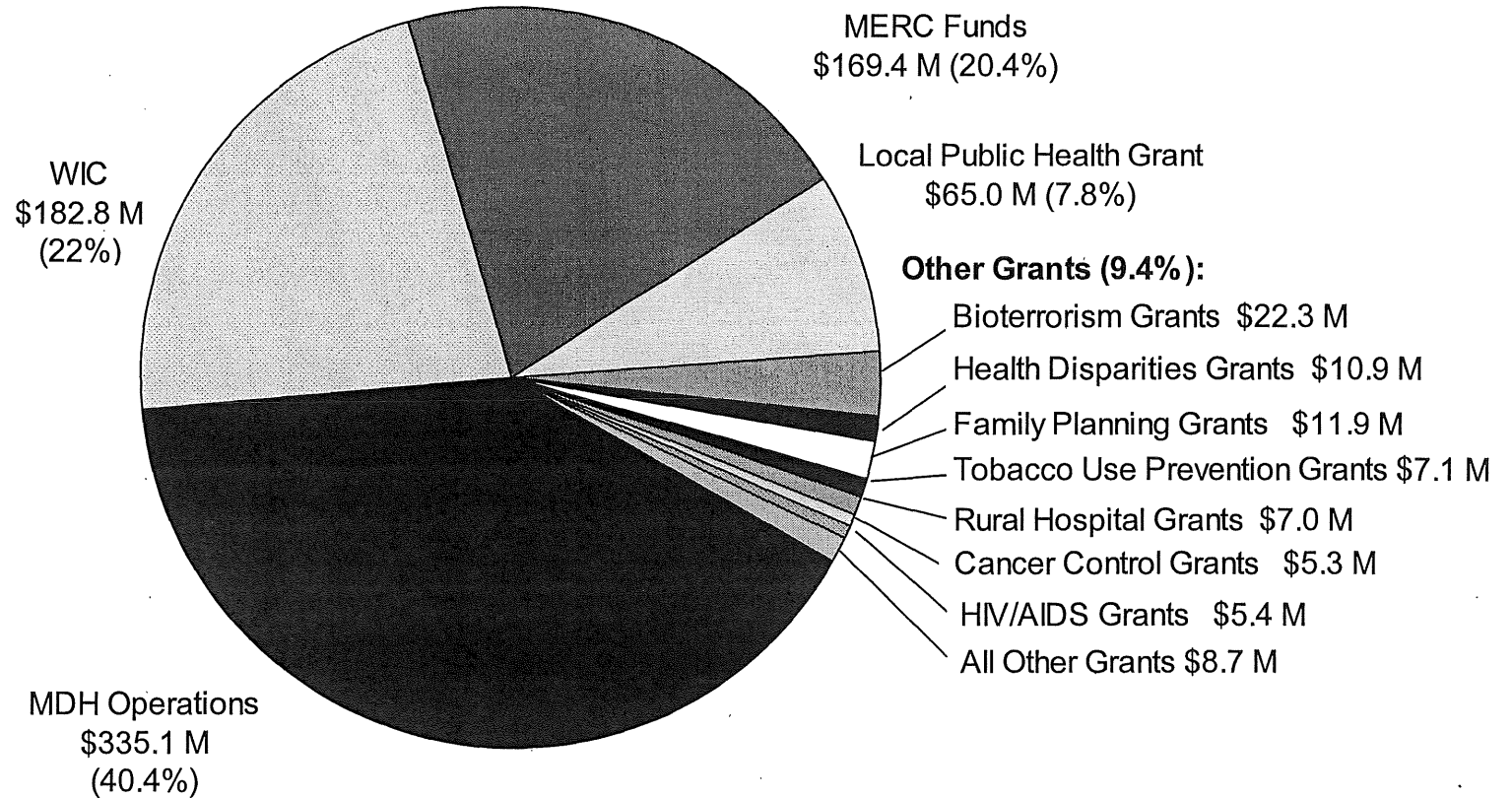
FY2006-07 \$830.4 million, all funds

- ★ General Fund
- ★ Federal Funds
- ★ Medical Education Research Costs Fund
- ★ State Gov't Special Revenue Fund—non-dedicated fees
- ★ Health Care Access Fund, provider and premium tax revenue
- ★ Miscellaneous Special Revenue fund—agency contracts



