

2018 Legislative Priorities

Engagement. Leadership. Advocacy.

MACSSA supports legislation and policies that will form a sustainably resourced and equitable human services environment where contributing organizations and people are able to work together with a common purpose: to improve the health, safety, economic and social stability of Minnesota communities, families and individuals.

Resource Permanent Supportive Housing and Regional Behavioral Health Crisis Programs

With the growing number of individuals that have behavioral health needs, it has become critical that additional resources are made available to address gaps in the current behavioral health system.

The Legislature can address gaps by investing capital investment funds in regional crisis facilities to divert individuals from more costly services (emergency rooms, state operated services, etc.) and authorizing funding and program flexibility for permanent supportive housing options.

MnCHOICES Assessments: Resource and Promote Improved Experiences for Individuals

The 2017 Legislature enacted a county cost share for the cost of administering MnCHOICES assessments for individuals needing Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The intent was to improve program efficiency and improve the experience of individuals receiving assessments. However, the Legislature did not make significant changes to the program requirements and counties have been left under-resourced.

To appropriately resource and improve the MnCHOICES assessment process the Legislature should 1) Sunset the county cost share by 2020 2) Reduce assessment processes by 50% by 2020 3) Removing Rule 185 and State Plan services of Personal Care Assistant (PCA)/Home Care Nursing from the process and 4) Develop a reassessment administrative option for lead agencies to validate ongoing eligibility for current HCBS recipients.

Child Protection Staffing Formula Withholds

In 2015, the Legislature appropriated new funding to counties to support reducing caseloads for child protection staff and enable counties to more quickly respond to child protection reports. The formula withholds 20% of that funding and requires counties to earn it back by meeting performance measures. Counties are not able to fully leverage this funding to enhance child protection staffing due to the uncertainty of whether the full funding will be received.

The Legislature should remove the withholds and utilize the DHS Human Services Performance Management process to hold counties accountable for the performance measures included in the formula.

Promoting Outcomes, Work Participation, and Accountability for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program.

Streamlining certain administrative process requirements for county financial workers, when administering SNAP benefits for persons required to work would free up resources to better focus on outcomes for program participants. Individuals receiving benefits will still be held accountable, as required by Federal law, for meeting the work participation requirements.



Minnesota Association of County
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