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Contact: Katie Bauer
Communications
651-431-2911
katie.bauer@state.mn.us

Improvements made to Department of Human Services' dashboard of progress on key indicators

New software makes site more user friendly, offers option to customize results

New features recently added to the Minnesota Department of Human Services' (DHS) public dashboard — <http://dashboard.dhs.state.mn.us> — are aimed at helping users better track progress on agency goals. Users can customize the online accountability tool to find out how the department is faring in its efforts to help Minnesotans meet their basic needs so they can live in dignity and achieve their highest potential.

Switching to a software also used by the cross-agency Minnesota Dashboard — <http://mn.gov/mmb/mn-dashboard/> — has allowed the DHS Dashboard to offer more features, such as mapping, additional filters and more drill-downs into the data collected on the 29 goals set in the department's [Framework for the Future: 2015 \(PDF\)](#). Additional accessibility features also have been incorporated in the site's latest update.

“The DHS Dashboard provides an important tool for people to use to learn more about the department and the strategies we employ to meet the needs of the people we serve — children, families, people with disabilities and elderly Minnesotans,” said DHS Commissioner Lucinda Jesson. “We are continually working on ways to make information about our progress on key agency goals easier to find and understand.”

DHS' framework document, reflected in the DHS Dashboard's layout, is updated annually to guide the department's efforts and to set benchmarks for progress. The framework goals are in four sections:

- **People:** Provide smart care that keeps people healthy and in their homes and communities
- **Integrity:** Reduce fraud, waste and abuse
- **Equity:** Decrease disparities and improve outcomes
- **Innovation:** Redesign our care delivery systems

Measures included in the DHS Dashboard range from fewer payment errors in food support cases to decreased disparities in health care and more access to affordable health care for Minnesotans.

In addition to the new features, the software behind the DHS Dashboard allows for more regular updates to the information displayed. Previously the DHS Dashboard goals and measures were updated once a year. Now the dashboard can be kept updated as new data becomes available.

The DHS Dashboard was first launched in June 2011. The DHS dashboard was inspired by Gov. Mark Dayton's innovation agenda to create a better government for a better Minnesota and to help state government become more open and accountable to citizens.