



Quarterly Report on DCYF Transfers

October – December 2024

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Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Government Relations

444 Lafayette Road N.

St. Paul, MN 55155

651-539-7700

jennifer.sommerfeld@state.mn.us

dcyf.mn.gov

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Summary of Report

Our state depends on the success of Minnesota children, youth, and families. Although Minnesota frequently ranks as a top state in which to live and work, this is not true for every child. Our systems have not led to equitable outcomes for our children, and today race, ZIP code, and income are too often determinants of opportunity. State leaders have been charged with the opportunity and responsibility to think differently and improve the effectiveness of services for children and families who need them most.

In 2023, Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan worked with the Minnesota Legislature to propose and pass legislation establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF): a permanent state agency and commissioner focused on elevating children and families in policy and budget decisions.

The legislation implementing DCYF created a two-year transition process, beginning July 1, 2023, to transfer identified programs and associated finances and functions to the new agency. It also established reporting requirements related to implementation of the new agency. This report provides an update on the transfers of responsibilities and programs to the Commissioner of DCYF from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), in accordance with Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 70, Article 12, Section 30, Subdivision 1(g), which states:

(g) The commissioner of children, youth, and families must provide four successive quarterly reports to relevant legislative committees on the status of transferring programs; responsibilities; not public data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 8a; and personnel under this section. The first report must cover the quarter starting July 1, 2024, and each report must be submitted by the 15th of the month following the quarter end.

Transfer of Responsibilities and Programs

Since Oct. 1, 2024, additional central operations functions have transferred from the MDE and DHS to DCYF as part of a phased transition. The legislation to create DCYF directs operations functions that support transferring programs to also transfer to DCYF, and a proportion of staff and resources from the following central operations offices transferred on Oct. 17:

- Central Grants Office (from DHS and MDE)
- Compliance Office, including Contracts and Legal Compliance (from DHS)
- General Counsel's Office, including Equal Opportunity and Access Division (from DHS)
- Continuous Improvement Office and part of Management Services Division (from DHS)
- Strategy and Performance Office (from DHS)

Collaboration on central operations functions continues between the originating agencies and DCYF through interagency agreements to assure continuity during this transition period.

Not Public Data

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and Minnesota Session Law 2023, Chapter 70, Article 12, Section 29, provide express authority for data sharing between the Department of Children, Youth, and Families and the agencies from which programs are transferring to DCYF.

To document the agencies' sharing of data, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families is operating under interagency agreements for the transition year with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education. Each interagency agreement highlights the agencies' obligations to comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and Minnesota Session Law 2023, Chapter 70, Article 12, Section 29. In addition, the interagency agreements specify the anticipated data sharing needs to continue these programs and services without interruption.

Personnel

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families has brought on 555 full-time and part-time employees. In quarter two, 31 employees transferred from the Department of Human Services and one employee transferred from the Department of Education. Sixteen employees currently support the Commissioner of DCYF on the agency's Executive Leadership team.