

CHAPTER 256

HUMAN SERVICES

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256.01 COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES; POWERS, DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Powers transferred.** All the powers and duties now vested in or imposed upon the state board of control by the laws of this state or by any law of the United States are hereby transferred to, vested in, and imposed upon the commissioner of human services, except the powers and duties otherwise specifically transferred by Laws 1939, chapter 431, to other agencies. The commissioner of human services is hereby constituted the "state agency" as defined by the Social Security Act of the United States and the laws of this state.

Subd. 2. **Specific powers.** Subject to the provisions of section 241.021, subdivision 2, the commissioner of human services shall:

(1) Administer and supervise all forms of public assistance provided for by state law and other welfare activities or services as are vested in the commissioner. Administration and supervision of human services activities or services includes, but is not limited to, assuring timely and accurate distribution of benefits, completeness of service, and quality program management. In addition to administering and supervising human services activities vested by law in the department, the commissioner shall have the authority to:

(a) require county agency participation in training and technical assistance programs to promote compliance with statutes, rules, federal laws, regulations, and policies governing human services;

(b) monitor, on an ongoing basis, the performance of county agencies in the operation and administration of human services, enforce compliance with statutes, rules, federal laws, regulations, and policies governing welfare services and promote excellence of administration and program operation;

(c) develop a quality control program or other monitoring program to review county performance and accuracy of benefit determinations;

(d) require county agencies to make an adjustment to the public assistance benefits issued to any individual consistent with federal law and regulation and state law and rule and to issue or recover benefits as appropriate;

(e) delay or deny payment of all or part of the state and federal share of benefits and administrative reimbursement according to the procedures set forth in section 256.017; and

(f) make contracts with and grants to public and private agencies and organizations, both profit and nonprofit, and individuals, using appropriated funds.

(2) Inform county agencies, on a timely basis, of changes in statute, rule, federal law, regulation, and policy necessary to county agency administration of the programs.

(3) Administer and supervise all child welfare activities; promote the enforcement of laws protecting handicapped, dependent, neglected and delinquent children, and children born to mothers who were not married to the children's fathers at the times of the conception nor at the births of the children; license and supervise child-caring and child-placing agencies and institutions; supervise the care of children in boarding and foster homes or in private institutions; and generally perform all functions relating to the field of child welfare now vested in the state board of control.

(4) Administer and supervise all noninstitutional service to handicapped persons, including those who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, or physically impaired or otherwise handicapped. The commissioner may provide and contract for the care and treatment of qualified indigent children in facilities other than those located and available at state hospitals when it is not feasible to provide the service in state hospitals.

(5) Assist and actively cooperate with other departments, agencies and institu-

tions, local, state, and federal, by performing services in conformity with the purposes of Laws 1939, chapter 431.

(6) Act as the agent of and cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual concern relative to and in conformity with the provisions of Laws 1939, chapter 431, including the administration of any federal funds granted to the state to aid in the performance of any functions of the commissioner as specified in Laws 1939, chapter 431, and including the promulgation of rules making uniformly available medical care benefits to all recipients of public assistance, at such times as the federal government increases its participation in assistance expenditures for medical care to recipients of public assistance, the cost thereof to be borne in the same proportion as are grants of aid to said recipients.

(7) Establish and maintain any administrative units reasonably necessary for the performance of administrative functions common to all divisions of the department.

(8) Act as designated guardian of both the estate and the person of all the wards of the state of Minnesota, whether by operation of law or by an order of court, without any further act or proceeding whatever, except as to persons committed as mentally retarded.

(9) Act as coordinating referral and informational center on requests for service for newly arrived immigrants coming to Minnesota.

(10) The specific enumeration of powers and duties as hereinabove set forth shall in no way be construed to be a limitation upon the general transfer of powers herein contained.

(11) Establish county, regional, or statewide schedules of maximum fees and charges which may be paid by county agencies for medical, dental, surgical, hospital, nursing and nursing home care and medicine and medical supplies under all programs of medical care provided by the state and for congregate living care under the income maintenance programs.

(12) Have the authority to conduct and administer experimental projects to test methods and procedures of administering assistance and services to recipients or potential recipients of public welfare. To carry out such experimental projects, it is further provided that the commissioner of human services is authorized to waive the enforcement of existing specific statutory program requirements, rules, and standards in one or more counties. The order establishing the waiver shall provide alternative methods and procedures of administration, shall not be in conflict with the basic purposes, coverage, or benefits provided by law, and in no event shall the duration of a project exceed four years. It is further provided that no order establishing an experimental project as authorized by the provisions of this section shall become effective until the following conditions have been met:

(a) The proposed comprehensive plan, including estimated project costs and the proposed order establishing the waiver, shall be filed with the secretary of the senate and chief clerk of the house of representatives at least 60 days prior to its effective date.

(b) The secretary of health, education, and welfare of the United States has agreed, for the same project, to waive state plan requirements relative to statewide uniformity.

(c) A comprehensive plan, including estimated project costs, shall be approved by the legislative advisory commission and filed with the commissioner of administration.

(13) In accordance with federal requirements, establish procedures to be followed by local welfare boards in creating citizen advisory committees, including procedures for selection of committee members.

(14) Allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions which are based on quality control error rates for the aid to families with dependent children, medical assistance, or food stamp program in the following manner:

(a) One-half of the total amount of the disallowance shall be borne by the county boards responsible for administering the programs. For the medical assistance and AFDC programs, disallowances shall be shared by each county board in the same proportion as that county's expenditures for the sanctioned program are to the total of all

counties' expenditures for the AFDC and medical assistance programs. For the food stamp program, sanctions shall be shared by each county board, with 50 percent of the sanction being distributed to each county in the same proportion as that county's administrative costs for food stamps are to the total of all food stamp administrative costs for all counties, and 50 percent of the sanctions being distributed to each county in the same proportion as that county's value of food stamp benefits issued are to the total of all benefits issued for all counties. Each county shall pay its share of the disallowance to the state of Minnesota. When a county fails to pay the amount due hereunder, the commissioner may deduct the amount from reimbursement otherwise due the county, or the attorney general, upon the request of the commissioner, may institute civil action to recover the amount due.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), if the disallowance results from knowing noncompliance by one or more counties with a specific program instruction, and that knowing noncompliance is a matter of official county board record, the commissioner may require payment or recover from the county or counties, in the manner prescribed in paragraph (a), an amount equal to the portion of the total disallowance which resulted from the noncompliance, and may distribute the balance of the disallowance according to paragraph (a).

(15) Develop and implement special projects that maximize reimbursements and result in the recovery of money to the state. For the purpose of recovering state money, the commissioner may enter into contracts with third parties. Any recoveries that result from projects or contracts entered into under this paragraph shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to a special account until the balance in the account reaches \$400,000. When the balance in the account exceeds \$400,000, the excess shall be transferred and credited to the general fund. All money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes of this paragraph.

(16) Have the authority to make direct payments to facilities providing shelter to women and their children pursuant to section 256D.05, subdivision 3. Upon the written request of a shelter facility that has been denied payments under section 256D.05, subdivision 3, the commissioner shall review all relevant evidence and make a determination within 30 days of the request for review regarding issuance of direct payments to the shelter facility. Failure to act within 30 days shall be considered a determination not to issue direct payments.

(17) Have the authority to establish and enforce the following county reporting requirements:

(a) The commissioner shall establish fiscal and statistical reporting requirements necessary to account for the expenditure of funds allocated to counties for human services programs. When establishing financial and statistical reporting requirements, the commissioner shall evaluate all reports, in consultation with the counties, to determine if the reports can be simplified or the number of reports can be reduced.

(b) The county board shall submit monthly or quarterly reports to the department as required by the commissioner. Monthly reports are due no later than 15 working days after the end of the month. Quarterly reports are due no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the quarter, unless the commissioner determines that the deadline must be shortened to 20 calendar days to avoid jeopardizing compliance with federal deadlines or risking a loss of federal funding. Only reports that are complete, legible, and in the required format shall be accepted by the commissioner.

(c) If the required reports are not received by the deadlines established in clause (b), the commissioner may delay payments and withhold funds from the county board until the next reporting period. When the report is needed to account for the use of federal funds and the late report results in a reduction in federal funding, the commissioner shall withhold from the county boards with late reports an amount equal to the reduction in federal funding until full federal funding is received.

(d) A county board that submits reports that are late, illegible, incomplete, or not in the required format for two out of three consecutive reporting periods is considered noncompliant. When a county board is found to be noncompliant, the commissioner

shall notify the county board of the reason the county board is considered noncompliant and request that the county board develop a corrective action plan stating how the county board plans to correct the problem. The corrective action plan must be submitted to the commissioner within 45 days after the date the county board received notice of noncompliance.

(e) The final deadline for fiscal reports or amendments to fiscal reports is one year after the date the report was originally due. If the commissioner does not receive a report by the final deadline, the county board forfeits the funding associated with the report for that reporting period and the county board must repay any funds associated with the report received for that reporting period.

(f) The commissioner may not delay payments, withhold funds, or require repayment under paragraph (c) or (e) if the county demonstrates that the commissioner failed to provide appropriate forms, guidelines, and technical assistance to enable the county to comply with the requirements. If the county board disagrees with an action taken by the commissioner under paragraph (c) or (e), the county board may appeal the action according to sections 14.57 to 14.69.

(g) Counties subject to withholding of funds under paragraph (c) or forfeiture or repayment of funds under paragraph (e) shall not reduce or withhold benefits or services to clients to cover costs incurred due to actions taken by the commissioner under paragraph (c) or (e).

(18) Allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions for audit exceptions when federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions are based on a statewide random sample for the foster care program under title IV-E of the Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, in direct proportion to each county's title IV-E foster care maintenance claim for that period.

Subd. 3. Executive council, powers transferred. All the powers and duties now vested in or imposed upon the executive council, or any other agency which may have succeeded to its authority, relating to the administration and distribution of direct relief to the indigent or destitute, including war veterans and their families and dependents, are hereby transferred to, vested in, and imposed upon the commissioner of human services.

Subd. 4. Duties as state agency. The state agency shall:

(1) supervise the administration of assistance to dependent children under Laws 1937, chapter 438, by the county agencies in an integrated program with other service for dependent children maintained under the direction of the state agency;

(2) may subpoena witnesses and administer oaths, make rules, and take such action as may be necessary, or desirable for carrying out the provisions of Laws 1937, chapter 438. All rules made by the state agency shall be binding on the counties and shall be complied with by the respective county agencies;

(3) establish adequate standards for personnel employed by the counties and the state agency in the administration of Laws 1937, chapter 438, and make the necessary rules to maintain such standards;

(4) prescribe the form of and print and supply to the county agencies blanks for applications, reports, affidavits, and such other forms as it may deem necessary and advisable;

(5) cooperate with the federal government and its public welfare agencies in any reasonable manner as may be necessary to qualify for federal aid for aid to dependent children and in conformity with the provisions of Laws 1937, chapter 438, including the making of such reports and such forms and containing such information as the Federal Social Security Board may from time to time require, and comply with such provisions as such board may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports;

(6) may cooperate with other state agencies in establishing reciprocal agreements in instances where a child receiving aid to dependent children moves or contemplates moving into or out of the state, in order that such child may continue to receive super-

vised aid from the state moved from until the child shall have resided for one year in the state moved to;

(7) on or before October 1 in each even-numbered year make a biennial report to the governor concerning the activities of the agency; and

(8) enter into agreements with other departments of the state as necessary to meet all requirements of the federal government.

