



Child Support Initiatives

Legislation Passed in 2023

Governor Tim Waltz and the Minnesota Legislature passed important legislation to improve Minnesota's child support program, including:



- Reforming the driver's license suspension enforcement remedy to better target suspension for parents unwilling to pay.
- Updating medical support provisions to help lower-income parents with children eligible for Medical Assistance, clarify standards for affordability of health care coverage and provide for more equitable treatment between parents.
- Adjusting Minnesota's child support guidelines to provide relief for parents who receive General Assistance, Supplemental Security Income or Minnesota Family Investment Program cash benefits.
- Funding to review Minnesota's child support guidelines to guide future improvements when courts determine child support payment amounts
- Funding of close to \$40M, including federal matching funds, to modernize Minnesota's child support case management system through refactoring and replatforming; and to enhance Minnesota Child Support Online, a secure website where parents can get up-to-date case information 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Dakota County Innovation Projects

Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security (SAVES) Grant

Dakota is a participating pilot county in Minnesota's child support program work on the federal Safe Access for Victims' Economic Security (SAVES) grant to increase safe access to child support and related parenting time services for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

- A foundational component of SAVES is close collaboration and partnership with community, state, Tribal and national experts, and engagement of individuals with lived experience to ensure child support and parenting services align with a broader response to domestic violence.
- The goals of the Dakota pilot are to increase safety for domestic violence (DV) survivors in the child support program by providing specialized case management, improved training to staff to recognize and respond to domestic violence concerns, and partnership with 360 Communities to increase opportunities for safer services when possible.



A child support case qualifies for driver's license suspension when the arrears owed on the case is three times the monthly support amount and not in compliance with a payment agreement.

Driver's License Suspension Project

In response to legislative reforms, Dakota has been focusing on reviewing approximately 500 cases where a driver's license was suspended, some many years ago, but the suspension has not elicited payment. By working more holistically with impacted parents, the remedy can be targeted more effectively to those who are unwilling to pay; stop using it where

circumstances point to an inability to pay or it could cause harm; identify, and solve for barriers to payment, and reduce the disparate impact the remedy has historically had on non-white parents.