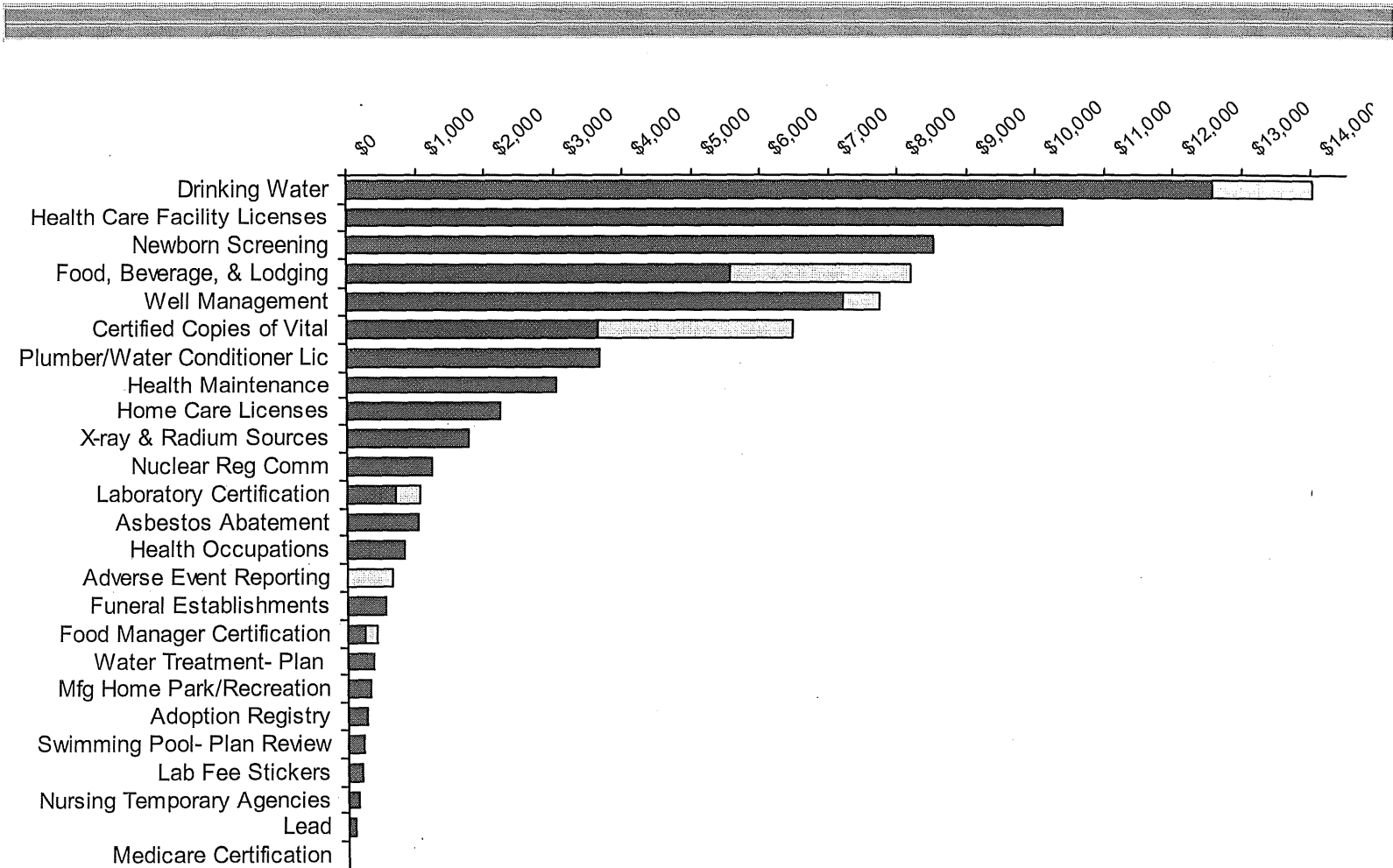
Where our funding goes

FY2006-07 \$830.4 million, all funds



MDH FY 06-07 Fee Revenue

(By Fee Program, in \$000's)



■ Current Fee Revenue □ Governor's Recommendation



Agency Purpose

The Office of Ombudsperson for Families is authorized by Minn. Stat. §257.0755. The Office was created in 1991. The Legislation requires the office to operate independently but in collaboration with the Indian Affairs Council, the Chicano-Latino Affairs Council, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. The applicable community specific board (hereinafter, board) selects the Ombudsperson for each community. Each Ombudsperson serves in unclassified service at the pleasure of the board. Each board consists of five members appointed by the chair of that specific council. The members are required to meet four times a year to advise the Ombudspersons on overall policies.

Each Ombudsperson has the authority to investigate decisions, acts and other matters of an agency, program, or facility providing protection or placement services to children of color.

Core Functions

The Office's primary duty is to ensure that all laws governing the protection of children and their families are implemented in a culturally appropriate manner and that decision-making processes are in compliance with the laws that protect children of color in the state of Minnesota.

Additional duties of the office include working with local and state courts, policy makers, and services providers to promote integrated systems to ensure family reunification, stability, security and permanency. This office reaffirms the state's commitment of making and keeping the family whole and assisting in the well being of Minnesota's children. Finally, the office helps develop policy to support and create culturally competent and bilingual social workers in communities of color throughout Minnesota.

Budget

Appropriation FY 2004 and FY 2005	
General Fund	245,000
Transfer from Special revenue Fund	<u>92,000</u>
TOTAL FY 2004	337,000
General Fund	245,000
Transfer from Special Revenue Fund	<u>92,000</u>
TOTAL FY 2005	337,000
FTE's = 5	

At A Glance

The chart below shows the disparity in Minnesota of children of color in out of home placements compared to white children.

