



Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act – Update July 2026

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- The Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) was established on July 1, 2024.
- Minimal changes in 2026 legislative session with implementation statewide still set for January 1, 2027.
- Goal: Protect the best interests of African American and other children and families disproportionately represented in the child welfare system.

Child Wellbeing Continuum



Goal: Serve more children and families earlier in the continuum.



Prevention



**Early
Intervention**



**Child
Welfare
Response**



**Child
Protection
Response**

Training
Data

Compliance and Accountability

Legislative updates:

- Case reviews postponed until July 2027
- \$15 million one-time appropriation to support implementation statewide
- Statewide Working Group report due to the legislature September 1, 2026

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
guidance on 2027 & 2028 eligibility:

- Only racial and ethnic disproportionalities initially
- Data collection on income and disability status disproportionalities
- County Attorney's Office (CAO) is reviewing for legality

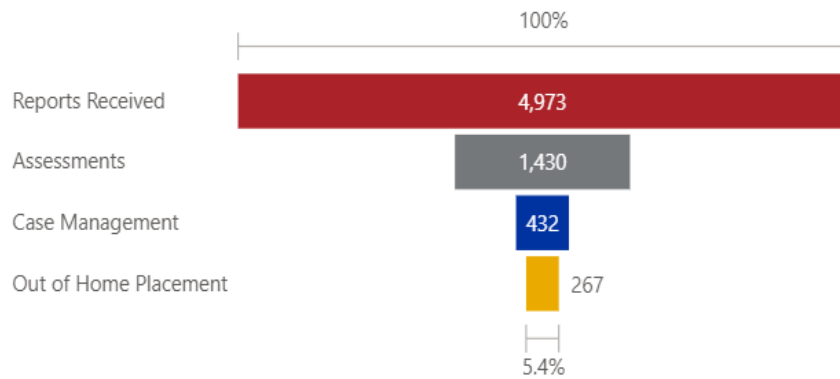
Cultural responsiveness training:

- Launched June 2026
- Required for all child protection staff by January 1

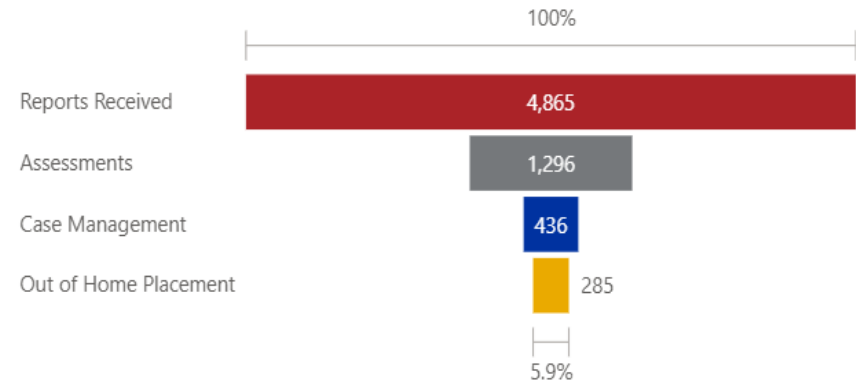
Dakota County Case Counts



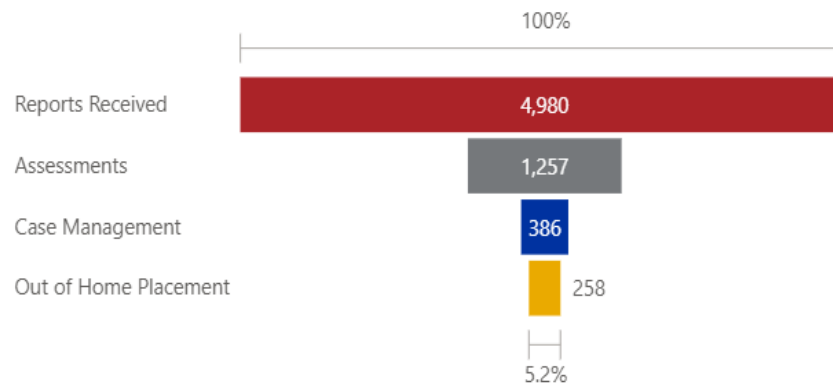
2023



2024



2025



Racial Disproportionality



● African American / Black ● American Indian / Alaska Native ● Asian / Pacific Islander ● Two or more races ● White



Percentages exclude children with unknown racial identity.

MAAFPCWDA Implementation Progress

Implementation Progress - Prevention



Goal: Serve more children and families earlier in the continuum.



