

## CHAPTER 256F

## MINNESOTA FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT

256F.03	Definitions.	256F.10	Child welfare targeted case management.
256F.05	Distribution of grants.	256F.13	Family services collaborative.
256F.07	Placement prevention and family reunification services.		

**256F.03 DEFINITIONS.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 5. **Family-based services.** "Family-based services" means one or more of the services described in paragraphs (a) to (e) provided to families primarily in their own home for a limited time.

(a) **Crisis services.** "Crisis services" means professional services provided within 24 hours of referral to alleviate a family crisis and to offer an alternative to placing a child outside the family home. The services are intensive and time limited. The service may offer transition to other appropriate community-based services.

(b) **Counseling services.** "Counseling services" means professional family counseling provided to alleviate individual and family dysfunction; provide an alternative to placing a child outside the family home; or permit a child to return home. The duration, frequency, and intensity of the service is determined in the individual or family service plan.

(c) **Life management skills services.** "Life management skills services" means paraprofessional services that teach family members skills in such areas as parenting, budgeting, home management, and communication. The goal is to strengthen family skills as an alternative to placing a child outside the family home or to permit a child to return home. A social worker shall coordinate these services within the family case plan.

(d) **Mental health services.** "Mental health services" means the professional services defined in section 245.4871, subdivision 31.

(e) **Early intervention services.** "Early intervention services" means family-based intervention services designed to help at-risk families avoid crisis situations.

*[For text of subds 6 to 8, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 9. **Residential facility** "Residential facility" means a residential facility as defined in section 260C.212, subdivision 1.

*[For text of subd 10, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 139 art 4 s 2; 1999 c 245 art 8 s 10

**256F.05 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.**

*[For text of subds 1a and 2, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 3. **Grant formula.** (a) The amount of money allocated to counties under subdivision 2 shall first be allocated in amounts equal to each county's guaranteed floor according to paragraph (b), and second, any remaining available funds allocated as follows:

(1) 50 percent of the funds shall be allocated based on the population of the county under age 19 years as compared to the state as a whole as determined by the most recent data from the state demographer's office;

(2) 20 percent of funds shall be allocated based on the county's percentage share of the unduplicated number of families who received family preservation services under section 256F.03, subdivision 5, paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (e), in the most recent calendar year available as determined by the commissioner;

(3) ten percent of the funds shall be allocated based on the county's percentage share of the unduplicated number of children in substitute care in the most recent calendar year available as determined by the commissioner;

(4) ten percent of the funds shall be allocated based on the county's percentage share of the number of determined maltreatment reports in the most recent calendar year available as determined by the commissioner;

(5) five percent of the funds shall be allocated based on the county's percentage share of the number of American Indian children under age 18 residing in the county in the most recent calendar year as determined by the commissioner; and

(6) five percent of the funds shall be allocated based on the county's percentage share of the number of children of color receiving children's case management services as defined by the commissioner based on the most recent data as determined by the commissioner.

(b) Each county's grant guaranteed floor shall be calculated as follows:

(1) 90 percent of the county's allocation received in the preceding calendar year or \$25,000, whichever is greater; and

(2) when the amounts of funds available for allocation is less than the amount available in the previous year, each county's previous year allocation shall be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the statewide funding, for the purpose of establishing the guaranteed floor.

(c) The commissioner shall regularly review the use of family preservation fund allocations by county. The commissioner may reallocate unexpended or unencumbered money at any time among those counties that have expended or are projected to expend their full allocation.

*[For text of subs 4 and 6, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 8. Uses of family preservation fund grants.** (a) A county which has not demonstrated that year that its family preservation core services are developed as provided in subdivision 1a, must use its family preservation fund grant exclusively for family preservation services defined in section 256F.03, subdivision 5, paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d).

(b) A county which has demonstrated that year that its family preservation core services are developed becomes eligible either to continue using its family preservation fund grant as provided in paragraph (a), or to exercise the expanded service option under paragraph (c).