Subd. 5. Gifts, contributions, pensions and benefits; acceptance. The commissioner shall have the power and authority to accept in behalf of the state contributions and gifts for the use and benefit of children under the guardianship or custody of the commissioner; the commissioner may also receive and accept on behalf of such children, and on behalf of patients and residents at the several state hospitals for persons with mental illness or mental retardation during the period of their hospitalization and while on provisional discharge therefrom, money due and payable to them as old age and survivors insurance benefits, veterans benefits, pensions or other such monetary benefits. Such gifts, contributions, pensions and benefits shall be deposited in and disbursed from the social welfare fund provided for in sections 256.88 to 256.92.

Subd. 6. Advisory task forces. The commissioner may appoint advisory task forces to provide consultation on any of the programs under the commissioner's administration and supervision. A task force shall expire and the compensation, terms of office and removal of members shall be as provided in section 15.059.

Subd. 7. Special consultant on aging. The commissioner of human services may appoint a special consultant on aging in the classified service. Within the limits of appropriations available therefor, the commissioner may appoint such other employees in the classified service as the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the purposes of Laws 1961, Chapter 466. Such special consultant and staff shall encourage cooperation among agencies, both public and private, including the departments of the state government, in providing services for the aging. They shall provide consultation to county welfare boards in developing local services for the aging, shall promote volunteer services programs and stimulate public interest in the problem of the aging.

Subd. 8. County services coordinators. Any county or group of counties acting through its or their welfare board or boards may designate a county services coordinator who shall coordinate services and activities, both public and private, that may further the well being of the aging and meet their social, psychological, physical and economic needs. The coordinator shall perform such other duties as the board may direct to stimulate, demonstrate, initiate, and coordinate local public, private, and voluntary services within the county dedicated to providing the maximum opportunities for self help, independence, and productivity of individuals concerned. The board may appoint a citizens advisory committee which shall advise the coordinator and the board on the development of services and perform such other functions at the county level as are prescribed for the Minnesota board on aging at the state level. The members shall serve without compensation. Members of citizens advisory committees required by federal law for programs for the aging who receive federal money in payment for a portion of their actual expenses incurred in performance of their duties may receive the remaining portion from state money appropriated for programs for the aging.

Subd. 9. Staff assistance to the Minnesota board on aging. The board shall be provided staff assistance from the department of human services through the special consultant on aging, who shall serve as the executive secretary to the board and its committees.

Subd. 10. Authority to accept and disburse funds. The Minnesota board on aging is authorized to accept through the department of human services grants, gifts, and bequests from public or private sources for implementing programs and services on behalf of the aging, and to disburse funds to public and private agencies for the purpose of research, demonstration, planning, training, and service projects pertaining to the state's aging citizens.

Subd. 11. Centralized disbursement system. The state agency may establish a sys-

tem for the centralized disbursement of (1) assistance payments to recipients of aid to families with dependent children, (2) emergency assistance payments to needy families with dependent children as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1976, section 256.12, and (3) the benefit documents for food stamp recipients. The state agency shall adopt rules and set guidelines for the operation of the statewide system. If required by federal law or regulations promulgated thereunder, or by state law, or by rule of the state agency, each county shall pay to the state treasurer that portion of assistance for which the county is responsible. The commissioner shall designate the date on which a centralized disbursement system shall be established in any designated geographic area in the state and after that date sections 256.81, clause (2); 256.82; and 256.871, subdivision 1, shall be superseded by this section as to any county agency in the designated area. Federal funds available for administrative reimbursement shall be disbursed between the state and local welfare agencies on the same basis that reimbursements are earned.

Subd. 12. Child mortality review panel. (a) The commissioner shall establish a child mortality review panel for reviewing deaths of children in Minnesota, including deaths attributed to maltreatment or in which maltreatment may be a contributing cause. The commissioners of health, education, and public safety and the attorney general shall each designate a representative to the child mortality review panel. Other panel members shall be appointed by the commissioner, including a board-certified pathologist and a physician who is a coroner or a medical examiner. The purpose of the panel shall be to make recommendations to the state and to county agencies for improving the child protection system, including modifications in statute, rule, policy, and procedure.

(b) The commissioner may require a county agency to establish a local child mortality review panel. The commissioner may establish procedures for conducting local reviews and may require that all professionals with knowledge of a child mortality case participate in the local review. In this section, "professional" means a person licensed to perform or a person performing a specific service in the child protective service system. "Professional" includes law enforcement personnel, social service agency attorneys, educators, and social service, health care, and mental health care providers.

(c) If the commissioner of human services has reason to believe that a child's death was caused by maltreatment or that maltreatment was a contributing cause, the commissioner has access to not public data under chapter 13 maintained by state agencies, statewide systems, or political subdivisions that are related to the child's death or circumstances surrounding the care of the child. The commissioner shall also have access to records of private hospitals as necessary to carry out the duties prescribed by this section. Access to data under this paragraph is limited to police investigative data; autopsy records and coroner or medical examiner investigative data; hospital, public health, or other medical records of the child; hospital and other medical records of the child's parent that relate to prenatal care; and records created by social service agencies that provided services to the child or family within three years preceding the child's death. A state agency, statewide system, or political subdivision shall provide the data upon request of the commissioner. Not public data may be shared with members of the state or local child mortality review panel in connection with an individual case.

(d) Notwithstanding the data's classification in the possession of any other agency, data acquired by a local or state child mortality review panel in the exercise of its duties is protected nonpublic or confidential data as defined in section 13.02, but may be disclosed as necessary to carry out the purposes of the review panel. The data is not subject to subpoena or discovery. The commissioner may disclose conclusions of the review panel, but shall not disclose data that was classified as confidential or private data on decedents, under section 13.10, or private, confidential, or protected nonpublic data in the disseminating agency.

(e) A person attending a child mortality review panel meeting shall not disclose what transpired at the meeting, except to carry out the purposes of the mortality review panel. The proceedings and records of the mortality review panel are protected nonpublic data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 13, and are not subject to discovery.

or introduction into evidence in a civil or criminal action against a professional, the state or a county agency, arising out of the matters the panel is reviewing. Information, documents, and records otherwise available from other sources are not immune from discovery or use in a civil or criminal action solely because they were presented during proceedings of the review panel. A person who presented information before the review panel or who is a member of the panel shall not be prevented from testifying about matters within the person's knowledge. However, in a civil or criminal proceeding a person shall not be questioned about the person's presentation of information to the review panel or opinions formed by the person as a result of the review meetings.

History: (3199-102, 8688-4) 1937 c 438 s 2; 1939 c 431 art 7 s 2(a)(c); 1943 c 7 s 1; 1943 c 177 s 1; 1943 c 570 s 1; 1943 c 612 s 1,2; 1949 c 40 s 1; 1949 c 512 s 5,6; 1949 c 618 s 1; 1949 c 704 s 1; 1951 c 330 s 1; 1951 c 403 s 1; 1951 c 713 s 27; 1953 c 30 s 1; 1953 c 593 s 2; 1955 c 534 s 1; 1955 c 627 s 1; 1955 c 847 s 21; 1957 c 287 s 3; 1957 c 641 s 1; 1957 c 762 s 1,2; 1957 c 791 s 1; 1959 c 43 s 1; 1959 c 609 s 1; 1961 c 466 s 3-6; 1963 c 794 s 1; 1967 c 122 s 1; 1967 c 148 s 2; 1969 c 365 s 1; 1969 c 493 s 2; 1969 c 703 s 1; 1969 c 1157 s 1; 1971 c 24 s 26; 1973 c 540 s 4; 1973 c 717 s 12; 1974 c 536 s 2; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1975 c 437 art 2 s 1; 1976 c 2 s 89; 1976 c 107 s 1; 1976 c 149 s 52; 1976 c 163 s 55; 1977 c 400 s 1; 1980 c 357 s 21; 1980 c 618 s 8; 1983 c 7 s 3; 1983 c 10 s 1; 1983 c 243 s 5 subd 3; 1983 c 312 art 5 s 3; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 21,58; 1985 c 21 s 48,49; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 15; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 270 s 1; 1987 c 343 s 1; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 60; art 3 s 2; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 121; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 1; 1989 c 89 s 5; 1989 c 209 art 1 s 22; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 111,112; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.011 ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL GRANTS-IN-AID.

Subdivision 1. If, when and during such time as grants-in-aid are provided by the federal government for relief of the poor and accepted by this state, such aid shall be administered pursuant to and in accordance with rules promulgated and adopted by the commissioner of human services; and during such time any provision of Minnesota Statutes 1945, chapter 261, as amended by Laws 1947, chapter 546, of Minnesota Statutes 1945, chapter 262, and of Minnesota Statutes 1945, chapter 263, in conflict with such rules shall be and remain, to the extent of such conflict, inoperative and suspended.

Subd. 2. Grants-in-aid received from the federal government for any welfare, assistance or relief program or for administration under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of human services shall, in the first instance, be credited to a federal grant fund and shall be transferred therefrom to the credit of the commissioner of human services in the appropriate account upon certification of the commissioner of human services that the amounts so requested to be transferred have been earned or are required for the purposes and programs intended. Moneys received by the federal grant fund need not be budgeted as such, provided transfers from the fund are budgeted for allotment purposes in the appropriate appropriations.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of human services shall negotiate with the federal government, or any agency, bureau, or department thereof, for the purpose of securing or obtaining any grants or aids. Any grants or aids thus secured or received are appropriated to the commissioner of human services and made available for the uses and purposes for which they were received but shall be used to reduce the direct appropriations provided by law unless federal law prohibits such action or unless the commissioner of human services obtains approval of the governor who shall seek the advice of the legislative advisory commission.

History: 1949 c 618 s 2; 1953 c 593 s 2; 1976 c 163 s 56; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 248 s 70

256.012 MINNESOTA MERIT SYSTEM.

The commissioner of human services shall promulgate by rule personnel standards on a merit basis in accordance with federal standards for a merit system of personnel administration for all employees of county boards engaged in the administration of

community social services or income maintenance programs, all employees of human services boards that have adopted the rules of the Minnesota merit system, and all employees of county welfare boards.

Excluded from the rules are employees of institutions and hospitals under the jurisdiction of the aforementioned boards; employees of county personnel systems otherwise provided for by law that meet federal merit system requirements; duly appointed or elected members of the aforementioned boards; and the director of community social services and employees in positions that, upon the request of the appointing authority, the commissioner chooses to exempt, provided the exemption accords with the federal standards for a merit system of personnel administration.

History: 1980 c 614 s 129; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444

256.013 [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 73; 1965 c 116 s 1]

256.014 STATE AND COUNTY SYSTEMS.

Subdivision 1. Establishment of systems. The commissioner of human services shall establish and enhance computer systems necessary for the efficient operation of the programs the commissioner supervises, including:

(1) management and administration of the food stamp and income maintenance programs;

(2) management and administration of the child support enforcement program; and

(3) administration of medical assistance and general assistance medical care.

The commissioner shall distribute the nonfederal share of the costs of operating and maintaining the systems to the commissioner and to the counties participating in the system in a manner that reflects actual system usage, except that the nonfederal share of the costs of the MAXIS computer system and child support enforcement systems shall be born entirely by the commissioner. Development costs must not be assessed against county agencies.

Subd. 2. State systems account created. A state systems account is created in the state treasury. Money collected by the commissioner of human services for the programs in subdivision 1 must be deposited in the account. Money in the state systems account and federal matching money is appropriated to the commissioner of human services for purposes of this section.