Prevention

Community Resource
Centers (CRCs)
Concrete Supports
Workgroup



Early Intervention

Parent Support
Outreach Program
(PSOP)
Pathways to Prosperity
(P2P)



Child Welfare Response

Educational neglect
response path
Juvenile Screening
Team (JST)



Child Protection Response

Active efforts
Safety planning and
practice framework
Kinship engagement
Collaboration with
County Attorney's
Office

Children and Family Services Data Workgroup

Implementation Progress – Early Intervention



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Implementation Progress – Child Protection Response



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Implementation Progress – Children and Family Services Data Workgroup



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Children and Family Services Data Workgroup

- Working to appropriately staff and structure the educational neglect response
 - Formerly in Child Protection and moving to Early Intervention, freeing up time for Child Protection workers to do active efforts
 - Based on volume, will require five Social Workers (SWs)
- Kinship engagement
 - Pilot to involve these staff earlier in cases launches this month
 - More active, direct engagement with kin, fathers, and non-custodial parents
- Relative licensing



Staffing, continued

- Program Coordinators – two positions for:
 - Family Group Decision Making
 - Community engagement
 - Data and compliance
 - Governance structure and oversight
- Child Protection Social Worker – one position:
 - Making whole to keep caseloads manageable in Child Protection and allow time for active efforts



Dakota County Performance

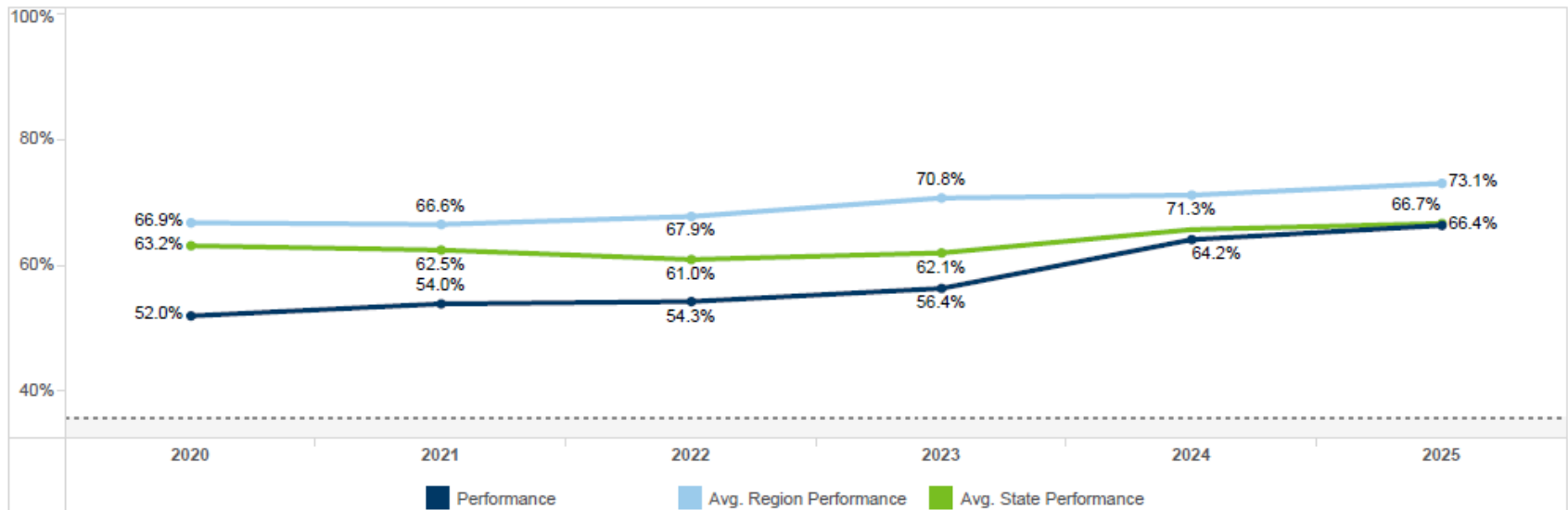
Outcome: Children have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential.

Percent of days children in family foster care spent with a relative.

County Performance by Year

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Performance	54.0%	54.3%	56.4%	64.2%	66.4%
Number of Cases	204	221	227	283	215

County/Region/State Performance Trends



*The dotted line on each graph indicates the historical measure threshold of 35.7%; this threshold is temporarily suspended for the Human Services Performance Management System.

Future Staff Needs

- Business Analyst for data analysis
- Staff for case reviews
- Additional capacity for child welfare work
 - Educational neglect
 - Parent Support Outreach Program
 - Other Child Welfare programs, including change to age of delinquency



Community Engagement



- Seek the voices of children and families to inform implementation and service array
- Continue to engage with our Eliminating Racial Disparities (ERD) partners
- Define a consistent structure for engagement across the section



Current Implementation Contracts



Goal: Serve more children and families earlier in the continuum.



Prevention

The Improve
Group



**Early
Intervention**



**Child
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**Child
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SafeGenerations

A17 Consulting

Next Steps



Translate
vision into
practice

- June-December 2026

Refine and
reinforce
changes

- January 2027 and beyond



Train staff and
partners

- September-December 2026



Support staff wellbeing throughout changes

Potential Future Service Contracts



- Educational neglect diversion
- Father and noncustodial parent engagement
- Youth advisory council
- Family Group Decision Making expansion
- In process: Procurement for in-home and community-based services
 - Opportunity to increase culturally responsive providers and services, aligned with MAAFPCWDA



Measuring Success



Look for improvements in:

- Disproportionalities in who Children and Family Services serves
- Serving families earlier in the continuum
- Leveraging contracted services and supports
- Out-of-home placement rates and experiences
- Permanency outcomes
- Ongoing program costs

Questions