(c) The expanded service option permits an eligible county to use its family preservation fund grant for child welfare preventive services. For purposes of this section, child welfare preventive services are those services directed toward a specific child or family that further the goals of section 256F.01 and include assessments, family preservation services, service coordination, community-based treatment, crisis nursery services when the parents retain custody and there is no voluntary placement agreement with a child-placing agency, respite care except when it is provided under a medical assistance waiver, home-based services, and other related services. For purposes of this section, child welfare preventive services shall not include shelter care or other placement services under the authority of the court or public agency to address an emergency. To exercise this option, an eligible county must notify the commissioner in writing of its intention to do so or select this option in its county plan, as provided in section 256F.04, subdivision 2. Effective with the first day of the grant period in which this option is selected, the county must maintain its base level of expenditures for child welfare preventive services and use the family preservation fund to expand them. The base level of expenditures for a county shall be that established under section 256F.10, subdivision 7. For counties which have no such base established, a comparable base shall be established with the base year being the calendar year ending at least two calendar quarters before the first calendar quarter in which the county exercises its expanded service option. The commissioner shall, at the request of the counties, reduce, suspend, or eliminate either or both of a county's obligations to continue the base level of expenditures and to expand child welfare preventive services under extraordinary circumstances.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a county that is participating in the child protection assessments or investigations community collaboration pilot program under section 626.556, or in the concurrent permanency planning pilot program under section 260C.213, may use its family preservation fund grant for those programs.

**History:** 1999 c 139 art 4 s 4; 1999 c 159 s 71,72; 1999 c 245 art 8 s 11

**256F.07. PLACEMENT PREVENTION AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES.**

Subdivision 1. **Preplacement review.** Each county board shall establish a preplacement procedure to review each request for substitute care placement and determine if appropriate community resources have been utilized before making a substitute care placement. Emergency placements shall be reviewed to determine services necessary to allow a child to return home. Placements shall be reviewed for compliance with the Minority Family Heritage Act, sections 259.29 and 260C.215; the Minnesota Minority Family Preservation Act, section 260C.193, subdivision 3; the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.781; and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, part 1901.

Subd. 2. **Procedure for placement.** When the preplacement review has determined that a substitute care placement is required because the child is in imminent risk of abuse or neglect; or requires treatment of an emotional disorder, chemical dependency, or mental retardation; the agency shall determine the level of care most appropriate to meet the child's needs in the least restrictive setting and in closest proximity to the child's family; and estimate the length of time of the placement, project a placement goal, and provide a statement of the anticipated outcome of the placement.

Placements must be in compliance with the Minority Family Heritage Act, sections 259.29 and 260C.212; the Minnesota Minority Family Preservation Act, section 260C.193, subdivision 3; the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, sections 260.751 to 260.781; and the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, part 1901.

*[For text of subs 3 to 4, see M.S.1998]*

**History:** 1999 c 139 art 4 s 2

**256F.10 CHILD WELFARE TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT.**

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility.** Persons under 21 years of age who are eligible to receive medical assistance are eligible for child welfare targeted case management services under section 256B.094 and this section if they have received an assessment and have been determined by the local county or tribal social services agency to be:

- (1) at risk of placement or in placement as described in section 260C.212, subdivision 1;
- (2) at risk of maltreatment or experiencing maltreatment as defined in section 626.556, subdivision 10e; or
- (3) in need of protection or services as defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 4.