Subd. 3. Report. The commissioner of human services shall report to the chair of the house appropriations committee and the chair of the senate finance committee on January 1 of each year detailing project expenditures to date, methods used to maximize county participation, and the fiscal impact on programs, counties, and clients.

History: 1Sp1986 c 1 art 8 s 4; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 5; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.015 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE LIEN ON RECIPIENT'S CAUSE OF ACTION.

Subdivision 1. State agency has lien. When the state agency provides, pays for, or becomes liable for medical care or furnishes subsistence or other payments to a person, the agency has a lien for the cost of the care and payments on all causes of action that accrue to the person to whom the care or payments were furnished, or to the person's legal representatives, as a result of the occurrence that necessitated the medical care, subsistence, or other payments.

Subd. 2. Perfection; enforcement. The state agency may perfect and enforce its lien under sections 514.69, 514.70, and 514.71, and must file the verified lien statement with the appropriate court administrator in the county of financial responsibility. The verified lien statement must contain the following: the name and address of the person to whom medical care, subsistence, or other payment was furnished; the date of injury; the name and address of vendors furnishing medical care; the dates of the service or payment; the amount claimed to be due for the care or payment; and to the best of the state agency's knowledge, the names and addresses of all persons, firms, or corporations claimed to be liable for damages arising from the injuries.

This section does not affect the priority of any attorney's lien. The state agency is not subject to any limitations period referred to in section 514.69 or 514.71 and has one year from the date notice is received by it under subdivision 4, paragraph (c), or one year from the date medical bills are first paid by the state agency, whichever is later, to file its verified lien statement. The state agency may commence an action to enforce the lien within one year of (1) the date the notice required by subdivision 4, paragraph (c), is received, or (2) the date the person's cause of action is concluded by judgment, award, settlement, or otherwise, whichever is later.

Subd. 3. Prosecutor. The attorney general, or the appropriate county attorney acting at the direction of the attorney general, shall represent the state agency to enforce the lien created under this section or, if no action has been brought, may initiate and prosecute an independent action on behalf of the state agency against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable to the person to whom the care or payment was furnished.

Subd. 4. Notice. The state agency must be given notice of monetary claims against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable in damages to the injured person when the state agency has paid for or become liable for the cost of medical care or payments related to the injury. Notice must be given as follows:

(a) Applicants for public assistance shall notify the state or county agency of any possible claims they may have against a person, firm, or corporation when they submit the application for assistance. Recipients of public assistance shall notify the state or county agency of any possible claims when those claims arise.

(b) A person providing medical care services to a recipient of public assistance shall notify the state agency when the person has reason to believe that a third party may be liable for payment of the cost of medical care.

(c) A person who is a party to a claim upon which the state agency may be entitled to a lien under this section shall notify the state agency of its potential lien claim before filing a claim, commencing an action, or negotiating a settlement.

Notice given to the county agency is not sufficient to meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c).

Subd. 5. Costs deducted. Upon any judgment, award, or settlement of a cause of action, or any part of it, upon which the state agency has filed its lien, including compensation for liquidated, unliquidated, or other damages, reasonable costs of collection, including attorney fees, must be deducted first. The full amount of public assistance paid to or on behalf of the person as a result of the injury must be deducted next, and paid to the state agency. The rest must be paid to the public assistance recipient or other plaintiff. The plaintiff, however, must receive at least one-third of the net recovery after attorney fees and other collection costs.

Subd. 6. When effective. The lien created under this section is effective with respect to any public assistance paid on or after August 1, 1987.

Subd. 7. Cooperation required. Upon the request of the department of human services, any state agency or third party payer shall cooperate with the department in furnishing information to help establish a third party liability. The department of human services shall limit its use of information gained from agencies and third party payers to purposes directly connected with the administration of its public assistance programs. The provision of information by agencies and third party payers to the department under this subdivision is not a violation of any right of confidentiality or data privacy.

History: 1987 c 370 art 2 s 3; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 122; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.016 PLAIN LANGUAGE IN WRITTEN MATERIALS.

(a) To the extent reasonable and consistent with the goals of providing easily understandable and readable materials and complying with federal and state laws governing the programs, all written materials relating to services and determinations of eligibility for or amounts of benefits that will be given to applicants for or recipients of

assistance under a program administered or supervised by the commissioner of human services must be understandable to a person who reads at the seventh-grade level, using the Flesch scale analysis readability score as determined under section 72C.09.

(b) All written materials relating to determinations of eligibility for or amounts of benefits that will be given to applicants for or recipients of assistance under programs administered or supervised by the commissioner of human services must be developed to satisfy the plain language requirements of the plain language contract act under sections 325G.29 to 325G.36. Materials may be submitted to the attorney general for review and certification. Notwithstanding section 325G.35, subdivision 1, the attorney general shall review submitted materials to determine whether they comply with the requirements of section 325G.31. The remedies available pursuant to sections 8.31 and 325G.33 to 325G.36 do not apply to these materials. Failure to comply with this section does not provide a basis for suspending the implementation or operation of other laws governing programs administered by the commissioner.

(c) The requirements of this section apply to all materials modified or developed by the commissioner on or after July 1, 1988. The requirements of this section do not apply to materials that must be submitted to a federal agency for approval, to the extent that application of the requirements prevents federal approval.

(d) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a lawsuit brought to require the commissioner to comply with this section or to affect individual appeal rights granted pursuant to section 256.045.

(e) The commissioner shall report annually to the chairs of the health and human services divisions of the senate finance committee and the house of representatives appropriations committee on the number and outcome of cases that raise the issue of the commissioner's compliance with this section.

History: 1988 c 689 art 2 s 123

256.017 COMPLIANCE SYSTEM.

Subdivision 1. Authority and purpose. The commissioner shall administer a compliance system for aid to families with dependent children, the food stamp program, emergency assistance, general assistance, work readiness, medical assistance, general assistance medical care, emergency general assistance, Minnesota supplemental assistance, preadmission screening, and alternative care grants under the powers and authorities named in section 256.01, subdivision 2. The purpose of the compliance system is to permit the commissioner to supervise the administration of public assistance programs and to enforce timely and accurate distribution of benefits, completeness of service and efficient and effective program management and operations, to increase uniformity and consistency in the administration and delivery of public assistance programs throughout the state, and to reduce the possibility of sanctions and fiscal disallowances for noncompliance with federal regulations and state statutes.

The commissioner shall utilize training, technical assistance, and monitoring activities, as specified in section 256.01, subdivision 2, to encourage county agency compliance with written policies and procedures.

Subd. 2. Definitions. The following terms have the meanings given for the purpose of this section.

(a) "Administrative penalty" means an adjustment against the county agency's state and federal benefit and federal administrative reimbursement when the commissioner determines that the county agency is not in compliance with the policies and procedures established by the commissioner.

(b) "Quality control case penalty" means an adjustment against the county agency's federal administrative reimbursement and state and federal benefit reimbursement when the commissioner determines through a quality control review that the county agency has made incorrect payments, terminations, or denials of benefits as determined by state quality control procedures for the aid to families with dependent children, food stamp, or medical assistance programs, or any other programs for which the commis-

sioner has developed a quality control system. Quality control case penalties apply only to agency errors as defined by state quality control procedures.

(c) "Quality control" means a review system of a statewide random sample of cases, designed to provide data on the accuracy with which state and federal policies are being applied in issuing benefits and as a fiscal audit to ensure the accuracy of expenditures. The quality control system is administered by the department. For the aid to families with dependent children, food stamp, and medical assistance programs, the quality control system is that required by federal regulation.

Subd. 3. Quality control case penalty. The department shall disallow, withhold, or deny state and federal benefit reimbursement and federal administrative reimbursement payment to a county when the commissioner determines that the county has incorrectly issued benefits or incorrectly denied or terminated benefits. These cases shall be identified by state quality control reviews.

Subd. 4. Determining the amount of the quality control case penalty. (a) The amount of the quality control case penalty is limited to the amount of the dollar error for the quality control sample month in a reviewed case as determined by the state quality control review procedures for the aid to families with dependent children and food stamp programs or for any other income transfer program for which the commissioner develops a quality control program.

(b) Payment errors in medical assistance or any other medical services program for which the department develops a quality control program are subject to set rate penalties based on the average cost of the specific quality control error element for a sample review month for that household size and status of institutionalization and as determined from state quality control data in the preceding fiscal year for the corresponding program.

(c) Errors identified in negative action cases, such as incorrect terminations or denials of assistance are subject to set rate penalties based on the average benefit cost of that household size as determined from state quality control data in the preceding fiscal year for the corresponding program.

Subd. 5. Administrative penalties. The department shall disallow or withhold state and federal benefit reimbursement and federal administrative reimbursement from county agencies when the actions performed by the county agency are not in compliance with the written policies and procedures established by the commissioner. The policies and procedures must be previously communicated to the county agency. A county agency shall not be penalized for complying with a written policy or procedure, even if the policy or procedure is found to be erroneous and is subsequently rescinded by the commissioner.

Subd. 6. Determining the amount of the administrative penalty. The amount of the penalty imposed on any county agency is based on the numbers of public assistance applicants and recipients that may be affected by the county agency's failure to comply with the policies and procedures established by the commissioner, the fiscal impact of the county agency's action, and the duration of the noncompliance as determined by the commissioner. Administrative penalties shall be imposed independent of any quality control case penalties.

Subd. 7. Process and exception. (a)(1) The department shall notify the county agency in writing of all proposed quality control case penalties.

(2) The county agency may submit a written exception of the quality control error claim and proposed penalty. The exception must be submitted to the commissioner within ten calendar days of the receipt of the penalty notice.

(3) Within 20 calendar days of receipt of the written exception, the commissioner shall sustain, dismiss, or amend the quality control findings and case penalty and notify the county agency, in writing, of the decision and the amount of any penalty. The commissioner's decision is not subject to judicial review.

(b)(1) The department shall notify the county agency in writing of any proposed administrative penalty, the date by which the county agency must correct the issues

noted in the penalty, and the time period within which the county agency must submit a corrective action plan for compliance.

(2) If the county agency fails to submit a corrective action plan within the stated time period, or if the corrective action plan does not bring the agency into compliance as determined by the department, or if the county agency fails to meet the commitments in the corrective action plan, the department shall issue the administrative penalty and notify the county agency in writing.

(3) The county agency may file written exception to the administrative penalty with the commissioner within 30 days of the receipt of the department's notice of issuing the administrative penalty. The county agency must notify the commissioner of its intent to file a written exception within ten days of the delivery of the department's notice of the administrative penalty. If the county agency does not notify the commissioner of its intent to file and does not file a written exception within the prescribed time periods, the department's initial decision shall be final.

(4) The commissioner shall sustain, dismiss, or amend the administrative penalty findings, and shall issue a written order to the county agency within 30 calendar days after receiving the county agency's written exception.

