

Position Statement

For 2022 Session

Human Services Systemic Budgeting

Proposal

Issue:

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) helps provide essential services to Minnesota's most vulnerable residents. Working with many others, including counties, tribes and nonprofits, DHS helps ensure that Minnesota seniors, people with disabilities, children and others meet their basic needs and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The vast majority of human services in Minnesota are provided through a state mandated and county/tribe administered system. As stewards of a significant amount of public dollars, these statute and policy driven partnerships have tried to serve the residents of Minnesota in a high value and fiscally responsible manner.

Human Service needs across the state have continued to evolve and grow and have been accentuated by the by the Covid Pandemic these last 2 years. The state responded with one-time investments that will allow for innovation and systemic improvements. These investments were timely and very much appreciated. However, some of the investments have long-term financial expectations that can create a "budget cliff" for many counties in future years. When one time funding ends, there will only be two options: cutting services or transferring the financial responsibility to another entity such as counties, tribes, or individuals. State, County and Tribe planning and action will need to be taken to prevent the loss of service gains, stabilize current delivery system infrastructure to assure equitable access and outcomes for those we serve through our local agencies.

Implementation Strategy:

It is imperative that DHS work with Counties and Tribes to review the implications of these one- time investments as it relates maintaining a system infrastructure for the future. Issues of equitable access, innovation, sustainability, modernization and system responsibility will need to be addressed.

The approach to addressing these complicated but critical issues would be to.....POLICY COMMITTEE NEEDS TO PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE HERE

Possibilities:

- Mandated group to review and bring forward comprehensive review, financial implications and recommendations
- a money ask
- just using this session to get on radar?
- Buying time to make the services Medicaid-funded
- Require a local impact fiscal note?
- Other???

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

- Equity
- Integrated Services
- Fiscal Framework

From the GARE Toolkit (See 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: This position and issue touch on all of MACSSA's systemic priorities. Long term and immediate fiscal impacts for counties are an immediate concern. The need to address issues of disparities and access are an opportunity in this position. Service efficiencies through clarity and integration would also be addressed to build on the work being done through current modernization planning.

Relevant Committee (highlight all that apply and explain why)

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

Why: This position is coming out of the Policy Committee due to its broad implications on services, fiscal, equity and integration. If moved forward it will be important that committees are aware of its process and implications.

Rationale/Background:

Human Service needs across the state have continued to evolve and grow and have been accentuated by the by the Covid Pandemic these last 2 years. The state responded with one-time investments that will allow for innovation and systemic improvements. These investments were timely and very much appreciated. However, some of the investments have long-term financial expectations that can create a "budget cliff" for many counties in future years. State, County and Tribe planning and action will need to be taken to prevent the loss of service gains, stabilize current delivery system infrastructure to assure equitable access and outcomes for those we serve through our local agencies.



MACSSA

Minnesota Association of County
Social Service Administrators

Submitted by:

Approved on:

DRAFT