

# Position Statement

## For 2023 Session

Legislative Change Regarding MnCHOICES assessor qualifications

### Proposal

**Issue:**

Proposal:

Add language to make home and community-based experience preferable, not required.

Impact of Current Statute:

Current statute requires one year of home and community-based experience for individuals with a bachelor's degree and two years of experience for a registered nurse. With growing workforce challenges this limits lead agency ability to meet community needs. Counties agree experience is important and includes professional and lived experiences. However, counties are increasingly challenged to meet this requirement.

**Implementation Strategy:**

Proposed change:

Minnesota statute 2022 256B.0911 is amended by adding preferable in two places:

**Subd. 13. MnCHOICES assessor qualifications, training, and certification.**

(a) The commissioner shall develop and implement a curriculum and an assessor certification process.

(b) MnCHOICES certified assessors must:

(1) either have a bachelor's degree in social work, nursing with a public health nursing certificate, or other closely related field with preferably a minimum of, at least one year of home and community-based experience or be a registered nurse with ~~at least~~ preferably a minimum of two years of home and community-based experience; and

(2) have received training and certification specific to assessment and consultation for long-term care services in the state.

(c) Certified assessors shall demonstrate best practices in assessment and support planning, including person-centered planning principles, and have a

common set of skills that ensures consistency and equitable access to services statewide.

(d) Certified assessors must be recertified every three years.

### Systemic Priority Alignment (highlight all that apply and explain why)

- **Equity**
- **Integrated Services**
- **Fiscal Framework**

From the GARE Toolkit (See [www.racialequityalliance.org](http://www.racialequityalliance.org)): What are the racial equity impacts of this particular decision? Who will benefit from or be burdened by it? Are there strategies to mitigate unintended consequences?

Comments:

### Relevant Committee (highlight all that apply and explain why)

- **Adult Services**
- **Behavioral Health**
- **Children's Services**
- **Equity**
- **Healthcare**
- **Modernization**
- **Policy**
- **Self-Sufficiency**

Why:

### Rationale/Background:

The proposed change doesn't significantly alter the basic intent of the statute. The goal of counties is to hire qualified employees. Experience with and knowledge of the populations served by home and community-based services is important. When that's not present in the applicant pool, the proposed change would allow counties the flexibility needed to assess qualifications based on factors other than direct experience. It would allow certification and ability to do assessments while counties monitor and support the assessor as needed based on individualized needs.



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Approved on: 1/25/23