*[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.1998]*

Subd. 4. **Provider qualifications and certification standards.** The commissioner must certify each provider before enrolling it as a child welfare targeted case management provider of services under section 256B.094 and this section. The certification process shall examine the provider's ability to meet the qualification requirements and certification standards in this subdivision and other federal and state requirements of this service. A certified child welfare targeted case management provider is an enrolled medical assistance provider who is determined by the commissioner to have all of the following:

- (1) the legal authority to provide public welfare under sections 393.01, subdivision 7, and 393.07 or a federally recognized Indian tribe;
- (2) the demonstrated capacity and experience to provide the components of case management to coordinate and link community resources needed by the eligible population;
- (3) administrative capacity and experience in serving the target population for whom it will provide services and in ensuring quality of services under state and federal requirements;
- (4) the legal authority to provide complete investigative and protective services under section 626.556, subdivision 10, and child welfare and foster care services under section 393.07, subdivisions 1 and 2, or a federally recognized Indian tribe;
- (5) a financial management system that provides accurate documentation of services and costs under state and federal requirements; and

(6) the capacity to document and maintain individual case records under state and federal requirements.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1998]

**Subd. 6. Distribution of new federal revenue.** (a) Except for portion set aside in paragraph (b), the federal funds earned under this section and section 256B.094 by providers shall be paid to each provider based on its earnings, and must be used by each provider to expand preventive child welfare services.

If a county or tribal social services agency chooses to be a provider of child welfare targeted case management and if that county or tribal social services agency also joins a local children's mental health collaborative as authorized by the 1993 legislature, then the federal reimbursement received by the county or tribal social services agency for providing child welfare targeted case management services to children served by the local collaborative shall be transferred by the county or tribal social services agency to the integrated fund. The federal reimbursement transferred to the integrated fund by the county or tribal social services agency must not be used for residential care other than respite care described under subdivision 7, paragraph (d).

(b) The commissioner shall set aside a portion of the federal funds earned under this section to repay the special revenue maximization account under section 256.01, subdivision 2, clause (15). The repayment is limited to:

(1) the costs of developing and implementing this section and sections 256B.094 and 256J.48;

(2) programming the information systems; and

(3) the lost federal revenue for the central office claim directly caused by the implementation of these sections.

Any unexpended funds from the set aside under this paragraph shall be distributed to providers according to paragraph (a).

**Subd. 7. Expansion of services and base level of expenditures.** (a) Counties and tribal social services must continue the base level of expenditures for preventive child welfare services from either or both of any state, county, or federal funding source, which, in the absence of federal funds earned under this section, would have been available for these services. The commissioner shall review the county or tribal social services expenditures annually using reports required under sections 245.482, 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph 17, and 256E.08, subdivision 8, to ensure that the base level of expenditures for preventive child welfare services is continued from sources other than the federal funds earned under this section.

(b) The commissioner may reduce, suspend, or eliminate either or both of a county's or tribal social services' obligations to continue the base level of expenditures and to expand child welfare preventive services if the commissioner determines that one or more of the following conditions apply to that county or reservation:

(1) imposition of levy limits that significantly reduce available social service funds;

(2) reduction in the net tax capacity of the taxable property within a county or reservation that significantly reduces available social service funds;

(3) reduction in the number of children under age 19 in the county or reservation by 25 percent when compared with the number in the base year using the most recent data provided by the state demographer's office; or

(4) termination of the federal revenue earned under this section.

(c) The commissioner may suspend for one year either or both of a county's or tribal social services' obligations to continue the base level of expenditures and to expand child welfare preventive services if the commissioner determines that in the previous year one or more of the following conditions applied to that county or reservation:

(1) the total number of children in placement under sections 260C.212 and 393.07, subdivisions 1 and 2, has been reduced by 50 percent from the total number in the base year; or

(2) the average number of children in placement under sections 260C.212 and 393.07, subdivisions 1 and 2, on the last day of each month is equal to or less than one child per 1,000 children in the county or reservation.