Subd. 8. Judicial review. A county agency that is aggrieved by the order of the commissioner in an administrative penalty of over \$75,000, or 1.5 percent of the total benefit expenditures for the income maintenance programs listed in subdivision 1, for that county, whichever is the lesser amount, may appeal the order to the court of appeals by serving a written copy of a notice of appeal upon the commissioner within 30 days after the date the commissioner issued the administrative penalty order, and by filing the original notice and proof of service with the court administrator of the court of appeals. Service may be made personally or by mail. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. The record of review shall consist of the advance notice of the administrative penalty to the county agency, the county agency corrective action plan if any, the final notice of the administrative penalty, the county agency's written exception to the administrative penalty order, and any other material submitted for the commissioner's consideration, and the commissioner's final written order. The court may affirm the commissioner's decision or remand the case for further proceedings, or it may reverse or modify the decision if the substantial rights of the county agency have been prejudiced because the decision is: (1) in excess of the statutory authority or jurisdiction of the agency; (2) unsupported by substantial evidence in view of the entire record as submitted; (3) arbitrary or capricious; or (4) in violation of constitutional provisions.

Subd. 9. Timing and disposition of penalty and case disallowance funds. Quality control case penalty and administrative penalty amounts shall be disallowed or withheld from the next regular reimbursement made to the county agency for state and federal benefit reimbursements and federal administrative reimbursements for all programs covered in this section, according to procedures established in statute, but shall not be imposed sooner than 30 calendar days from the date of written notice of such penalties. All penalties must be deposited in the county incentive fund provided in section 256.018. All penalties must be imposed according to this provision until a decision is made regarding the status of a written exception. Penalties must be returned to county agencies when a review of a written exception results in a decision in their favor.

Subd. 10. County obligation to make benefit payments. Counties subject to fiscal penalties shall not reduce or withhold benefits from eligible recipients of programs listed in subdivision 1 in order to cover the cost of penalties under this section. County funds shall be used to cover the cost of any penalties.

History: 1988 c 719 art 8 s 2; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.018 COUNTY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INCENTIVE FUND.

The commissioner shall grant incentive awards of money specifically appropriated for this purpose to counties: (1) that have not been assessed an administrative penalty

under section 256.017 in the corresponding fiscal year; and (2) that perform satisfactorily according to indicators established by the commissioner.

After consultation with county agencies, the commissioner shall inform county agencies in writing of the performance indicators that govern the awarding of the incentive fund for each fiscal year by April of the preceding fiscal year.

The commissioner may set performance indicators to govern the awarding of the total fund, may allocate portions of the fund to be awarded by unique indicators, or may set a sole indicator to govern the awarding of funds.

The funds shall be awarded to qualifying county agencies according to their share of benefits for the programs related to the performance indicators governing the distribution of the fund or part of it as compared to the total benefits of all qualifying county agencies for the programs related to the performance indicators governing the distribution of the fund or part of it.

History: 1988 c 719 art 8 s 3; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 113; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.019 RECOVERY OF MONEY; APPORTIONMENT.

When an amount is recovered from any source for assistance given under the provisions governing public assistance programs including aid to families with dependent children, emergency assistance, general assistance, work readiness, and Minnesota supplemental aid, there shall be paid to the United States the amount due under the terms of the Social Security Act and the balance must be paid into the treasury of the state or county in accordance with current rates of financial participation; except if the recovery is directly attributable to county effort, the county may keep one-half of the nonfederal share of the recovery. This does not apply to recoveries from medical providers or to recoveries begun by the department of human services' surveillance and utilization review division, state hospital collections unit, and the benefit recoveries division or, by the attorney general's office, or child support collections.

History: 1988 c 719 art 8 s 29

256.02 INVESTIGATIONS; EXAMINATIONS; SUPERVISION.

Subdivision 1. Duties. The commissioner of human services shall investigate the whole system of public charities and charitable institutions in the state, especially infirmaries and public hospitals, and examine their condition and management. The commissioner may require the officers in charge of any such institution to furnish such information and statistics as the commissioner deems necessary, upon blanks furnished by the commissioner. The commissioner shall examine all plans for new infirmaries, or for repairs at an estimated cost of over \$200, before the same are adopted by the county or other municipal board, and have an advisory supervision over all such institutions. Upon the request of the governor, the commissioner shall specially investigate any charitable institution and report its condition; and for this purpose the commissioner is hereby authorized to send for persons and papers, administer oaths, and take testimony to be transcribed and included in the report.

Subd. 2. [Temporary]

History: (4448) RL s 1899; 1949 c 228 s 1; 1961 c 750 s 27 subd 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444

256.025 PAYMENT PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(b) "Base amount" means the calendar year 1990 county share of county agency expenditures for all of the programs specified in subdivision 2.

(c) "County agency expenditure" means the total expenditure or cost incurred by the county of financial responsibility for the benefits and services for each of the programs specified in subdivision 2. The term includes the federal, state, and county share

of costs for programs in which there is federal financial participation. For programs in which there is no federal financial participation, the term includes the state and county share of costs. The term excludes county administrative costs, unless otherwise specified.

(d) "Nonfederal share" means the sum of state and county shares of costs of the programs specified in subdivision 2.

(e) The "county share of county agency expenditures growth amount" is the amount by which the county share of county agency expenditures in calendar years 1991 to 1997 has increased over the base amount.

Subd. 2. Covered programs and services. The procedures in this section govern payment of county agency expenditures for benefits and services distributed under the following programs:

(1) aid to families with dependent children under sections 256.82, subdivision 1, and 256.935, subdivision 1;

(2) medical assistance under sections 256B.041, subdivision 5, and 256B.19, subdivision 1;

(3) general assistance medical care under section 256D.03, subdivision 6;

(4) general assistance under section 256D.03, subdivision 2;

(5) work readiness under section 256D.03, subdivision 2;

(6) emergency assistance under section 256.871, subdivision 6;

(7) Minnesota supplemental aid under section 256D.36, subdivision 1;

(8) preadmission screening and alternative care grants under section 256B.091;

(9) work readiness services under section 256D.051;

(10) case management services under section 256.736, subdivision 13;

(11) general assistance claims processing, medical transportation and related costs; and

(12) medical assistance, medical transportation and related costs.

Subd. 3. Payment methods. The state shall pay counties, according to the reporting cycle established by the commissioner, all federal funds available for the services and benefits distributed under subdivision 2 together with an amount of state funds equal to the state share of expenditures, except as provided for in section 256.017. Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties for the county share of county agency expenditures for benefits and services distributed under subdivision 2 and funded by the human services account established under section 273.1392. Payments under subdivision 4 are only for client benefits and services distributed under subdivision 2 and do not include reimbursement for county administrative expenses.

Subd. 4. Payment schedule. Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties, according to the following payment schedule, for the county share of county agency expenditures for the programs specified in subdivision 2.

(a) Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse or pay the county share of county agency expenditures according to the reporting cycle as established by the commissioner, for the programs identified in subdivision 2. Payments for the period of January 1 through July 31, for calendar years 1991, 1992, and 1993 shall be made on or before July 10 in each of those years. Payments for the period August through December for calendar years 1991, 1992, and 1993 shall be made on or before the third of each month thereafter through December 31 in each of those years.

(b) Payment for 1/24 of the base amount and the January 1994 county share of county agency expenditures growth amount for the programs identified in subdivision 2 shall be made on or before January 3, 1994. For the period of February 1, 1994, through July 31, 1994, payment of the base amount shall be made on or before July 10, 1994, and payment of the growth amount over the base amount shall be made on or before the third of each month. Payments for the period August 1994 through December 1994 shall be made on or before the third of each month thereafter through December 31, 1994.

(c) Payment for the county share of county agency expenditures during January 1995 shall be made on or before January 3, 1995. Payment for 1/24 of the base amount and the February 1995 county share of county agency expenditures growth amount for the programs identified in subdivision 2 shall be made on or before February 3, 1995. For the period of March 1, 1995, through July 31, 1995, payment of the base amount shall be made on or before July 10, 1995, and payment of the growth amount over the base amount shall be made on or before the third of each month. Payments for the period August 1995 through December 1995 shall be made on or before the third of each month thereafter through December 31, 1995.

(d) Monthly payments for the county share of county agency expenditures from January 1996 through February 1996 shall be made on or before the third of each month through February 1996. Payment for 1/24 of the base amount and the March 1996 county share of county agency expenditures growth amount for the programs identified in subdivision 2 shall be made on or before March 1996. For the period of April 1, 1996, through July 31, 1996, payment of the base amount shall be made on or before July 10, 1996, and payment of the growth amount over the base amount shall be made on or before the third of each month. Payments for the period August 1996 through December 1996 shall be made on or before the third of each month thereafter through December 31, 1996.

(e) Monthly payments for the county share of county agency expenditures from January 1997 through March 1997 shall be made on or before the third of each month through March 1997. Payment for 1/24 of the base amount and the April 1997 county share of county agency expenditures growth amount for the programs identified in subdivision 2 shall be made on or before April 3, 1997. For the period of May 1, 1997, through July 31, 1997, payment of the base amount shall be made on or before July 10, 1997, and payment of the growth amount over the base amount shall be made on or before the third of each month. Payments for the period August 1997 through December 1997 shall be made on or before the third of each month thereafter through December 31, 1997.

(f) Monthly payments for the county share of county agency expenditures from January 1998 through April 1998 shall be made on or before the third of each month through April 1998. Payment for 1/24 of the base amount and the May 1998 county share of county agency expenditures growth amount for the programs identified in subdivision 2 shall be made on or before May 3, 1998. For the period of June 1, 1998, through July 31, 1998, payment of the base amount shall be made on or before July 10, 1998, and payment of the growth amount over the base amount shall be made on or before the third of each month. Payments for the period August 1998 through December 1998 shall be made on or before the third of each month thereafter through December 31, 1998.

(g) Monthly payments for the county share of county agency expenditures from January 1999 through May 1999 shall be made on or before the third of each month through May 1999. Payment for 1/24 of the base amount and the June 1999 county share of county agency expenditures growth amount for the programs identified in subdivision 2 shall be made on or before June 3, 1999. For the period of June 1, 1999, through July 31, 1999, payment shall be made on or before July 10, 1999. Payments for the period August 1999 through December 1999 shall be made on or before the third of each month thereafter through December 31, 1999.

(h) Effective January 1, 2000, monthly payments for the county share of county agency expenditures shall be made subsequent to the first of each month.

Payments under this subdivision are subject to the provisions of section 256.017.

Subd. 5. Comparison of expenditures. By October 1 of each year beginning with 1991, the department shall determine actual county share of county agency expenditures reported under subdivision 4 for the previous state fiscal year and compare these actual county share expenditures to actual state payments made under the schedule in subdivision 4 for the same period. Adjustment of any difference shall be paid upon the direction of the state agency.

History: *1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 1; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1990 c 604 art 4 s 1*

256.03 [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PLAN

256.031 MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Citation.** Sections 256.031 to 256.036 may be cited as the Minnesota family investment plan.

Subd. 2. **Legislative findings.** The legislature recognizes the need to fundamentally change the way government supports families. The legislature finds that many features of the current system of public assistance do not help families carry out their two basic functions: the economic support of the family unit and the care and nurturing of children. The legislature recognizes that the Minnesota family investment plan is an investment strategy that will support and strengthen the family's social and financial functions. This investment in families will provide long-term benefits through stronger and more independent families.

Subd. 3. **Authorization for the demonstration.** The commissioner of human services, in consultation with the commissioners of education, finance, jobs and training, health, and planning, and the directors of the higher education coordinating board and the office of jobs policy, is authorized to proceed with the planning and designing of the Minnesota family investment plan and test policies, methods, and cost impact on an experimental basis by using field trials. Sections 256.031 to 256.033 describe the basic principles of the program. Sections 256.034 to 256.036 provide a basis for congressional action. Using sections 256.031 to 256.036, the commissioner shall seek congressional authority to implement the program in field trials. After obtaining congressional authority to implement the Minnesota family investment plan in field trials, the commissioner shall request specific appropriations from the legislature to implement field trials. The field trials must be conducted for as many years as necessary, and in different geographical settings, to provide reliable instruction about the desirability of expanding the program statewide.

