

**Goodhue
County**
MINNESOTA

Child Welfare Services

Benefits and costs



Cost of child maltreatment and out of home placement (OHP)

The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States, 2015 - ScienceDirect

- The cost estimates of child maltreatment examines the societal cost perspective and lifetime horizon but also accounts for victim and community intangible costs.
 - Estimated nonfatal child maltreatment per-victim lifetime cost: **\$830,928** (2015 USD)
 - Fatal per-victim cost: **\$16.6 million**.
- The estimated US population economic burden of child maltreatment based on 2015 *substantiated* incident cases (482,000 nonfatal and 1670 fatal victims) was \$428 billion, representing lifetime costs incurred annually.
- Using estimated incidence of *investigated* annual incident cases (2,368,000 nonfatal and 1670 fatal victims), the estimated economic burden was \$2 trillion.

Child Protection costs per child

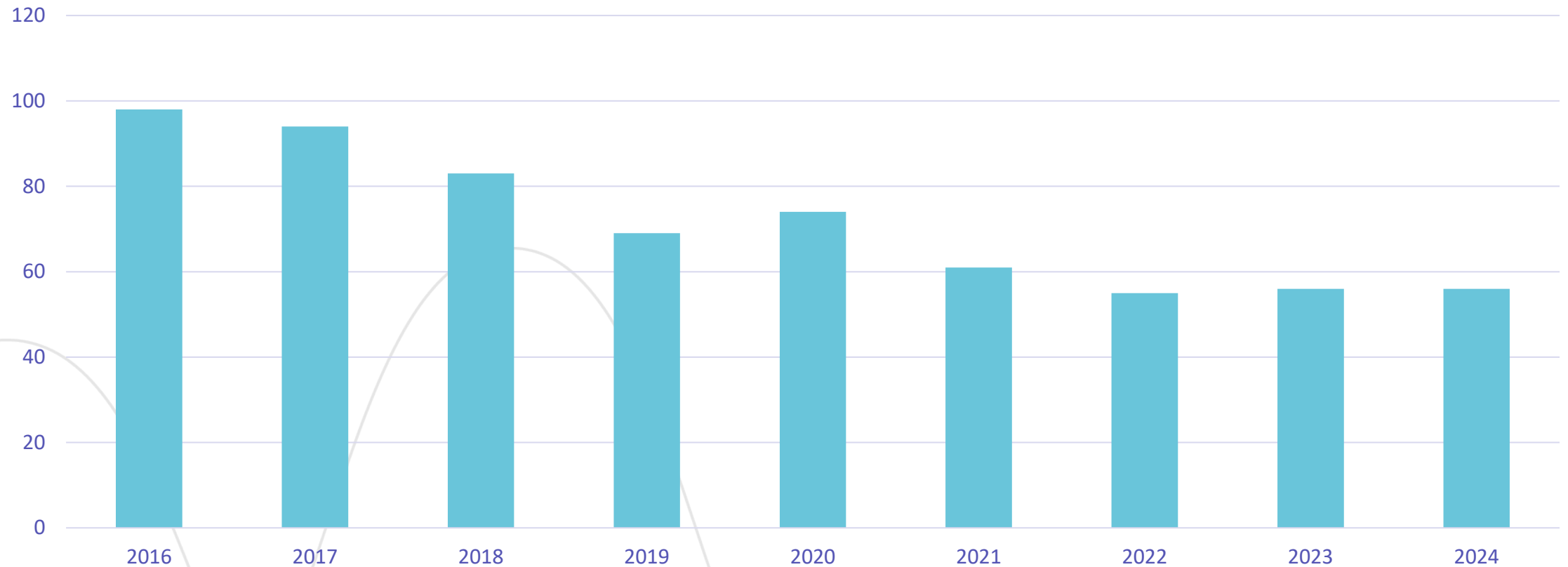
MMB estimated the per-child marginal cost of providing services to a child involved with the child welfare system at various stages. These costs consider the work of the state, counties, courts, and law enforcement.