(d) For the purposes of this section, child welfare preventive services are those services directed toward a specific child or family that further the goals of section 256F.01 and include assessments, family preservation services, service coordination, community-based treatment, crisis nursery services when the parents retain custody and there is no voluntary placement agreement with a child-placing agency, respite care except when it is provided under a medical assistance waiver, home-based services, and other related services. For the purposes of this section, child welfare preventive services shall not include shelter care placements under the authority of the court or public agency to address an emergency, residential services except for respite care, child care for the purposes of employment and training, adult services, services other than child welfare targeted case management when they are provided under medical assistance, placement services, or activities not directed toward a specific child or family. Respite care must be planned, routine care to support the continuing residence of the child with its family or long-term primary caretaker and must not be provided to address an emergency.

(e) For the counties and tribal social services beginning to claim federal reimbursement for services under this section and section 256B.094, the base year is the calendar year ending at least two calendar quarters before the first calendar quarter in which the provider begins claiming reimbursement. For the purposes of this section, the base level of expenditures is the level of county or tribal social services expenditures in the base year for eligible child welfare preventive services described in this subdivision.

**Subd. 8. Provider responsibilities.** (a) Notwithstanding section 256B.19, subdivision 1, for the purposes of child welfare targeted case management under section 256B.094 and this section, the nonfederal share of costs shall be provided by the provider of child welfare targeted case management from sources other than federal funds or funds used to match other federal funds, except when allowed by federal law or agreement.

(b) Provider expenditures eligible for federal reimbursement under this section must not be made from federal funds or funds used to match other federal funds, except when allowed by federal law or agreement.

(c) The commissioner may suspend, reduce, or terminate the federal reimbursement to a provider that does not meet the reporting or other requirements of section 256B.094 and this section. The county or reservation is responsible for any federal disallowances. The county or reservation may share this responsibility with its contracted vendors.

**Subd. 9. Payments.** Notwithstanding section 256.025, subdivision 2, payments to certified providers for child welfare targeted case management expenditures under section 256B.094 and this section shall only be made of federal earnings from services provided under section 256B.094 and this section. Payments to contracted vendors shall include both the federal earnings and the nonfederal share.

**Subd. 10. Centralized disbursement of medical assistance payments.** Notwithstanding section 256B.041, provider payments for the cost of child welfare targeted case management services shall not be made to the state treasurer. For the purposes of child welfare targeted case management services under section 256B.094 and this section, the centralized disbursement of payments to providers under section 256B.041 consists only of federal earnings from services provided under section 256B.094 and this section.

**History:** 1999 c 139 art 4 s 2; 1999 c 159 s 73; 1999 c 245 art 8 s 12-18

### 256F.13 FAMILY SERVICES COLLABORATIVE.

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1998]*

**Subd. 3. Waiver of rule requirements.** (a) **Requesting waivers of state or federal rules.** Local family services collaboratives, including collaboratives in Becker, Cass, and Ramsey counties, shall be encouraged to seek waivers of state or federal rules, as necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

(b) **Waiver of state rules.** In order to receive a waiver of the requirements of any state rule, the collaborative shall submit a request for a variance to the appropriate commissioner. The request shall contain assurances that the waiver will not affect client entitlements to services, will not abridge any rights guaranteed to the client by state or federal law, and will not

jeopardize the health or safety of the client. The commissioner shall grant or deny all waiver requests within 30 days of receiving those requests, by notice to the collaborative and published notice in the State Register.

(c) **Waiver of federal rules.** A local collaborative seeking a waiver from a federal rule shall submit a request, in writing, to the appropriate commissioner who shall submit the waiver request to the relevant policy committees of the legislature. If the legislative committees approve the request, they shall direct the appropriate state agency to make a reasonable effort to negotiate a waiver of the federal rule. If the legislative committees deny the request for a waiver, they shall jointly notify the local collaborative of the reason for denying the waiver. If a waiver request is approved for submission to federal authorities, the commissioner shall submit all necessary materials to the appropriate federal authorities. The commissioner shall notify the collaborative and the legislative committees of the outcome of the federal waiver request. In every instance in which a federal waiver is granted, the commissioner shall publish notice of receipt of the waiver in the State Register.

**History:** 1999 c 159 s 74