

Summary of 2025 Legislative Changes Affecting Children and Families

**indicates the change item was included in the Governor's budget though funding amounts and other details might have changed during the legislative process.*

Child Safety & Permanency

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	DCYF	Provides \$35 million in state funding to modernize/replace the child welfare functions currently in the Social Services Information System (SSIS). This is a critical need given the failure of SSIS to support child welfare work in a manner that meets the needs of children, families, and county and Tribal workers.*
Funding	MDH	\$55,000 one-time funding for the development of materials pediatric primary care providers can use to help caregivers of infants recognize the signs of physical abuse in infants.
Policy	DCYF	Allows DCYF and Tribes receiving Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Grants to jointly develop an appropriate reporting schedule rather than having one spelled out in statute.*
Policy	DCYF	Expands the uses of funding for the Public Private Permanency Collaboration to allow the provision of services related to kinship (transfers of permanent legal and physical custody) as well as to adoption. Previously, they could only be used in cases of adoption. *
Policy	DCYF/MDE	Allows counties and Tribes to provide a prevention response to educational neglect reports prior to a child protection response. The current statute requires a child protection response at seven unexcused absences. In many instances, unexcused absences relate to poverty, which is often confused with neglect. This would allow counties and Tribes to respond in a preventative, holistic way and provide resources and support without requiring a maltreatment response.*
Policy	DCYF	Allows counties and courts to determine that a redirection of child support is not in the best interests of a child, including redirecting support to the county. This change could result in child support remaining in the home of a parent or guardian of a child in foster care, which can support reunification.

Policy	DCYF	<p>Makes various technical and housekeeping changes to child welfare/child protection statutes*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies policy requirements in the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act to support implementation. • Adds clarifying language that clearly states inquiry of American Indian heritage is required for all children and families in any kind of child welfare matter. • Replaces colloquial language with official terminology. • Corrects a statutory cross-reference. • Aligns statute with DCYF guidance related to the reestablishment of parental rights. The changes allow for a child who is not currently adopted, including a child whose prior adoption dissolved, to be reunified with a biological parent through the reestablishment of parental rights. The revised statute also allows parents whose consent to adoption was accepted by the court, but the identified prospective adoptive parent did not finalize the adoption, or the adoption dissolved, to be eligible for reestablishment. • Aligns statute with DCYF guidance to clarify the timeline, information gathering authority, and documentation requirements for agencies conducting non-caregiver human trafficking assessments.
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Child Care & Early Education

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	DCYF	Provides \$750,000 in one-time funding for child care improvement grants through a combination of state general funds and the federal Child Care Development Fund. This is the continuation of a program initially established using federal American Rescue Plan funds. Child care providers can seek grant funding for small facilities improvement projects.
Funding	DCYF	Requires state-licensed child care centers to post a maltreatment investigation memorandum (meaning there was a maltreatment finding and the provider is subject to a licensing action) to install cameras in infant and toddler classrooms for four years. Cameras must be installed within six months of a maltreatment finding. \$76,000 is appropriated for IT changes to ensure compliance is part of licensing inspections, and \$174,000 is appropriated for grants to providers to purchase compliant camera equipment.
Funding	DCYF	Funds several family- and provider-friendly improvements related to federal compliance in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) through a combination of state general funds and federal Child Care Development Funds including*:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing copays to no more than 7 percent of income, effective October 9, 2028; • Adding an annual health and safety requirement to legal non-licensed providers effective October 1, 2025; • Extending the redetermination date by 12 months when a child is added to the family, effective May 25, 2026; • Eliminating the schedule reporter designation effective March 2, 2026, thereby providing 12 months of eligibility before redetermination; • Changes how licensing reviews, including pre-licensure reports, acknowledge areas of compliance and non-compliance, and adjusts training requirements for substitutes and unsupervised volunteers for family child care providers and licensed child care centers; • Establishing a statewide electronic enrollment and attendance tracking system for CCAP providers.
Funding	DCYF	Provides \$516,000 each year in the 2026-2027 biennium for a grant to the Greater Twin Cities United Way to subsidize child care costs for child care workers across the state. Also included is a small amount of administrative funding for DCYF to verify applicant eligibility.
Funding	DCYF	The Capital Investment Bill includes \$1 million one-time in general obligation bonds for child care facility grants under section 142A.46.
Policy	DCYF	Clarifies that Great Start Compensation Support Payment Program payments to child care programs are public data, and specifically that the names and addresses of child care programs, amounts paid under the program, and frequency of payments are public data. Information about children and families in the program, individual information on employees, and information on legal non-licensed providers is private or nonpublic.*
Policy	DCYF	Updates to T.E.A.C.H. higher education scholarship statutes including 1) allowing the maximum scholarship amount to be adjusted consistent with national T.E.A.C.H. program requirements, 2) making clear individuals employed by a certified child care center or Head Start are eligible to participate, and 3) reducing the matching contribution from 20 to 10 percent for scholarship recipients that work in family child care.*
Policy	DCYF	Requires funding, to the extent it is available, under Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 12, section 32 (Modernizing Information Technology for Programs Impacting Children and Families), for specific purposes, including to develop a family common application tool and centralized, integrated payment system for early care and education programs. Quarterly reporting on progress is required until funding is expended.