Figure 4: Child welfare system marginal cost per child

	Investigations and family assessments	Court cases and filings	Ongoing, in- home case management	Out-of-home care and case management	Adoptions
Estimated marginal cost	\$1,090	\$3,600 (CHIPS) \$2,710 (Permanency)	\$5,790	\$28,290	\$100,070

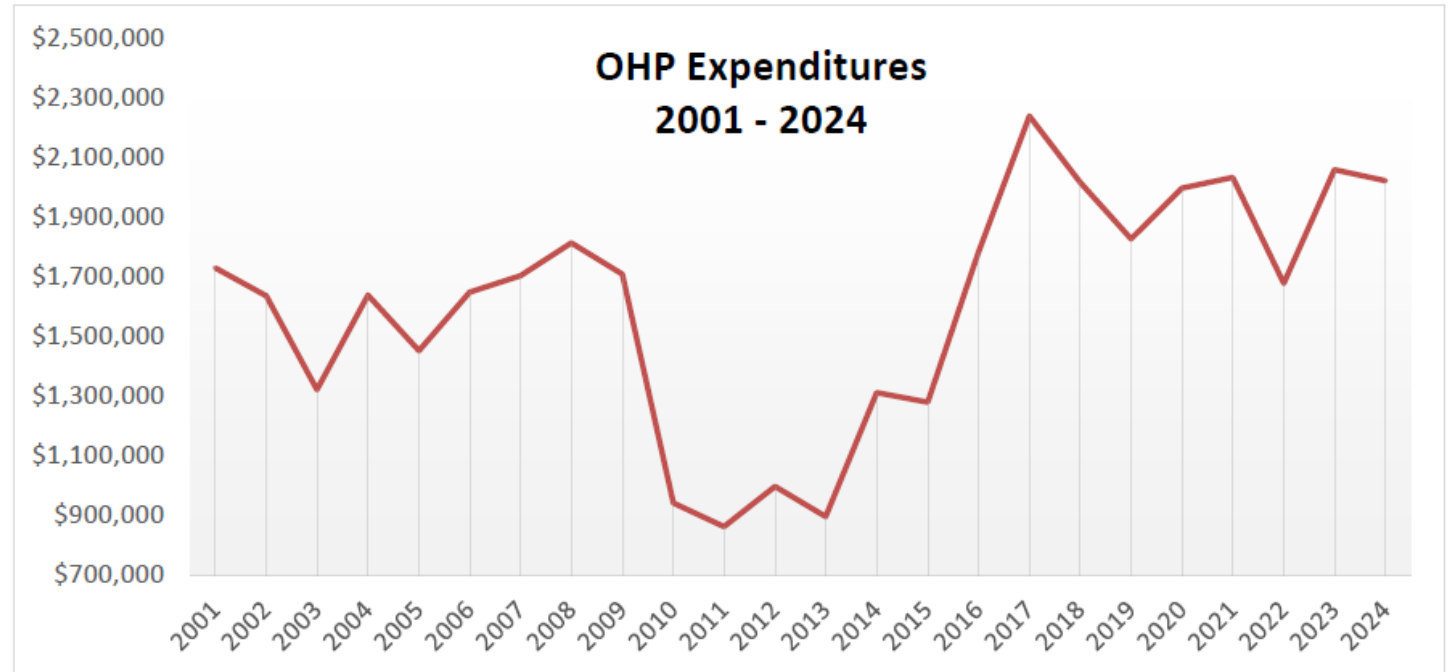
Children in out of home placement (OHP)