Subd. 4. **Goals of the Minnesota family investment plan.** The commissioner shall design the program to meet the following goals:

(1) to support families' transition to financial independence by emphasizing options, removing barriers to work and education, providing necessary support services, and building a supportive network of education, employment and training, health, social, counseling, and family-based services;

(2) to allow resources to be more effectively and efficiently focused on investing in families by removing the complexity of current rules and procedures and consolidating public assistance programs;

(3) to prevent long-term dependence on public assistance through paternity establishment, child support enforcement, emphasis on education and training, and early intervention with minor parents; and

(4) to provide families with an opportunity to increase their living standard by rewarding efforts aimed at transition to employment and by allowing families to keep a greater portion of earnings when they become employed.

Subd. 5. **Federal waivers.** The commissioner of human services shall seek authority from Congress to implement the Minnesota family investment plan on a demonstration basis. If necessary, the commissioner shall seek waivers of compliance with requirements for: aid to families with dependent children under United States Code, title 42, sections 601 to 679a, as amended; medical assistance under United States Code, title 42, sections 1396 to 1396s, as amended; food stamps under United States Code, title 7, sections 2011 to 2030, as amended; and other federal requirements that would inhibit implementation of the Minnesota family investment plan. The commissioner shall seek terms from the federal government that are consistent with the goals of the Minnesota family investment plan. The commissioner shall also seek terms from the federal government that will maximize federal financial participation so that the extra

costs to the state of implementing the program are minimized, to the extent that those terms are consistent with the goals of the Minnesota family investment plan. An agreement with the federal government under this section shall provide that the agreements may be canceled by the state or federal government upon six months' notice or immediately upon mutual agreement. If the agreements are canceled, families receiving assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan who are eligible for the aid to families with dependent children, general assistance, medical assistance, general assistance medical care, and the food stamp programs must be placed on those programs.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 6

256.032 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope of definitions.** The terms used in sections 256.031 to 256.036 have the meanings given them unless otherwise provided or indicated by the context.

Subd. 2. **Caregiver.** "Caregiver" means a minor child's natural or adoptive parent or parents who live in the home with the minor child. For purposes of determining eligibility for this program, "caregiver" also means any of the following individuals who live with and provide care and support to a minor child when the minor child's natural or adoptive parent or parents do not reside in the same home: grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, persons of preceding generations as denoted by prefixes of "great" or "great-great," or a spouse of any person named in the above groups even after the marriage ends by death or divorce.

Subd. 3. **Case management.** "Case management" means the assessment of family needs and coordination of services necessary to support the family in its social and economic roles, in addition to the services described in section 256.736, subdivision 11.

Subd. 4. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services or a designee.

Subd. 5. **Contract.** "Contract" means a family self-sufficiency plan, described in section 256.035, subdivision 7, based on the case manager's assessment of the family's needs and abilities and developed, together with a parental caregiver, by a county agency or its designee.

Subd. 6. **Department.** "Department" means the department of human services.

Subd. 7. **Family.** For purposes of determining eligibility for this program, "family" includes the following individuals who live together: a minor child or a group of minor children related to each other as siblings, half siblings, stepsiblings, or adopted siblings, together with their natural or adoptive parents, or their caregiver as defined in subdivision 2. "Family" also includes a pregnant woman in the third trimester of pregnancy with no children.

Subd. 8. **Family wage level.** "Family wage level" means 120 percent of the transitional standard, as defined in subdivision 13.

Subd. 9. **Orientation.** "Orientation" means a presentation that meets the requirements of section 256.736, subdivision 10a, provides information to caregivers about the Minnesota family investment plan, and encourages parental caregivers to engage in activities that will stabilize the family and lead to self-sufficiency.

Subd. 10. **Program.** "Program" means the Minnesota family investment plan.

Subd. 11. **Significant change.** "Significant change" means a change of ten percent or \$50, whichever is less, in monthly gross family earned income, or a change in family composition.

Subd. 12. **Transitional status.** "Transitional status" means the status of caregivers who are independently pursuing self-sufficiency or caregivers who are complying with the terms of a contract with a county agency or its designee.

Subd. 13. **Transitional standard.** "Transitional standard" means the sum of the AFDC standard of assistance and the full cash value of food stamps for a family of the same size and composition in effect when implementation of the Minnesota family

investment plan begins. This standard applies to families in which the parental caregiver is in transitional status and to families in which the caregiver is exempt from having a contract or is exempt from complying with the terms of the contract. Full cash value of food stamps is the amount of the cash value of food stamps to which a family of a given size would be entitled for a month, determined by assuming unearned income equal to the AFDC standard for a family of that size and composition and subtracting the standard deduction and maximum shelter deduction from gross family income, as allowed under the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and Public Law Number 100-435. The assistance standard for a family consisting of a pregnant woman in the third trimester of pregnancy with no children must equal the assistance standard for one adult and one child.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 7

256.033 ELIGIBILITY FOR THE MINNESOTA FAMILY INVESTMENT PLAN.

Subdivision 1. Eligibility conditions. A family is eligible for and entitled to assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan if:

- (1) the family's net income, after deducting an amount to cover taxes and actual dependent care costs up to the maximum disregarded under United States Code, title 42, section 602(a)(8)(A)(iii), does not exceed the applicable standard of assistance for that family as defined under section 256.032, subdivision 13; and
- (2) the family's nonexcluded resources do not exceed \$2,000.

Subd. 2. Determination of family income. The aid to families with dependent children income exclusions listed in Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, sections 233.20(a)(3) and 233.20(a)(4), must be used when determining a family's available income, except that:

- (1) the disregard of the first \$75 of gross earned income is replaced with a single disregard described in section 256.035, subdivision 4, paragraph (a);
- (2) all earned income of a minor child receiving assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan is excluded when the child is attending school at least half-time;
- (3) all earned income tax credit payments received by the family as a refund of federal income taxes or made as advance payments are excluded in accordance with United States Code, title 42, section 602(a)(8)(A)(viii);
- (4) educational grants and loans as provided in section 256.74, subdivision 1, clause (2), are excluded; and
- (5) all other income listed in Minnesota Rules, part 9500.2380, subpart 2, is excluded.

Subd. 3. Determination of family resources. When determining a family's resources, the following are excluded:

- (1) the family's home, together with the surrounding property not separated from the home by intervening property owned by others;
- (2) one burial plot for each family member;
- (3) one prepaid burial contract with an equity value of no more than \$1,500 for each member of the family;
- (4) licensed automobiles, trucks, or vans up to a total equity value of \$4,500;
- (5) the value of personal property needed to produce earned income, including tools, implements, farm animals, and inventory;
- (6) the entire equity value of a motor vehicle determined to be necessary for the operation of a self-employment business; and
- (7) clothing, necessary household furniture, equipment, and other basic maintenance items essential for daily living.

Subd. 4. Treatment of SSI and MSA. The monthly benefits and any other income received through the supplemental security income or Minnesota supplemental aid programs and any real or personal property of a person receiving supplemental security

income or Minnesota supplemental aid must be excluded in determining the family's eligibility for the Minnesota family investment plan and the amount of assistance. In determining the amount of assistance to be paid to the family, the needs of the person receiving supplemental security income or Minnesota supplemental aid must not be taken into account.

Subd. 5. Ability to apply for food stamps. A family that is ineligible for assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan due to income or resources may apply for, and if eligible receive, benefits under the food stamp program.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 8

256.034 PROGRAM SIMPLIFICATION.

Subdivision 1. Consolidation of types of assistance. Under the Minnesota family investment plan, assistance previously provided to families through the AFDC, food stamp, and general assistance programs must be combined into a single cash assistance program. If authorized by Congress, families receiving assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan are automatically eligible for and entitled to medical assistance under chapter 256B. Federal, state, and local funds that would otherwise be allocated for assistance to families under the AFDC, food stamp, and general assistance programs must be transferred to the Minnesota family investment plan. The provisions of the Minnesota family investment plan prevail over any provisions of sections 256.72 to 256.87 or 256D.01 to 256D.21 with which they are irreconcilable. The food stamp, general assistance, and work readiness programs for single persons and couples who are not responsible for the care of children are not replaced by the Minnesota family investment plan.

Subd. 2. Coupon option. Families have the option to receive a portion of their assistance, designated by the commissioner, in the form of food coupons or vendor payments.

Subd. 3. Modification of eligibility tests. (a) A needy family is eligible and entitled to receive assistance under the program even if its children are not found to be deprived of parental support or care by reason of death, continued absence from the home, physical or mental incapacity of a parent, or unemployment of a parent, provided the family's income and resources do not exceed the eligibility requirements in section 256.033. In addition, a family member who is physically and mentally fit, who is between the ages of 18 and 60 years, who is enrolled at least half time in an institution of higher education, and whose family income and resources do not exceed the eligibility requirements in section 256.033, is eligible for assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan even if the conditions for eligibility as prescribed under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, are not met.

(b) An applicant for, or a person receiving, assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan is considered to have assigned to the public agency responsible for child support enforcement at the time of application all rights to child support and maintenance from any other person the applicant may have in the applicant's own behalf or on behalf of any other family member for whom application is made under the Minnesota family investment plan. The provisions of section 256.74, subdivision 5, govern the assignment. An applicant for, or a person receiving, assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan shall cooperate with the efforts of the county agency to collect child and spousal support. The county agency is entitled to any child support and maintenance received by or on behalf of the person receiving assistance or another member of the family for which the person receiving assistance is responsible. Failure by an applicant or a person receiving assistance to cooperate with the efforts of the county agency to collect child and spousal support without good cause must be sanctioned according to section 256.035, subdivision 3.

(c) An applicant for, or a person receiving, assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan is not required to comply with the employment and training requirements prescribed under sections 256.736, subdivisions 3, 3a, and 14; and 256D.05, subdivision 1; section 402(a)(19) of the Social Security Act; the federal Food Stamp Act

of 1977, as amended; Public Law Number 100-485; or any other state or federal employment and training program, unless compliance is specifically required in a contract with the county agency.

Subd. 4. Simplification of budgeting procedures. The monthly amount of assistance provided by the Minnesota family investment plan must be calculated on a prospective basis taking into account actual income or circumstances that existed in a previous month and other relevant information to predict income and circumstances for the next month or months. When a family has a significant change in circumstances, the budgeting cycle must be interrupted and the amount of assistance for the payment month must be based on the county agency's best estimate of the family's income and circumstances for that month. Families may be required to report their income monthly, but income may be averaged over a period of more than one month.

Subd. 5. Simplification of verification procedures. Verification procedures must be reduced to the minimum that is workable and consistent with the goals and requirements of the Minnesota family investment plan.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 9

256.035 INCOME SUPPORT AND TRANSITION.

Subdivision 1. Expectations. All families eligible for assistance under the family investment plan are expected to be in transitional status as defined in section 256.032, subdivision 12. To be considered in transitional status, families must meet the following expectations:

(a) For a family headed by a single adult parent, the expectation is that the parent will independently pursue self-sufficiency until the family has received assistance for 24 months within the preceding 36 months. Beginning with the 25th month of assistance, the parent must be developing or have a contract and comply with the terms of the contract with the county agency or its designee.