K-12 Education

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	MDE	Provides one-time \$55 million funding in FY2026-27 for compensatory revenue modification to support holding districts harmless from funding shifts due to multiple factors, including shifts in direct certification rates and reduced return rates of free and reduced-price meal forms. Establishes a working group to report to the legislature in January 2026 on their analysis and recommendations for improving how compensatory revenue is calculated and distributed.*
Funding	MDE	Delivers \$10 million in one-time monies for school facilities roof repair and replacement.
Funding	MDE	Provides \$350,000 for Read Act implementation.
Funding	MDE	Makes \$1.1 million available for General Counsel and Inspector General staff and technology.
Funding	DNR	Establishes \$500,000 in FY26 and \$348,000 in FY27 for the Outdoor School for All Program, a statewide grant program to expand access to overnight outdoor education for students in grades 4 through 12. The funds go to accredited residential environmental learning centers to offer multi-day, overnight experiences focused on outdoor-based learning.
Funding	MDE	Appropriates \$30,000 for a working group on the age limit for children receiving special education services for developmental delay.
Funding	MDE	Requires all districts to have cardiac emergency response plans and makes available an \$880,000 grant opportunity.
Funding	MDE	Authorizes and provides \$120,000 in funding for a legislative task force to look at the use of seclusion and a possible change to the prohibition on its use from birth to grade 3.
Policy	MDE	Delays the Kindergarten Fall Assessment implementation from SY2025-2026 to SY2026-2027. *
Policy	MDE	A set of attendance proposals makes reporting between schools, districts, counties, and MDE clearer when a student is unexpectedly dropped. A student is considered in attendance when receiving any instruction or supervision on a school day, but this does not impact funding.
Policy	MDE	Encourages districts to provide education on healthy aging, dementia, and physical abuse.
Policy	MDE	Encourages districts to work with American Indian Parent Advisory Committee to allow drumming and other culturally appropriate activities during graduation.

Policy	MDE	Requires schools to adopt language access plans that include procedures around working with students and adults who require additional assistance due to a disability.
Policy	MDE	Allows high school students to possess and administer opiate antagonists to another high school student in an emergency.

Food Security

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	DCYF	Provides \$12 million in one-time spending on food security, including \$1 million for the Tribal Food Sovereignty Program, \$1 million to extend the Prepared Meals Food Relief Program, and \$5 million each to regional food banks and food shelf programs.
Funding	MDA	Increases funding to Farm to School and Early Care programs by \$684,000 per biennium.
Funding	MDA	Provides \$1.4 million per biennium to establish a state-funded Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program after federal funding was cut.
Policy	MDH	Transfers administration of the Healthy Eating, Here at Home program from the Minnesota Humanities Center to MDH and adds SUN bucks (Summer EBT) benefits to the program.
Policy	MDE	Mandates that students be allowed to purchase a second breakfast or lunch after receiving a breakfast or lunch under Free School Meals.
Funding	MDE	Redirects \$150,000 per year to support data collection of students participating in the SUN bucks program.

Health

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	DHS	Modifies/Increases Medical Assistance payment for hospitals, birth centers, and traditional health practices.
Funding	DHS	Provides Medical Assistance coverage for home birthing services.
Funding	DHS	Increases federal funding for hospitals by increasing Medical Assistance directed payments for hospitals (pending federal approval).
Funding	MDH	Increases funding for Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) by \$25.6 million in FY26-27 and \$12.5 million ongoing per biennium.

Funding	MDH	Adds \$1.1 million in FY26-27 funding and \$1.1 million per biennium ongoing for Community Clinics.
Funding	MDH	Increases Newborn Screening Fees to add metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD) to the conditions screened for under the program, beginning July 1, 2025.
Funding	MDH	Requires MDH to collect data on epilepsy and other seizure disorders and develop a statewide coordination plan to support persons with epilepsy or seizure disorders and their caregivers.
Policy	DHS	Establishes swimming lessons for children under age 12 as an allowable use of family support grants and consumer support grants as a covered service under disability grants.
Policy	MDH	Makes permanent the Newborn Hearing Screening Advisory Committee.
Policy	MDH	Makes the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force an advisory committee.
Policy	MDH	Requires the commissioner of health to conduct maternal death studies within the limits of available funding.