This disparity is carried over into: the decisions of whose children are placed out of home; the accessibility of services; the quality of services; the urgency in service delivery; the cultural and linguistic considerations, particularly for immigrant and refugee groups; permanency considerations; the monitoring and evaluating case plans and family outcomes; and the lack of culturally competent child welfare workers, to name but a few.

The rate of out of home placement for American Indian children is nine times that of white children. The rate for African Americans is more than five times that of whites. Over the years, the disproportionate rate among children of color has consistently remained high.

	Total number of Children in MN	Number in Out of Home Placement
Black/African American*	64,308	3,573
American Indian/Alaska Native*	20,607	1,903
Asian/Pacific Islander*	53,831	440
Hispanic**	55,640	1,022
White	1,079,278	10,613

*This includes children with their race indicated as the only race according to the 2000 census.

** This number includes children of all races who had the ethnicity "Hispanic/Latino/Spanish."

The statistics come from "All Kids Count! Assessing the Well-Being of African-American, American Indian, Asian, and Latino Children", Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, and Congregations Concerned for Children-Child Advocacy Network at the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition.

Office of Ombudsperson for Families

FACT SHEET

Little Known Facts about the Office of Ombudsperson for Families

- No other agency in the State provides services to families in the child protection system or in out of home placement.
- We are a low cost alternative to increasing regulatory fees, rules and additional government process.
- We provide problem solving at the lowest accessible level to defuse difficult/costly situations and/or court costs.

Further, the Department of Human Services (DHS) does not assist families in dealing with counties when counties may be out of compliance with laws protecting children of color. In addition, the continued poor outcomes of children of color in out of home placement create an ongoing need for the services offered by the Ombudspersons (please see our agency profile for out of home placement disparities).