(b) For a family with a minor parent, the expectation is that, concurrent with the receipt of assistance, the minor parent must be developing or have a contract with the county agency. The terms of the contract must include compliance with section 256.736, subdivision 3b.

(c) For a family with two adult parents, the expectation is that one or both parents will independently pursue self-sufficiency until the family has received assistance for six months within the preceding 12 months. Beginning with the seventh month of assistance, one parent must be developing or have a contract and comply with the terms of the contract with the county agency or its designee.

Subd. 2. Exemptions. A caregiver is exempt from the requirement of developing a contract and complying with the terms of the contract developed with the county agency, or engaging in transitional activities, if:

- (1) the caregiver is not the natural or adoptive parent of a minor child; or
- (2) in the case of a parental caregiver, the county agency determines that:
 - (i) individual circumstances prevent compliance;
 - (ii) support services necessary to enable compliance are not available;
 - (iii) activities identified in the contract are not available; or
 - (iv) a parental caregiver is willing to accept suitable employment but employment is not available.

Subd. 3. Sanctions. A family whose parental caregiver is not exempt from the expectations in subdivision 1 and who is not complying with those expectations must have assistance reduced by a value equal to ten percent of the transitional standard as defined in section 256.032, subdivision 13. This reduction continues until the failure to comply ceases. The county agency must notify the parental caregiver of its intent to implement this sanction and the opportunity to have a conciliation conference, upon request, before the sanctions are implemented.

Subd. 4. Treatment of income. To help families during their transition from the

Minnesota family investment plan to self-sufficiency, the following income supports are available:

(a) The \$30 and one-third and \$75 disregards allowed under section 256.74, subdivision 1, and the 20 percent earned income deduction allowed under the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, are replaced with a single disregard of not less than 35 percent of gross earned income to cover taxes and other work-related expenses and to reward the earning of income. This single disregard is available for the entire time a family receives assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan.

(b) The dependent care deduction, as prescribed under section 256.74, subdivision 1, and United States Code, title 7, section 2014(e), is replaced for families with earned income who need assistance with dependent care with an entitlement to a dependent care subsidy from money earmarked for the Minnesota family investment plan.

(c) The family wage level, as defined in section 256.032, subdivision 8, allows families to supplement earned income with assistance received through the Minnesota family investment plan. If, after earnings are adjusted according to the disregard described in paragraph (a), earnings have raised family income to a level equal to or greater than the family wage level, the amount of assistance received through the Minnesota family investment plan must be reduced.

(d) The first \$50 of any timely support payment for a month received by the public agency responsible for child support enforcement shall be paid to the family and disregarded in determining eligibility and the amount of assistance in accordance with United States Code, title 42, sections 602(a)(8)(A)(vi) and 657(b)(1). This paragraph applies regardless of whether the caregiver is in transitional status, is exempt from having or complying with the terms of a contract, or has had a sanction imposed under subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. Orientation. All caregivers receiving assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan must attend orientation.

Subd. 6. Contract. (a) To receive the transitional standard of assistance, a single adult parent who is a member of a family that has received assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan for 24 months within the preceding 36 months, a minor parent receiving assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan, and one parent in a two-parent family that has received assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan for six months within the preceding 12 months, must comply with the terms of a contract with the county agency or its designee unless exempt under subdivision 2. Case management must be provided to a caregiver who is a parent to assist the caregiver in meeting established goals and to monitor the caregiver's progress toward achieving those goals. The parental caregiver and the county agency must finalize the contract as soon as possible, but in any event within a reasonable period of time after the deadline specified in subdivision 1, paragraph (a), (b), or (c), whichever applies.

(b) A contract must identify the parental caregiver's employment goal and explain what steps the family must take to pursue self-sufficiency. Activities may include:

- (1) orientation;
- (2) employment;
- (3) employment and training services as defined under section 256.736, subdivision 1a, paragraph (d);
- (4) preemployment activities;
- (5) participation in an educational program leading to a high school or general equivalency diploma and post-secondary education programs, excluding postbaccalaureate degrees as provided in section 256.736, subdivision 1a, paragraph (d);
- (6) case management;
- (7) social services; or
- (8) other programs or services leading to self-sufficiency.

The contract must also identify the services that the county agency will provide to the

family that the family needs to enable the parental caregiver to comply with the contract, including support services such as transportation and child care.

Subd. 7. Employment bonus. A family leaving the program as a result of increased earnings through employment is entitled to an employment bonus. This bonus is a one-time cash incentive, not more than the family's monthly payment standard, to cover initial expenses incurred by the family leaving the Minnesota family investment plan.

Subd. 8. Child care. The commissioner shall ensure that each Minnesota family investment plan caregiver who is a parent in transitional status and who needs assistance with child care costs to independently pursue self-sufficiency or comply with the terms of a contract with the county agency receives a child care subsidy through child care money earmarked for the Minnesota family investment plan. The subsidy must cover all actual child care costs for eligible hours up to the maximum rate allowed under sections 256H.15 and 256H.16. A caregiver who is a parent who leaves the program as a result of increased earnings from employment and who needs child care assistance to remain employed is entitled to extended child care assistance as provided under United States Code, title 42, section 602(g)(1)(A)(ii).

Subd. 9. Health care. A family leaving the program as a result of increased earnings from employment is eligible for extended medical assistance as provided under Public Law Number 100-485, section 303, as amended.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 10

256.036 PROTECTIONS.

Subdivision 1. Support services. If assistance with child care or transportation is necessary to enable a caregiver who is a parent to work, obtain training or education, attend orientation, or comply with the terms of a contract with the county agency, and the county determines that child care or transportation is not available, the family's applicable standard of assistance continues to be the transitional standard.

Subd. 2. Volunteers. For caregivers receiving assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan who are independently pursuing self-sufficiency, case management and support services other than child care are available to the extent that resources permit.

Subd. 3. Notification requirement. The county agency shall contact a family headed by a single adult parent when the family has received assistance through the Minnesota family investment plan for 18 months within the preceding 36 months. The county agency shall remind the family that beginning with the 24th month of assistance, receipt of the transitional standard is contingent upon transitional status. The county agency shall encourage the family to begin preparing for the change in expectations.

Subd. 4. Timely assistance. Applications must be processed in a timely manner according to the processing standards of the federal Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and no later than 30 days following the date of application, unless the county agency has requested information that the applicant has not yet supplied. Financial assistance must be provided on no less than a monthly basis to eligible families.

Subd. 5. Due process. Any family that applies for or receives assistance under the Minnesota family investment plan whose application for assistance is denied or not acted upon with reasonable promptness, or whose assistance is suspended, reduced, terminated, or claimed to have been incorrectly paid, is entitled, upon request, to a hearing under section 256.045. A parental caregiver may request a conciliation conference, under section 256.736, subdivisions 4a and 11, when the caregiver disputes the contents of a contract developed under the Minnesota family investment plan or disputes a decision regarding failure or refusal to cooperate with the terms of a contract. The disputes are not subject to administrative review under section 256.045, unless they result in a denial, suspension, reduction, or termination, and the parental caregiver complies with section 256.045. A caregiver need not request a conciliation conference to request a hearing according to section 256.045.

Subd. 6. Treatment of food assistance. The portion of cash assistance provided

under the Minnesota family investment plan that the commissioner designates as representing food assistance must be disregarded for other local, state, or federal programs.

Subd. 7. Adjustment of food assistance amount. The commissioner shall assure that increases in the federal food stamp allotments and deductions are reflected in the food assistance portion of the assistance provided under the Minnesota family investment plan.

Subd. 8. Expedited benefits. Provisions for expedited benefits under the Minnesota family investment plan may not be less restrictive than provisions for expedited benefits under the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and state food stamp policy and include either expediting issuance of a predesignated portion of assistance provided through the Minnesota family investment plan or through the existing food stamp program.

Subd. 9. Special rights of migrant and seasonal farm workers and homeless people. Federally prescribed procedures, means of applying for and obtaining assistance, reporting and verification requirements, and other similar provisions specifically for migrant and seasonal farmworkers or homeless people under the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, continue to be available to eligible migrant, seasonal farmworker, or homeless families. The commissioner shall comply with the bilingual requirements of United States Code, title 7, section 2020(e)(1)(B).

Subd. 10. Assessment of family impact. The evaluation design of the field trials must include an assessment of the financial condition of a sample of families in the Minnesota family investment plan relative to what their financial condition would have been in the absence of the Minnesota family investment plan.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 11

256.04 [Temporary]

256.045 ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW OF HUMAN SERVICE MATTERS.

Subdivision 1. Powers of the state agency. The commissioner of human services may appoint one or more state human services referees to conduct hearings and recommend orders in accordance with subdivisions 3, 3a, 4a, and 5. Human services referees designated pursuant to this section may administer oaths and shall be under the control and supervision of the commissioner of human services and shall not be a part of the office of administrative hearings established pursuant to sections 14.48 to 14.56.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1987 c 148 s 9]

Subd. 3. State agency hearings. Any person applying for, receiving or having received public assistance or a program of social services granted by the state agency or a county agency under sections 252.32, 256.031 to 256.036, and 256.72 to 256.879, chapters 256B, 256D, 256E, 261, or the federal Food Stamp Act whose application for assistance is denied, not acted upon with reasonable promptness, or whose assistance is suspended, reduced, terminated, or claimed to have been incorrectly paid, or any patient or relative aggrieved by an order of the commissioner under section 252.27, or a party aggrieved by a ruling of a prepaid health plan, may contest that action or decision before the state agency by submitting a written request for a hearing to the state agency within 30 days after receiving written notice of the action or decision, or within 90 days of such written notice if the applicant, recipient, patient, or relative shows good cause why the request was not submitted within the 30-day time limit.

Except for a prepaid health plan, a vendor of medical care as defined in section 256B.02, subdivision 7, or a vendor under contract with a county agency to provide social services under section 256E.08, subdivision 4, is not a party and may not request a hearing under this section.

Subd. 3a. Prepaid health plan appeals. (a) All prepaid health plans under contract to the commissioner under chapter 256B or 256D must provide for a complaint system according to section 62D.11. When a prepaid health plan denies, reduces, or terminates

a health service, the prepaid health plan must notify the recipient of the right to file a complaint or an appeal. The notice must include the name and telephone number of the ombudsman and notice of the recipient's right to request a hearing under paragraph (b). When a complaint is filed, the prepaid health plan must notify the ombudsman within three working days. Recipients may request the assistance of the ombudsman in the complaint system process. The prepaid health plan must issue a written resolution of the complaint to the recipient within 30 days after the complaint is filed with the prepaid health plan. A recipient is not required to exhaust the complaint system procedures in order to request a hearing under paragraph (b).

(b) Recipients enrolled in a prepaid health plan under chapter 256B or 256D may contest a prepaid health plan's denial, reduction, or termination of health services or the prepaid health plan's written resolution of a complaint by submitting a written request for a hearing according to subdivision 3. A state human services referee shall conduct a hearing on the matter and shall recommend an order to the commissioner of human services. The commissioner need not grant a hearing if the sole issue raised by a recipient is the commissioner's authority to require mandatory enrollment in a prepaid health plan in a county where prepaid health plans are under contract with the commissioner. The state human services referee may order a second medical opinion from the prepaid health plan or may order a second medical opinion from a nonprepaid health plan provider at the expense of the prepaid health plan. Recipients may request the assistance of the ombudsman in the appeal process.

