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26-68-03

Date
January 14, 2026

Of interest to
County Directors

Social Services Supervisors and
Staff

Action/due date
Please read information and
prepare for implementation.

Expiration date
January 14, 2027

Performance Management System 2026 Measures, Thresholds, and Reporting Schedule

Topic

An overview of the 2026 measures, thresholds, and reporting schedule for the Human Services Performance Management system (referred to hereafter as the Performance Management system).

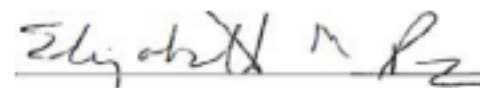
Purpose

To share information about the Performance Management system measures, performance thresholds, and reporting schedule for 2026.

Contact

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Signed



ELIZABETH ROE
Chief Operating Officer
Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Terminology notice

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) supports the use of "People First" language.

The Human Services Performance Management system is a joint effort between the Department of Human Services and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

I. Performance Management System

A. Background

During the 2013 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature established a performance management system for essential human services that included outcomes, performance measures, and thresholds. The Performance Management system was created in response to counties' desire to be proactive in improving service delivery and outcomes for recipients of essential human services programs.

During the 2025 legislative session, [technical changes were made to Minnesota Statutes, section 402A](#) to formalize the roles of the commissioners of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) in the administration of the Human Services Performance Management system. These changes allow each commissioner to oversee improvement activities related to essential human services administered by their respective department and appoint members of the Human Services Performance Council.

The Human Services Performance Council (Performance Council) was established in statute to advise the commissioners of DHS and DCYF on the implementation and operation of the Performance Management system. Information about this publicly appointed advisory body can be found on the [Secretary of State website](#).

Please see the [Performance Management page on PartnerLink](#) for additional background and detailed information about the system.

B. Performance Management system measures and thresholds

What are thresholds and how are they used?

Thresholds are a way to evaluate performance on a measure. For the Performance Management system, a threshold is defined as the lowest level of acceptable performance and a high-performance standard is defined as a high level of performance. Performance below a threshold result in a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) requirement. Performance data are provided to counties via annual, measure-specific reports. Counties will be notified via email and phone when they are required to submit a PIP.

Thresholds vary depending on the measure, and all thresholds were determined based on input from both county and state staff familiar with the data/program area. In some instances, thresholds are based on historical county information, and in others on a consensus-determined data point. Some thresholds used by the Performance Management system are the same as federal or state standards for the measure. Performance Management thresholds do not exempt counties from having to comply with federal or state standards.

Performance Management system thresholds and high-performance standards are updated regularly. The table below outlines the thresholds and standards adopted for the Performance Management system for 2026.

What are the 2026 measures and thresholds?

Table: 2026 Performance Management System measures and performance thresholds.

Measures	Threshold	High Performance Standard
Outcome 1: Adults and Children are safe and secure		
Maltreatment recurrence: percent of children with a substantiated maltreatment report who do not experience a repeat substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.	<i>Suspended – evaluation in progress</i>	90.9%
Timeliness to initial disposition: percent of vulnerable adults reported as maltreated with initial disposition for response made within five working days.	90%	95%
Outcome 2: Children have stability in their living situation		
Child support paid: percent of current child support paid.	<i>Suspended until new threshold is determined</i>	80%
Permanency: of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, the percent who are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care.	<i>Suspended – evaluation in progress</i>	40.5%
Outcome 3: Children have the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential		
Relative placement: percent of days children in family foster care spent with a relative.	<i>Suspended – evaluation in progress</i>	45.0%
Paternity established: Percent of open child support cases with paternity established. (Paternity Established)	90%	90%
Outcome 4: People are economically secure		
Cash and SNAP: Percent of SNAP and cash assistance applications processed timely.	<i>Suspended for 2026</i>	90%
Order established: percent of open child support cases with an order established.	80%	80%
Self-Support Index: MFIP/DWP Self-Support Index.	Within Unique Range of Expected Performance	Above Unique Range of Expected Performance

How are the measures and thresholds changing for 2026?

The Performance Management System was designed to adapt over time to the evolving needs of those served and to reflect outcomes of essential human services programs accurately and meaningfully. The Performance Council voted to change some measures as outlined below:

- In 2025, the Council voted to **update** the timeframe of reporting on the Timeliness of Initial Disposition measure from the current reporting period of the state fiscal year, July 1 - June 30, to the calendar year, January 1- December 31. The adjustment of reporting with the calendar year will align the Performance Management measure with other state Adult Protection measures at the Department of Human Services and reduce confusion for counties.

- In 2025, the Council voted to temporarily **suspend** the cash and SNAP measure threshold for the 2026 reporting cycle (which is based on calendar year 2025 data) due to federal government shutdown impacts. Annual performance reports will still be distributed, but PIPs for this measure will not be required in 2026.
- For 2026, the three child welfare measure thresholds continue to be **suspended** as the Performance Management team completes their evaluation project. Through extensive internal and external engagement, the team gathered feedback on existing and potential measures from a variety of perspectives and will present findings and measure recommendations to the Council in 2026.
- For 2026, the child support paid measure threshold continues to be **suspended** as the Child Support Division, in collaboration with the Performance Management team, works on a project to create and pilot a data model and dashboard for counties to use. This model is intended to provide helpful insights to counties and ultimately lead to a new performance threshold. The model was pre-piloted by two counties in 2025 and will be piloted with multiple counties in 2026.

Please see the 2025 Bulletin, [Performance Management System 2025 Measures, Thresholds, and Reporting Schedule](#), for previous system changes.

II. Reporting schedule for 2026

Reports will be released according to the schedule below.

April 2026 – Economic Security | Adult Protection

Timely SNAP and Cash Assistance

Timeliness to Initial Disposition, Adult Protection

July 2026 – Child Welfare | Self-Support Index Measures

Child Maltreatment Recurrence

Permanency

Relative Placement

Self-Support Index

October 2026 – Child Support

Child Support Paid

Orders Established

Paternity Established

III. Additional Information

Please see the [Performance Management page on PartnerLink](#) for additional background and detailed information about the system. Contact the DCYF Performance Management team at hspm@state.mn.us or by phone at 651-431-5780.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-5780 (voice) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.