

MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S CABINET 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

This year brought significant challenges for state agencies, communities and families, highlighting the need for strong cross-agency coordination. The Children's Cabinet members and staff worked together to help agencies navigate rapid changes and respond effectively. Below are key cross-agency initiatives addressing urgent and difficult events, along with continued progress across priority areas and engagement efforts, with additional highlights on page 2.

Children's Mental Health Statewide Plan

To address Minnesota's historically fragmented mental health system, often leaving vulnerable children without essential care, the Children's Cabinet launched the Statewide Plan for Children's Mental Health. This cross-sector, co-created plan establishes a unified framework for shared goals, measurable outcomes, and coordinated action. By fostering collaboration and accountability, the plan is driving long-term system improvements that ensure more children and families receive timely, equitable, and effective mental health support.

Gun Violence Response

On August 27, 2025, a mass shooting occurred at the Church of Annunciation in Minneapolis during a school day. The Governor's Office relied on Children's Cabinet partnerships for a coordinated state response. The executive director worked across agencies to support first responders, assist the investigation, help victims and families, and support mental health, education, and operational needs for the school and child care. A staff member was deployed to the Minneapolis Emergency Operations Center to coordinate resources with city and county partners. The team also helped plan and support a reintroduction event for the school, child care and first responders.

Federal Response

Throughout 2025, the Children's Cabinet worked closely with state agencies to navigate changing federal policies and funding, ensuring continuity of services despite intermittent disruptions. The staff facilitated weekly coordination calls with agencies and community partners to share timely updates on programs such as SNAP and WIC, address emerging issues and provide resources where possible. Through our cross-agency governance structure, we strengthened communication, minimized service interruptions and helped families maintain access to critical supports during periods of uncertainty, demonstrating the value of proactive, collaborative response across systems.

County Tours

With increased pressures from fiscal, workforce and community needs, including with the implementation of HR1, the Children's Cabinet partnered with county leaders to strengthen coordination and better understand county priorities across state agencies and systems. Partnering with Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), the Cabinet hosted two visits in fall 2025, bringing leaders from seven Greater Minnesota counties and tribal human services together with nearly three dozen state agency leaders to discuss children's mental health, youth justice, child welfare, governance and federal issues. One visit included a tour of The Hoffman Center, a children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. These visits strengthened relationships, informed state decisions and led to more coordinated and responsive services for children and families.



Continuing to Drive Impact Across Sectors and Agencies

In addition to responding to urgent priorities and events, the Children's Cabinet continued to drive action-focused shared governance and cross-agency collaboration to support Minnesota's children and families. This work is all informed by the convening and coordination through the Governor's Children's Cabinet, a senior leadership team, an external advisory council and various cross-agency workgroups and action teams focused on priority areas. Below are some highlights for the year that demonstrate these bold actions, engagement, connection-building, program implementation and policymaking to continue the work of centering children, youth and families in state government.

Collaborative Outputs Highlights

- Released an [early childhood fiscal report](#) analyzing \$3.48 billion in spending across 51 programs to support smarter policy decision-making
- Launched the first-ever [mental health coordination directory](#), improving resource access for state and county leaders statewide
- Partnered with the Minnesota Department of Revenue to implement the second year of the nation-leading Child Tax Credit and the first year of the advance payment of the credit:
 - › For Tax Year 2024, more than 225,000 families claimed the child tax credit, supporting more than 450,000 children
 - › This put more than \$577 million into family budgets across the state, with an average payment of around \$2,560
 - › Minnesota is also the first state in the nation to offer [advance child tax credit payments](#)

Cross-agency and Cross-Sector Collaboration Highlights

- Allocated \$2 million through IT Innovation Funds to six cross-agency projects aimed at modernizing services and improving outcomes for Minnesotans
- Led action teams advancing One Minnesota goals: Child Care and Early Education, Housing Stability, Mental Health, and Food Security
- Supported the completion of the successful [transfer and launch of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families \(DCYF\)](#) to strengthen service alignment for Minnesota families

Outreach & Engagement Highlights

- Published a quarterly newsletter featuring impact updates, key resources and collaboration opportunities, reaching more than 4,000+ community members
- Hosted monthly Lunch and Learn sessions that expanded awareness of state programs and fostered cross-agency collaboration for more than 150 state employees
- Held more than 100 engagement meetings with community organizations, local leaders and partners to elevate community voice in state decision-making