(c) In the written request for a hearing to appeal from a prepaid health plan's denial, reduction, or termination of a health service or the prepaid health plan's written resolution to a complaint, a recipient may request an expedited hearing. If an expedited appeal is warranted, the state human services referee shall hear the appeal and render a decision within a time commensurate with the level of urgency involved, based on the individual circumstances of the case.

Subd. 4. Conduct of hearings. All hearings held pursuant to subdivision 3, 3a, or 4a shall be conducted according to the provisions of the federal Social Security Act and the regulations implemented in accordance with that act to enable this state to qualify for federal grants-in-aid, and according to the rules and written policies of the commissioner of human services. County agencies shall install equipment necessary to conduct telephone hearings. A state human services referee may schedule a telephone conference hearing when the distance or time required to travel to the county agency offices will cause a delay in the issuance of an order, or to promote efficiency, or at the mutual request of the parties. Hearings may be conducted by telephone conferences unless the applicant, recipient, or former recipient objects. The hearing shall not be held earlier than five days after filing of the required notice with the local or state agency. The state human services referee shall notify all interested persons of the time, date, and location of the hearing at least five days before the date of the hearing. Interested persons may be represented by legal counsel or other representative of their choice at the hearing and may appear personally, testify and offer evidence, and examine and cross-examine witnesses. The applicant, recipient, or former recipient shall have the opportunity to examine the contents of the case file and all documents and records to be used by the county agency at the hearing at a reasonable time before the date of the hearing and during the hearing. Upon request, the county agency shall provide reimbursement for transportation, child care, photocopying, medical assessment, witness fee, and other necessary and reasonable costs incurred by the applicant, recipient, or former recipient in connection with the appeal. All evidence, except that privileged by law, commonly accepted by reasonable people in the conduct of their affairs as having probative value with respect to the issues shall be submitted at the hearing and such hearing shall not be "a contested case" within the meaning of section 14.02, subdivision 3.

Subd. 4a. Case management appeals. Any recipient of case management services pursuant to section 256B.092, subdivisions 1 to 1b who contests the county agency's action or failure to act in the provision of those services, other than a failure to act with reasonable promptness or a suspension, reduction, denial, or termination of services,

must submit a written request for review to the county agency. The county agency shall inform the commissioner of the receipt of a request for review when it is submitted and shall schedule a conciliation conference. The county agency shall notify the recipient, the commissioner, and all interested persons of the time, date, and location of the conciliation conference. The commissioner shall designate a representative to be present at the conciliation conference to assist in the resolution of the dispute without the need for a hearing. Within 30 days, the county agency shall conduct the conciliation conference and inform the recipient in writing of the action the county agency is going to take and when that action will be taken and notify the recipient of the right to a hearing under this subdivision. The conciliation conference shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the procedures for reconsideration of an individual service plan or an individual habilitation plan pursuant to Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0075, subpart 5, and 9525.0105, subpart 6. If the county fails to conduct the conciliation conference and issue its report within 30 days, or, at any time up to 90 days after the conciliation conference is held, a recipient may submit to the commissioner a written request for a hearing before a state human services referee to determine whether case management services have been provided in accordance with applicable laws and rules or whether the county agency has assured that the services identified in the recipient's individual service plan have been delivered in accordance with the laws and rules governing the provision of those services. The state human services referee shall recommend an order to the commissioner, who shall, in accordance with the procedure in subdivision 5, issue a final order within 60 days of the receipt of the request for a hearing, unless the commissioner refuses to accept the recommended order, in which event a final order shall issue within 90 days of the receipt of that request. The order may direct the county agency to take those actions necessary to comply with applicable laws or rules. The commissioner may issue a temporary order prohibiting the demission of a recipient of case management services from a residential or day habilitation program licensed under chapter 245A, while a county agency review process or an appeal brought by a recipient under this subdivision is pending, or for the period of time necessary for the county agency to implement the commissioner's order. The commissioner shall not issue a final order staying the demission of a recipient of case management services from a residential or day habilitation program licensed under chapter 245A.

Subd. 5. Orders of the commissioner of human services. A state human services referee shall conduct a hearing on the appeal and shall recommend an order to the commissioner of human services. The recommended order must be based on all relevant evidence and must not be limited to a review of the propriety of the state or county agency's action. A referee may take official notice of adjudicative facts. The commissioner of human services may accept the recommended order of a state human services referee and issue the order to the county agency and the applicant, recipient, former recipient, or prepaid health plan. The commissioner on refusing to accept the recommended order of the state human services referee, shall notify the county agency and the applicant, recipient, former recipient, or prepaid health plan of that fact and shall state reasons therefor and shall allow each party ten days' time to submit additional written argument on the matter. After the expiration of the ten-day period, the commissioner shall issue an order on the matter to the county agency and the applicant, recipient, former recipient, or prepaid health plan.

A party aggrieved by an order of the commissioner may appeal under subdivision 7, or request reconsideration by the commissioner within 30 days after the date the commissioner issues the order. The commissioner may reconsider an order upon request of any party or on the commissioner's own motion. A request for reconsideration does not stay implementation of the commissioner's order. Upon reconsideration, the commissioner may issue an amended order or an order affirming the original order.

Any order of the commissioner issued under this subdivision shall be conclusive upon the parties unless appeal is taken in the manner provided by subdivision 7. Any order of the commissioner is binding on the parties and must be implemented by the state agency or a county agency until the order is reversed by the district court, or unless the commissioner or a district court orders monthly assistance or aid or services paid or provided under subdivision 10.

Except for a prepaid health plan, a vendor of medical care as defined in section 256B.02, subdivision 7, or a vendor under contract with a county agency to provide social services under section 256E.08, subdivision 4, is not a party and may not request a hearing or seek judicial review of an order issued under this section.

Subd. 6. Additional powers of the commissioner; subpoenas. (a) The commissioner of human services may initiate a review of any action or decision of a county agency and direct that the matter be presented to a state human services referee for a hearing held under subdivision 3, 3a, or 4a. In all matters dealing with human services committed by law to the discretion of the county agency, the commissioner's judgment may be substituted for that of the county agency. The commissioner may order an independent examination when appropriate.

(b) Any party to a hearing held pursuant to subdivision 3, 3a, or 4a may request that the commissioner issue a subpoena to compel the attendance of witnesses at the hearing. The issuance, service, and enforcement of subpoenas under this subdivision is governed by section 357.22 and the Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure.

(c) The commissioner may issue a temporary order staying a proposed demission by a residential facility licensed under chapter 245A while an appeal by a recipient under subdivision 3 is pending or for the period of time necessary for the county agency to implement the commissioner's order.

Subd. 7. Judicial review. Any party who is aggrieved by an order of the commissioner of human services may appeal the order to the district court of the county responsible for furnishing assistance by serving a written copy of a notice of appeal upon the commissioner and any adverse party of record within 30 days after the date the commissioner issued the order, the amended order, or order affirming the original order, and by filing the original notice and proof of service with the court administrator of the district court. Service may be made personally or by mail; service by mail is complete upon mailing; no filing fee shall be required by the court administrator in appeals taken pursuant to this subdivision. The commissioner may elect to become a party to the proceedings in the district court. Any party may demand that the commissioner furnish all parties to the proceedings with a copy of the decision, and a transcript of any testimony, evidence, or other supporting papers from the hearing held before the human services referee, by serving a written demand upon the commissioner within 30 days after service of the notice of appeal. Any party aggrieved by the failure of an adverse party to obey an order issued by the commissioner under subdivision 5 may compel performance according to the order in the manner prescribed in sections 586.01 to 586.12.

Subd. 8. Hearing. Any party may obtain a hearing at a special term of the district court by serving a written notice of the time and place of the hearing at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. The court may consider the matter in or out of chambers, and shall take no new or additional evidence unless it determines that such evidence is necessary for a more equitable disposition of the appeal.

Subd. 9. Appeal. Any party aggrieved by the order of the district court may appeal the order as in other civil cases. No costs or disbursements shall be taxed against any party nor shall any filing fee or bond be required of any party.

Subd. 10. Payments pending appeal. If the commissioner of human services or district court orders monthly assistance or aid or services paid or provided in any proceeding under this section, it shall be paid or provided pending appeal to the commissioner of human services, district court, court of appeals, or supreme court. The state or county agency has a claim for food stamps and cash payments made to a recipient or former recipient while an appeal is pending if the recipient or former recipient is determined ineligible for the food stamps and cash payments as a result of the appeal.

History: 1976 c 131 s 1; 1978 c 560 s 7; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1983 c 247 s 108, 109; 1983 c 312 art 5 s 4; 1984 c 534 s 14-18; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 8; 1987 c 148 s 1-8; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 61; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 12-20; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.05 SUPERVISION OVER PAROLED PATIENTS; STATE AGENTS APPOINTED.

The commissioner of human services so far as possible shall exercise supervision over paroled patients of the state hospitals for the mentally ill and of the state schools and hospitals for mentally retarded persons and persons having epilepsy; and, when deemed necessary for that purpose, may appoint one or more state agents and fix their salary. The commissioner may appoint suitable persons in any part of the state for the same purpose. Every such agent or person shall perform such duties as the commissioner of human services may prescribe in behalf or in supervision of patients paroled from any such institution, including assistance in obtaining employment and the return of paroled patients when necessary. The duty of the commissioner of human services or the superintendent of any state institution exercising such supervision over any patient who has been or may be paroled to the custody of the superintendent or other proper officer or authority in charge or control of any United States veterans bureau neuropsychiatric hospital shall cease to exist upon acceptance of the patient's custody thereby.

History: (4419, 4420) 1907 c 292 s 1,2; 1917 c 208 s 1; 1925 c 308; 1965 c 45 s 36; 1983 c 10 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444

256.06 GUARDIANSHIP OF INMATES.

The commissioner of human services shall be deemed the guardian of the persons of the inmates of any state hospital or asylum for the insane or of any school for feeble-minded and colony for persons having epilepsy for the purpose of consenting to any surgical operation necessary to save the life, health, eyesight, hearing, or a limb of any inmate committed thereto.

History: (4422) 1907 c 145 s 2; 1983 c 10 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.07 [Repealed, 1975 c 208 s 35]**256.08 INSANE PERSONS IN STATE HOSPITALS; CONSENT TO OPERATION.**

When any person has been committed as insane to the custody of the superintendent of a state hospital for the insane and has been an inmate of such hospital for at least six consecutive months, the commissioner of human services, after consultation with the superintendent of the hospital wherein such person is an inmate, a reputable physician, and psychologist selected by the commissioner of human services, and after a careful investigation of all the circumstances of the case, may, with the written consent of the patient and of the spouse or nearest kin, or the duly appointed guardian of such insane person, cause such insane person to be sterilized by a competent surgeon by the operation of vasectomy or tubectomy.

History: (4422-2) 1925 c 154 s 2; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.09 NO CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY.

Sterilization, as outlined in section 256.08, shall be lawful and shall not render the commissioner of human services, or department employees, or other persons participating in the examination or operation, liable either civilly or criminally.

History: (4422-3) 1925 c 154 s 3; 1980 c 509 s 99; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444

256.10 RECORDS KEPT.

A complete record of the case shall be made and kept as a permanent file in the office of the commissioner of human services.

History: (4422-4) 1925 c 154 s 4; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.11 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.12 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 9. **County agency.** As used in sections 256.72 to 256.87, "county agency" means the county board of public welfare as established by law.

Subd. 10. **State agency.** As used in sections 256.72 to 256.87, the term "state agency" means the commissioner of human services in the department of human services.

