



## Eliminating Fraud in the Child Care Assistance Program

The Minnesota Department of Human Services mission is to serve Minnesota's most vulnerable residents while safeguarding public taxpayer dollars. In instances where fraud may be suspected in any DHS programs, including the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), DHS aggressively pursues these allegations through investigations. All evidence of illegal activity is turned over to a law enforcement agency (local, state, or federal) having jurisdiction.

### **Since its creation in 2011, DHS Office of Inspector General investigations have yielded:**

- Eight new staff from new funding approved by the Legislature in 2017.
- 49 civil investigations completed.
- 13 centers been closed related to fraud investigations; CCAP payments have been stopped and referrals made to law enforcement.
- Six of 13 cases resulted in felony convictions for fraudulent child care providers.
- Five state cases and one federal court case resulted in convictions; two state criminal complaints have been filed and are pending.
- More than \$4.6 million in restitution has been court-ordered from convicted criminal cases.
- Eight child care centers have been assessed overpayments due to inadequate attendance records that did not document the date and/or times for which CCAP was billed. \$284,000 in overpayments has been collected to date.

In 2011, Governor Dayton created the DHS Office of Inspector General to focus on fraud prevention and recovery in state human services programs. In 2012, a specialized child care fraud unit was created within the Office of Inspector General. Since that time, the department has added specialized staff and technology to increase its ability to conduct fraud investigations.

### **More work to do to ensure funding for DHS programs reach the Minnesotans who need it most:**

Currently, there are 10 open cases. DHS works with law enforcement to conduct these investigations.

### **Report Suspected Fraud**

Any one suspecting fraud involving recipients of cash, child care, food assistance, health care and child care providers should complete the [Minnesota Fraud Hotline Form](#) or call:

- Twin Cities metro: 651-431-3968
- Toll-free line: 800-627-9977