Cost savings per Case

The following is a hypothetical case using **very real** service costs and classic service provisions for a typical case. – Please be aware that **numbers are for ONE child in out of home placement for ONE month (30 days)**. One child is fairly **atypical** for the Ombudsperson's caseload where families usually have more than one child in out of home placement and upwards of six (6) children or more.

Services offered usually include:
Child Protection assessment/investigation approximately \$1,400.00

Transportation \$80.00

Drug/Alcohol assessment average \$150/hr x 4 hours = \$600.00

Parenting/Psychological Evaluation
\$1,530.00/per person

Families First (In-home services) \$85.00/hr,
2x per week = \$680.00

Parenting Education (skilled worker
\$63.00/hr, 4x a month, collateral contacts
\$51.00/hr, 2x per month) = \$354.00

Foster Care Cost average \$590.40/mo
OR

Residential Group Home (non-therapeutic,
\$133.00/day – Costs rise significantly for a
Therapeutic Group Home) = \$3,990.00

Clothing Costs one time event average
\$540.00

TOTAL COST: \$5,774.40 (Foster Care) - \$19,174.00 (Group Home) for one child for one month (this total does NOT include court costs OR interpretation services).

If each Ombudsperson had 4 cases dismissed in one year the Office would save the State between \$92,390.40 - \$306,784.00 in out of home placement costs and services (not including court costs or interpretation services). - On average, each Ombudsperson has approximately six (6) open cases per month and consults on many more in cooperation with counties.

The Ombudspersons work extensively with DHS, the legislature, public policy groups, the community and educational institutions on public policy issues facing families in the child welfare system to help unravel the issues of disparity of families of color in the system and to help mitigate the rising costs in child welfare and the need for such services in the first place.



Memo

Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

DATE: February 8, 2005

TO: The Honorable Linda Berglin, Chair
Health and Human Services Budget Division

FROM: Chuck Johnson
Assistant Commissioner
Children and Family Services (297- 4727)

SUBJECT: Response to a question asked at the January 31, 2005 hearing on the Governor's Health and Human Services Budget concerning relative adoptions.

In calendar year 2003 there were 164 (23%) adoptions by relatives out of a total of 714 adoptions of children under guardianship.

In calendar year 2004 there were 154 (28%) adoptions by relatives out of a total of 544 adoptions of children under guardianship.

As of January 31, 2005 there were 1829 children eligible and the family receiving relative custody assistance. These are situations where the family has been given permanent legal custody of a related child.

In 2003 counties spent \$1,853,348 for adolescent life skills training (independent living services).

2004 figures are not yet final, but projected expenditures are \$1.9 million.

If you have additional questions, please contact Erin Sullivan-Sutton, Director of Child Safety and Permanency at 651-296-2487.

**Federal Poverty Guidelines
Income Levels for Various Household Sizes**

FPG Level Family Size	75%		100%		150%		200%		275%	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
1	\$582	\$6,984	\$776	\$9,312	\$1,164	\$13,968	\$1,552	\$18,624	\$2,134	\$25,608
2	781	9,372	1,041	12,492	1,562	18,744	2,082	24,984	2,863	34,356
3	980	11,760	1306	15,672	1,960	23,520	2,612	31,344	3,592	43,104
4	1,179	14,148	1,571	18,852	2,358	28,296	3,142	37,704	4,321	51,852
5	1,378	16,536	1,836	22,032	2,756	33,072	3,672	44,064	5,050	60,600
6	1,577	18,924	2,101	25,212	3,154	37,848	4,202	50,424	5,779	69,348
7	1,776	21,312	2,366	28,392	3,552	42,624	4,732	56,748	6,508	78,096
8	1,975	23,700	2,631	31,572	3,950	47,400	5,262	63,144	7,237	86,844