

**Goodhue  
County**  
MINNESOTA

# A family driven response

Addressing the safety needs  
of families, and the  
requirements of the African  
American Family Preservation  
Act

# Racial disparities in out of home care

Minnesota has significant racial disparities in out of home care for many years




Likelihood of out of home placement based on 2019 population estimates:

**American Indian** children were 16.4 times more likely,

**African American/Black** children 2.4 times more likely

Those identified as **two or more races** were 6.8 times more likely

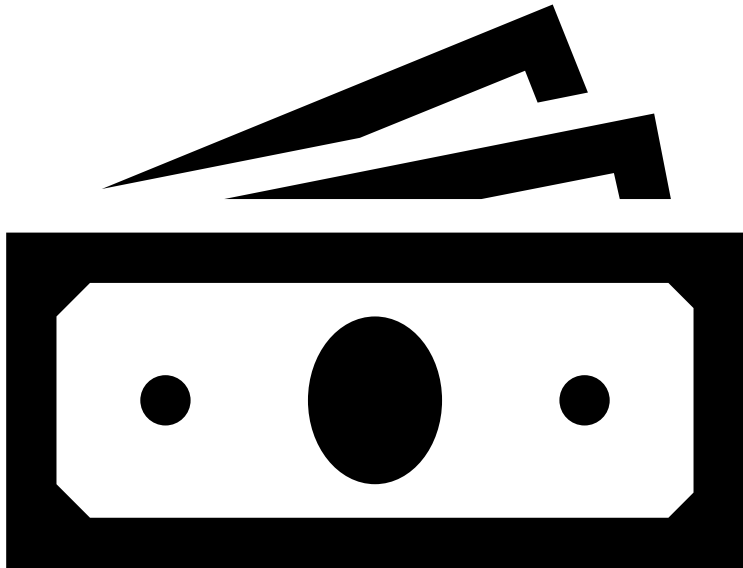
Minnesota African  
American Family  
Preservation and  
Child Welfare  
Disproportionality  
Act  
(MAAFPCWDA)

- Minnesota is raising the standard for out-of-home placement and permanency for children. New legislation requires child welfare agencies to make “**active efforts**” to prevent family separation and promote reunification for **African American** and **disproportionately represented** children.
  - [Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 117](#)
- 

# Responsible Social Services agencies must:

Provide **active efforts to prevent out-of-home placement** and reunify families for all children to whom the Act applies.

**Implement safety plans** with specific parameters to allow children to **remain in their home in most cases** for all children to whom the Act applies.



## Economic assessment & concrete supports

- The Social Services agency must assess the family's cultural and economic needs
- If neglect is alleged, the family's safety plan must incorporate economic services and supports to address the family's specific needs and prevent neglect.

# Court systems must

Limit the use of:

emergency removals

foster care placements

terminations of  
parental rights

Better ensuring children are not unnecessarily removed from their homes either temporarily or permanently.



---

# Clear and convincing evidence

---

- Unless the court finds clear and convincing evidence that a child is at risk of serious emotional or physical damage, a court **shall not** order a foster care placement.



# Training required

---

- Cultural competency training is required for case workers, supervisors, judges, guardians ad litem and attorneys working in the child welfare system



# Culturally informed services & support

At each hearing, the child welfare agency must provide evidence that it is providing culturally-informed, strengths-based, and community-based services to the family.

Child welfare agencies will need to strengthen coordination with other social services agencies to provide holistic support

# Case reviews and outcome reporting

---

- Responsible social service agencies will participate in **case reviews** and **provide annual summary reports** beginning Oct. 1, 2029 (except for Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, which must provide reports beginning Jan. 1, 2026), with outcomes based on guidance from the commissioner



# Reestablishment of parental rights

---

The **Family Reunification Act**, which allows parents and county attorneys to file petitions to reestablish parental rights of children under guardianship of the commissioner under certain conditions, was amended to allow children ages 10 or older, responsible social service agencies and guardians ad litem to also be able to file these petitions.

---

The length of time a child must have been in foster care following a termination of parental rights court order for a reestablishment petition to be filed was reduced from 48 months to 24 months.

# Safe Generations approach

---

Use Genograms & Explore the Family's Cultural Values

---

Create a Shared Risk Assessment – Involving the Family

---

Immediate Safety Plan to avoid Out of Home Placement

---

Develop the Family's Natural Safety Network

---

Safety Plan with Network for Reunification

---

Document & Refine Over Time

---