Goodhue County children in placement



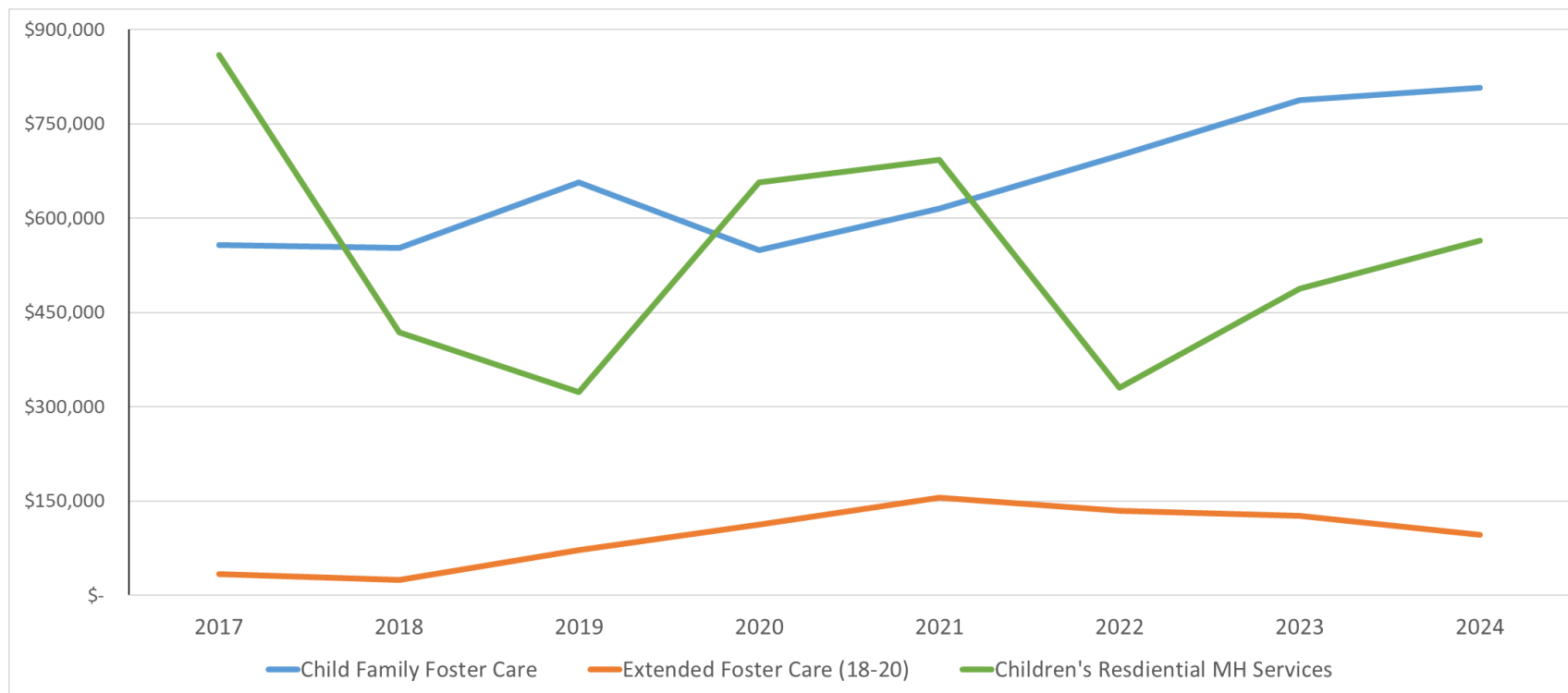
OHP costs

- Costs peaked in 2017
- In 2023-24, delayed permanency has impacted cost: a sibling group with significant needs has been in foster care for three years. The court delayed permanent placement until the criminal court trial ended, which took over a year.



Placement Costs in our OHP Budget

- Number of children in placement has decreased, but cost per placement has increased.
- One child had to be placed out of state in a mental health facility because no facility in Minnesota was willing or able. MA could not be billed, so the county paid the full cost of nearly \$350,000.
- These three placement categories tend to be about 70% of our OHP budget.