Housing and Homelessness

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	Housing	Provides \$900,000 for the Family Housing Prevention and Assistance program.
Funding	DHS	Allocates \$700,000 in one-time spending for the Family Supportive Housing Grant program.
Funding	DHS	Establishes a \$250,000 one-time grant to the Bridge for Youth to predesign a new multi-use facility in Hennepin County. The predesign of the new facility must support future shelter and housing infrastructure expansion in Hennepin County for unaccompanied homeless youth and young families experiencing homelessness.

Higher Education

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	OHE	Increases the Post-Secondary Child Care Grant by \$500,000 per biennium.
Funding	OHE	Adds \$8 million for the Fostering Independence Grant Program that pays up to the cost of attendance for former foster youth at participating Minnesota colleges and universities.

Mental Health

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	DHS	Provides sustainable funding for School-Linked Mental Health as federal COVID-related funds end. This includes \$1.6 million in FY26-27 and \$1.3 million per biennium ongoing.
Funding	DHS	Establishes a Mental Health Collaboration Hub Innovation Pilot Program to develop and implement innovative care pathways and care facility decompression strategies. The program provides funding, technical assistance, and a data sharing agreement with the Mental Health Collaboration Hub to expedite transitions of children from inappropriate care settings to appropriate care settings.
Funding	DHS	Funds a one-time, \$1.2 million grant for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) renovation for Clay County.
Funding	DHS	Funds a legislative report on PRTFs due by December 15, 2026, on recommendations to amend Medical Assistance to expand PRTFs, develop PRTF licensing standards, update services methodology, and determine needs for qualified residential treatment programs to transition to PRTFs.
Funding	DHS	Provides funding for the mental health targeted case management rate for individuals aged 18-21.
Funding	MDH/ COMM	Allocates \$45,000 in one-time funding to MDH, in consultation with Commerce, to develop a mental health warning label that will appear when users access social media platforms in Minnesota, beginning July 1, 2026. The Attorney General will enforce these requirements against social media companies that violate this statute.
Funding	DHS/MDH	Extends access to audio-only telehealth in Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, and private health plans through fiscal year 2027.

Supporting Youth

Change	Agency	Impact
Funding	DCYF	Funds a scan and report on out-of-school programming for youth under age 21. The scan is intended to provide information on current federal, state, Tribal, county, city, and school-based out-of-school and youth programs; information about the availability of funding for youth programs; barriers and gaps for family and youth participation in youth programs; and other key data points. The report is due July 1, 2026.
Funding	DHS	Increases ongoing funding to Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing by \$1.8 million per biennium.

Funding	DHS	Increases funding related to the Homeless Youth Act by \$500,000 in FY26-27 and \$5.7 million per biennium ongoing.
Funding	DEED	Makes youth workforce investments in named programs, including Youth-at-Work, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bolder Options, and Boys and Girls Clubs.
Funding	OOFY	Increases ongoing funding for the Office of the Ombudsperson for Foster Youth (OOFY) to support staffing and outreach.

Spending Reductions

With the imbalance between state spending and revenues, the enacted budget includes reductions and curtails spending growth. Overall, programs supporting children, youth, and families were largely protected. The largest cuts in child and family related programs were in education-related programs. Reductions in children and family programs included:

MDE

- Reduction of \$240,000 per biennium starting in FY26-27 to Adult-Use Cannabis Education.
- Reduction of \$1 million per biennium starting in FY26-27 to COMPASS & MTSS.
- Reduction of \$1 million per biennium starting in FY28-29 to STARBASE.
- Reduction of \$2 million per biennium starting in FY28-29 for Full-Service Community Schools.
- Reduction of \$1.25 million per biennium starting in FY28-29 to Minnesota Independence College & Community.
- Reduction of \$9.7 million per biennium starting in FY28-29 in Special Education Chart School Tuition Adjustment Aid.
- Reduction of \$13 million per biennium starting in FY28-29 in supplemental school meal reimbursement.
- Reduction of \$19.6 million in FY26-27 and another reduction of \$22M per biennium, ongoing in FY28-29 in school library aid.
- Reduction of \$20 million in charter school aid in FY26-27 and \$22.2 million per biennium, ongoing starting in FY28-29.
- Reduction of \$28.7 million in FY26-27 and another reduction of \$25.7 million per biennium starting in FY28-29 in student support personnel.
- Reduction of \$4.8 million in FY26-27 and another reduction of \$43 million starting in FY28-29 in diversifying educator workforce funding.
- Reduction of \$250 million per biennium starting in FY28-29 from a Blue Ribbon Commission on Special Education.

- Reduction of \$307.9 million to travel for home-based services.

DCYF

- Reduction of \$1.5 million in FY26-27 and another reduction of \$3 million per biennium starting in FY29-28 to the Restorative Practices Initiative Grants.

DHS

- Reduction of \$675M in reduced funding per biennium starting in FY28-29 in-home and community-based services for people with disabilities.
 - About 35% of the DD waiver are people 25 and younger and 15% of the CADI waiver are 25 and younger. Additionally, 5% of kids aged 5-17 have one or more disabilities.