

Agency effectiveness: Sustaining and strengthening services

New resources will strengthen the Department of Human Services' ability to serve Minnesota's most vulnerable citizens and ensure that human services programs protect their health and safety. An inflationary increase will cover higher costs for staff, rent, goods and services. Improvements and adjustments to background studies will support this essential function, while investments will help the licensing division meet the growing needs of licensed programs, including in home and community-based services, foster care and child care centers.

2023 legislation

Maintaining current levels of service. An increase to the operating budget of the Department of Human Services' central office will ensure that current services to Minnesotans can continue. *FY 2024-25: \$45.7 million; FY 2026-27: \$55.9 million*

Expanding compliance and continuous improvement. New investments will allow DHS to expand continuous improvement, contract compliance, grant oversight and financial operations. *FY 2024-25: \$6.2 million; FY 2026-27: \$8.3 million*

Updating fees for background studies. Updating the background study fee to \$44 for many study types will recover actual costs for completing the studies. A change in state law allows DHS to raise background study fees in response to fee increases made by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Funds will also go to Tribal organization to recover background study costs. *FY 2024-25: \$104,000; FY 2026-27: \$104,000*

Strengthening operations for background studies. New staff and other changes will strengthen the operational structure for background studies. The adjustments will support workforce needs, increase effectiveness and efficiency, and improve customer service. *FY: 2024-25: \$3 million; FY 2026-27: \$4 million*

Providing critical resources for licensing. New staff will provide essential licensing support for home and community-based services, foster care and child care centers. They will also work on maltreatment investigations. The resources will help meet urgent program needs and protect the health and safety of vulnerable adults and children. *FY 2024-25: \$12 million; FY 2026-27 \$13.7 million*

Related information

- [DHS 2023 session fact sheets](#)