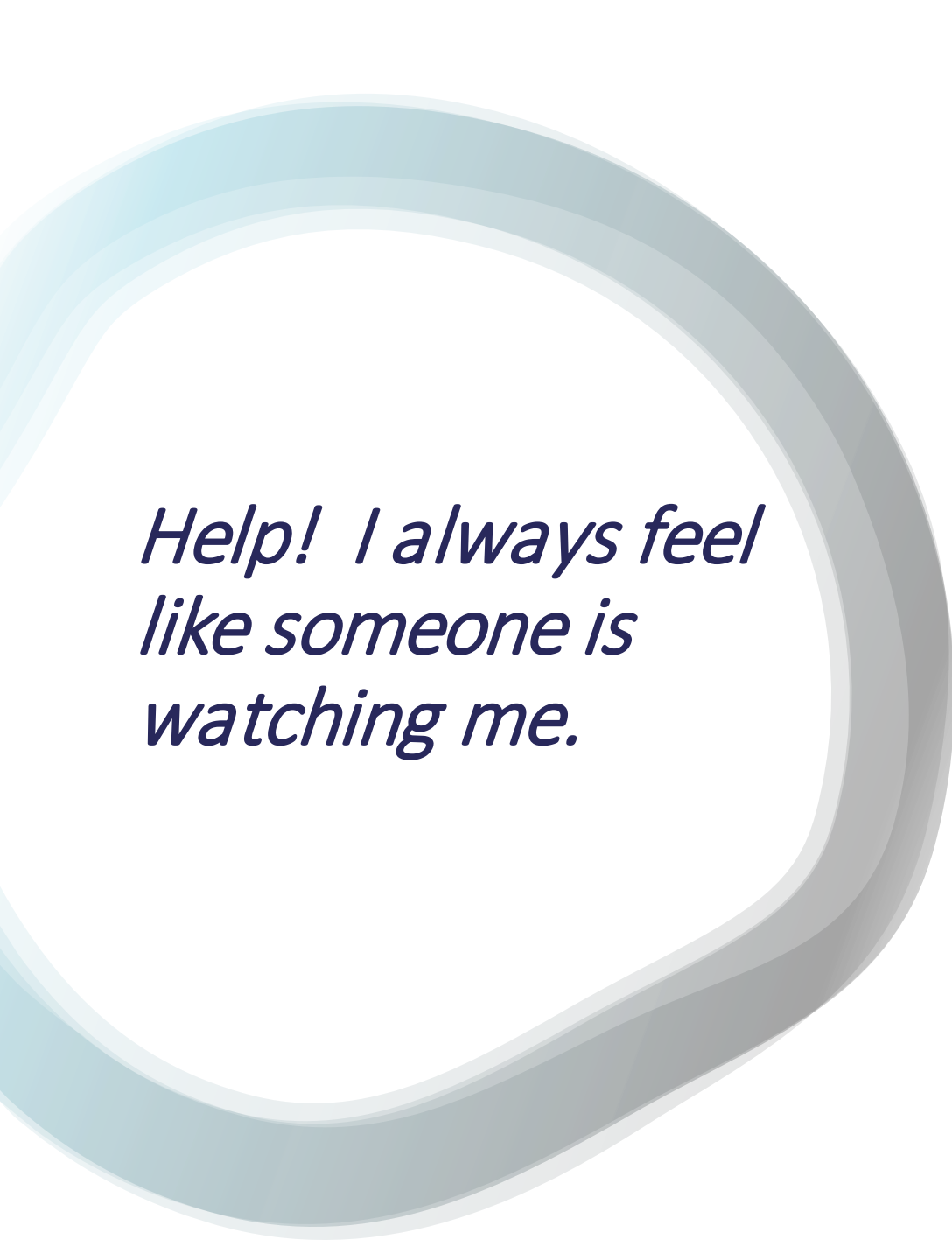


Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP)

