

# FACT SHEET | Health and Human Services

*2015 Budget for a Better Minnesota*

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Minnesotans rely on access to quality, affordable health care and other essential services every day. This year, Governor Dayton worked with the Legislature to improve health care and human services with new investments in child protection services reform, mental health initiatives, and more funding for nursing homes.

## Supporting At-Risk Children

- **Needed Child Protection Reforms** – To improve the safety of Minnesota children, Governor Dayton and the Legislature enacted new child protection reforms that were recommended by a bipartisan expert panel. This session, an additional \$52 million was invested in child protection initiatives to help the Department of Human Services and counties better serve kids and families.
- **Helping Child Victims of Sex Trafficking** – The budget signed by Governor Dayton included \$3 million for services for children who are the victims of sex trafficking. This funding will be used to provide regional navigators, comprehensive services, shelter, foster care, and transitional and supportive housing for sexually exploited youth. It also provides protocols and training on best practices for working with victims of sexual exploitation.
- **Alleviating Youth Homelessness** – According to the Wilder Foundation, an estimated 4,080 Minnesota youth are homeless on any given night. This year, the Governor and Legislature invested an additional \$2 million to provide homeless youth with essential services and housing.

## Strengthening Families

- **Investing in Child Care Assistance** – Access to high-quality child care is essential to the healthy development and well-being of Minnesota kids. Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested additional resources to enable 1,239 low-income children to come off the waiting list for the Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance program.
- **Assisting Minnesota's Neediest Families** – To help our state's lowest income single parents afford the cost of raising children, the Governor and the Legislature made improvements to the Minnesota Family Investment Program. Thanks to changes this year, the first \$100 per month of child support will no longer count towards a family's income. The change is expected to increase the collective incomes of eligible families by \$8 million a year – or up to \$2,400 a year for a single parent with two children.

## Improving Home and Health Care

- **Funding for Nursing Homes** – The Governor and Legislature an additional \$138 million in nursing home funding and reforms. These new resources will particularly benefit providers in Greater Minnesota, so they can maintain staff and provide even better care for our seniors.
- **Mental Health Services** – Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested \$46 million in behavioral health homes, crisis services, hospital beds for people suffering from mental illness, and increased payments for mental health services providers.
- **Health Care Workforce Development** – To help ensure that Minnesota has enough health care professionals, Governor Dayton and the Legislature invested \$10.3 million in medical education initiatives. They also invested \$2 million to support international medical graduates to train and serve in Minnesota. Collectively, these programs will help attract and retain more medical professionals as our population ages, especially in Greater Minnesota.