Parent Support Outreach Program

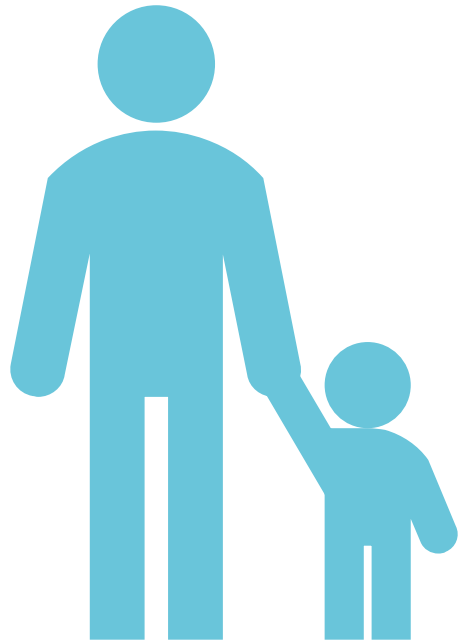
[Parent Support Outreach / Minnesota
Department of Human Services](#)

- The Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) is an **early intervention program** that provides short-term voluntary support for at risk children and families identified through screened out child maltreatment reports, community or self-referrals.
- GCHHS began providing PSOP services through a SCHA grant in 2014.
- GCHHS now has 2.5 PSOP workers
 - 1 position started in 2014
 - .5 FTE position that is shared with Goodhue County Ed District
 - 1 position added in the redesign in 2024



Help! I always feel like someone is watching me.

- A parent with two children struggled with suspicions that people were tampering with mail delivery. The parent was making police reports regularly. Co-parenting and parenting exchanges were filled with accusations and allegations of substance use due to these suspicions.
- The PSOP Social Worker was able to help the parent set up a PO Box. The parent was able to get mail without worries that someone was tampering with it. Addressing this worry helped the parent focus on issues with co-parenting and working with providers to manage stress and anxiety.



Help! I am not sure what to do.

- Becoming a parent during a global pandemic, a history of domestic violence, and housing uncertainty are stressful as individual events. The combination could be debilitating. An infant and parent were isolated. As the infant grew, motor skills did not, and verbal skills lagged as well.
- The PSOP Social Worker sat with the parent, learning about their strengths, their worries, and their hopes for the child. A Help Me Grow referral gave the parent the opportunity to meet with Early Childhood Education staff to start services to improve the child's gross motor skills and speech.

PSOP Works!

- Either of the previous scenarios could have resulted in a child protection assessment or investigation.
- Neither family experienced a child protection response.
- Both families were able to access services and safely parent their children with support from PSOP!



PSOP Works!

- When a PSOP Social Worker meets with a new family, they learn about the family's natural support system. One parent recently responded, *"I don't have any, but I have you!"*
- Families are referring friends to PSOP and reaching out to request PSOP when they need additional support.



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Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP)

After involvement with PSOP services:

- 77% of families report improvement in their ability to manage household resources
- 70% report improvement in family relationships
- 56% report improvement in their parenting skills.
- >90% of children remain with their families within three years



Loman et al. (2009) found effectiveness of PSOP in **reducing subsequent screened-in CPS reports**

Millett (2019) found that compared to families who received differential response services, families receiving PSOP services were **less likely to be reported to CPS & experience out-of-home placement**

PSOP Funding

- PSOP is currently funded in part by a state allocation.
- Counties submit a plan for the use of these funds that can be used to pay for staffing or concrete supports for families.
- Goodhue County's PSOP allocation provides direct and concrete supports to families.
- Staff time is reimbursable through Child Welfare- Targeted Case Management funding.
- **In 2024 PSOP staff billed for \$143,721 in CW-TCM funds (Medicaid reimbursement).**

CP assessments have decreased while PSOP cases have increased

Goodhue County cases 2020-2024



Family Support strategies

Safe Generations Approach

- In 2023, Region X Child Protection supervisors identified a need to **increase safety planning** training and consistency of services regionally.
- In collaboration with Region X, Safe Generations training was provided to child protection assessment social workers and case managers. Goodhue County funded this training through the state Opioid Allocation.
- Starting with the understanding that **primary caregivers are the experts of their experience**, resources, and children, workers learned how to build engagement and safety with families, working to prevent out of home placement.

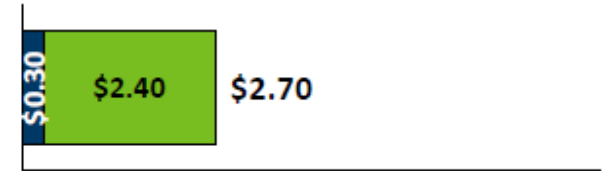
The Incredible Years

- In 2021, Goodhue County identified a service gap for families with **school age children**.
- We utilized funding from the Minnesota Child Protection Opioid Epidemic Response Allocation to implement The Incredible Years, an evidence-based program that aims to promote social, emotional, and academic competence for children ages 6-12.

- [Child Welfare Findings / Minnesota Management and Budget \(MMB\)](#)
- [Washington State Institute for Public Policy](#)

\$2.70
Benefit-cost ratio

Incredible Years: Parent training



■ State and local taxpayer ratio

■ Other Minnesota societal ratio (participants and society)

Type	Minnesota total	State and local taxpayer	Other Minnesota societal	Federal
Present value of lifetime benefits ¹	\$2,970	\$300	\$2,670	\$420
Average cost per participant ²	\$1,120	\$1,120	\$1,120	\$90
Benefit-cost ratio	\$2.70	\$0.30	\$2.40	\$4.60

¹ The sum of state and local taxpayer benefits and other Minnesota societal benefits equals the Minnesota total.

² The average cost per participant is \$1,210. The state share is \$1,120, and the federal share is \$90.

*All estimates are rounded to the nearest ten dollars and are in 2017 dollars.



Parent Feedback- The Incredible Years

- Two families that are nearing completion of The Incredible Years in-home parent skills training joined the child and family team in February to share how the program has impacted their families.

Parent Feedback-The Incredible Years

- **“It was scary at first,”** was how they described their initial response to this program. Having someone come into their home each week, talking about parenting, completing surveys, and the length of the program can be intimidating.
- **“Be patient,”** is what they would tell new families. Both families have been working with the program for 18 months. The length of time required to complete the program has allowed them to practice new skills and see changes. They shared that going through the program together has allowed them to help each other make changes.
- When there is conflict, they reported that they used to immediately yell or join into the conflict. Now they are using skills like “When/ Then”, incentives, rewards, routines, praising desired behavior, ignoring poor behavior, giving choices, and following through with expectations. **They noticed that desired behavior has increased because they are using new skills.**
- One parent reported that their step-son noticed positive changes and talked about them when learning to drive. **Before going through the program, the parent would not have imagined the possibility of this positive interaction.**



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Student Success



Prior to 2020, schools in Goodhue County sent truancy referrals directly to the Goodhue County Attorney's Office. Families, school staff, and court personnel were not seeing an improvement in school attendance or outcomes for many of those students and frustrations were high.



In August, 2021, Goodhue County introduced a new position to focus on school success and reduce truancy. We learned that families who were identified due to school attendance concerns were struggling with other issues including substance use, mental health symptoms, and a break down in the relationship between schools and families.



Since implementation, we have opened 174 child welfare assessments and provided child welfare case management services to 74 families to improve school attendance and outcomes for the student.



In 2024, \$74,100 was billed for CW-TCM services for families receiving student success case management.

Supportive Housing



Children of child welfare-involved families who face housing instability and receive a supportive housing program (housing voucher + case management) experience:

- **Fewer removals** (*9% vs. 40% in business-as-usual control group after 2 years*)
- **Lower prevalence of substantiated maltreatment** (*8% vs. 26% in control group after 18 months*)
- **Increased reunification** (*30% vs. 9% in control group after 2 years*)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) & Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)



Children from low-income families who participate in SNAP or WIC (jointly or alone) have a **lower risk of substantiated maltreatment reports**

(compared to children from low-income families who don't participate in either program)

Family Preservation with Concrete Supports



Families with open child welfare cases (mostly neglect) who receive a home-based services program with concrete supports are **17% less likely to experience a subsequent child maltreatment report** (during the first year)

(compared to families who receive the program without any concrete supports)



Questions?

Thank you!