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 12. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 13. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 14. **Dependent child.** (a) "Dependent child," as used in sections 256.72 to 256.87, means a child under the age of 18 years, or a child under the age of 19 years who is regularly attending as a full-time student, and is expected to complete before reaching age 19, a high school or a secondary level course of vocational or technical training designed to fit students for gainful employment, who is found to be deprived of parental support or care by reason of the death, continued absence from the home, physical or mental incapacity of a parent, or who is a child of an unemployed parent as that term is defined by the commissioner of human services, such definition to be consistent with and not to exceed minimum standards established by the Congress of the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. When defining "unemployed parent," the commissioner shall count up to four calendar quarters of full-time attendance in any of the following toward the requirement that a principal earner have six or more quarters of work in any 13 calendar quarter period ending within one year before application for aid to families with dependent children:

(1) an elementary or secondary school;

(2) a federally approved vocational or technical training course designed to prepare the parent for gainful employment; or

(3) full-time participation in an education or training program established under the job training partnership act.

(b) Dependent child also means a child:

(1) whose relatives are liable under the law for the child's support and are not able to provide adequate care and support of the child; and

(2) who is living with father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, or niece in a place of residence maintained by one or more of these relatives as a home.

(c) Dependent child also means a child who has been removed from the home of a relative after a judicial determination that continuance in the home would be contrary to the welfare and best interests of the child and whose care and placement in a foster home or a private licensed child care institution is, in accordance with the rules of the commissioner, the responsibility of the state or county agency under sections 256.72 to 256.87. This child is eligible for benefits only through the foster care and adoption assistance program contained in Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 670 to 676, and is not entitled to benefits under sections 256.72 to 256.87.

Subd. 15. **Continued absence from the home.** "Continued absence from the home," as used in sections 256.72 to 256.87, means the absence from the home of the parent, whether or not entitled to the custody of the child, by reason of being an inmate of a

penal institution or a fugitive after escape therefrom, or absence from the home by the parent for a period believed to be, and declared by applicant to be, of a continuous duration together with failure on the part of the absent parent to support the child, provided that prior to the granting of such aid all reasonable efforts have been made to secure support for such child.

Subd. 16. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 17. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 18. [Repealed, 1969 c 329 s 1]

Subd. 19. **Intermediate care facility.** An intermediate care facility is any facility so defined by the state department of health pursuant to rules adopted under the state administrative procedure act.

Subd. 20. **Assistance unit.** "Assistance unit" means the group of individuals who are applying for or receiving assistance and whose needs are included in the grant of assistance as determined under sections 256.72 to 256.87.

Subd. 21. **Caretaker relative.** "Caretaker relative" means a relative specified by rule to be an eligible relative and who exercises responsibility for the care and control of the dependent child.

Subd. 22. **Principal earner.** "Principal earner" means, in a home where both parents of the dependent child live, the parent who earned the greater amount of income in the 24-month period immediately preceding the month of application.

History: (3199-63, 8688-3) *Ex*1936 c 95 s 2; 1937 c 324 s 1; 1937 c 438 s 1; 1939 c 195 s 1; 1943 c 6 s 1; 1947 c 628 s 1; 1951 c 229 s 1; 1951 c 600 s 1,2; 1951 c 618 s 1; 1953 c 639 s 1; 1953 c 725 s 1; 1955 c 711 s 1; 1957 c 690 s 1; 1963 c 794 s 2; 1965 c 51 s 50; 1967 c 879 s 1; 1969 c 387 s 1; 1969 c 740 s 1; 1969 c 1026 s 1; 1973 c 191 s 1; 1973 c 717 s 13; 3Sp1981 c 3 s 1-4; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1985 c 252 s 5; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 61; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 21

256.13 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.14 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1959 c 622 s 7]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1959 c 622 s 7]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1959 c 622 s 7]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1959 c 622 s 7]

256.15 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1951 c 92 s 1]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.151 [Repealed, 1951 c 92 s 2]

256.16 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.17 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.18 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.183 MS 1949 [Expired]

256.184 MS 1949 [Expired]

256.185 MS 1949 [Expired]

256.19 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1971 c 681 s 5]

256.20 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.21 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.22 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.23 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.24 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 16 s 6]

256.25 OLD AGE ASSISTANCE TO BE ALLOWED AS CLAIM IN PROBATE COURT.

On the death of any person who received any old age assistance under this or any previous old age assistance law of this state, or on the death of the survivor of a married couple, either or both of whom received old age assistance, the total amount paid as old age assistance to either or both, without interest, shall be allowed as a claim against the estate of such person or persons by the court having jurisdiction to probate the estate. If the value of the estate of any such person has been enhanced as a result of the failure on the part of a recipient to make a full disclosure of the amount or value of the recipient's property, or the amount or value of the combined property of a married couple, in any old age assistance proceeding, the claim shall be allowed by the probate court as a preferred claim and have preference to the extent of such enhancement over all other claims, excepting only claims for expenses of administration, funeral expenses, and expenses of last sickness. If the value of any such estate, exclusive of household goods, wearing apparel, and a burial lot, is more than the value of the property of such person, as disclosed by the applicant in any old age assistance proceeding, it shall be prima facie evidence that the value of such estate was enhanced by the payment of old age assistance to the extent of the excess, but not exceeding the total amount of old age assistance paid to such person or persons. The statute of limitations which limits the county agency or the state agency, or both, to recover only for assistance granted within six years shall not apply to any claim made under Minnesota Statutes 1971, sections 256.11 to 256.43 for reimbursement for any assistance granted hereunder.

History: (3199-25) Ex1935 c 95 s 15; 1939 c 242 s 1; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 123; 1986 c 444

256.26 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1973 c 78 s 2; 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.263 LAND ACQUIRED BY STATE UNDER OLD AGE ASSISTANCE LIENS.

Subdivision 1. Duty of county board. When land shall have been acquired by the state under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1971, section 256.26, either by conveyance in settlement of the lien held by the state, or by foreclosure of such lien, it shall be the duty of the county board to manage and lease the real estate while the state continues to own it.

Subd. 2. Management. While the state owns such real estate, if the county board by resolution stating the price to be paid in cash shall recommend the sale and conveyance thereof, and transmit a copy of such resolution to the state agency, the state agency shall make an order approving the sale for the price recommended and transmit a copy thereof to the county auditor, in the county where the land is situated. Thereupon, when the purchase price is paid by the purchaser to the treasurer of such county, the chair of the county board shall execute a deed in the name of the state, which shall be attested by the county auditor, conveying such land to the purchaser.

History: 1945 c 172 s 1,2; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 124; 1986 c 444

- 256.27 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.28 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1967 c 89 s 2; 1967 c 885 s 6]
- 256.29 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.30 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.31 [Repealed, 1971 c 550 s 2]
- 256.32 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.33 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.34 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.35 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.36 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.37 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 16 s 6]
- 256.38 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.39 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.40 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.41 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.42 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.43 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.431-256.434 MS 1949 [Expired]
- 256.44 [Repealed, 1947 c 535 s 16]
- 256.45 [Repealed, 1947 c 535 s 16]
- 256.451 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.452 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1967 c 885 s 6]
 Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1967 c 885 s 6]
 Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1967 c 885 s 6]
 Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
 Subd. 12. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.453 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.454 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.455 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.456 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.457 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.458 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.459 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]
- 256.46 [Repealed, 1947 c 535 s 16]
- 256.461 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.462 APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW; RECOVERY AND DISBURSEMENT OF ASSISTANCE FURNISHED.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. **Applicability.** The provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1971, section 256.25, as to the allowance as claims in the probate court of amounts paid as old age assistance

are made applicable to amounts paid as assistance under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1971, sections 256.451 to 256.475.

Subd. 3. Recovery of assistance furnished; apportionment. When any amount shall be recovered from any source for assistance furnished under the provisions of any public assistance program, there shall be paid to the United States the amount which shall be due under the terms of the social security act, and the balance thereof shall be paid into the treasuries of the state and county, substantially in the proportion in which they respectively contributed toward the total assistance paid. The amount due the respective participating units of government shall be determined by rule adopted by the commissioner of human services pursuant to a formula of reimbursement prescribed or authorized by the federal social security administration.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

History: 1953 c 617 s 11; 1959 c 25 s 1; 1973 c 717 s 14; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 62

256.463 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.464 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.465 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1971 c 550 s 2]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.466 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.467 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.468 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.469 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.47 [Repealed, 1947 c 535 s 16]

256.471 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.472 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.473 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.474 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.475 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.48 [Repealed, 1947 c 535 s 16]

COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

256.481 HANDICAPPED PERSON; DEFINITION.

For the purposes of sections 256.481 to 256.482 "handicapped person" means any person who:

(a) has a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities;

(b) has a record of such an impairment; or

(c) is regarded as having such an impairment.

History: 1973 c 757 s 1; 1983 c 260 s 55; 1983 c 277 s 1

256.482 COUNCIL ON DISABILITY.

Subdivision 1. Establishment; members. There is hereby established the council on disability which shall consist of 21 members appointed by the governor. Members shall be appointed from the general public and from organizations which provide services for persons who have a disability. A majority of council members shall be persons with a disability or parents or guardians of persons with a disability. There shall be at least one member of the council appointed from each of the state development regions. The

commissioners of the departments of education, human services, health, jobs and training, and human rights and the directors of the division of rehabilitation services and state services for the blind or their designees shall serve as ex officio members of the council without vote. In addition, the council may appoint ex officio members from other bureaus, divisions, or sections of state departments which are directly concerned with the provision of services to persons with a disability.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 15.059, each member of the council appointed by the governor shall serve a three-year term and until a successor is appointed and qualified. The compensation and removal of all members shall be as provided in section 15.059. The governor shall appoint a chair of the council from among the members appointed from the general public or who are persons with a disability or their parents or guardians. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. The council expires on June 30, 1993.

Subd. 2. Executive director; staff. The council may select an executive director of the council by a vote of a majority of all council members. The executive director shall be in the unclassified service of the state and shall provide administrative support for the council and provide administrative leadership to implement council mandates, policies, and objectives. The executive director shall employ and direct staff authorized according to state law and necessary to carry out council mandates, policies, activities, and objectives. The salary of the executive director and staff shall be established pursuant to chapter 43A. The executive director and staff shall be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred as a result of their council responsibilities.

Subd. 3. Receipt of funds. Whenever any person, firm, corporation, or the federal government offers to the council funds by the way of gift, grant, or loan, for purposes of assisting the council to carry out its powers and duties, the council may accept the offer by majority vote and upon acceptance the chair shall receive the funds subject to the terms of the offer. However, no money shall be accepted or received as a loan nor shall any indebtedness be incurred except in the manner and under the limitations otherwise provided by law.

Subd. 4. Organization; committees. The council shall organize itself in conformity with its responsibilities under sections 256.481 to 256.482 and shall establish committees which shall give detailed attention to the special needs of each category of persons who have a disability. The members of the committees shall be designated by the chair with the approval of a majority of the council. The council shall serve as liaison in Minnesota for the president's committee on employment of the handicapped and for any other organization for which it is so designated by the governor or state legislature.

Subd. 5. Duties and powers. The council shall have the following duties and powers:

(1) to advise and otherwise aid the governor; appropriate state agencies, including but not limited to the departments of education, human services, jobs and training, and human rights and the divisions of rehabilitation services and services for the blind; the state legislature; and the public on matters pertaining to public policy and the administration of programs, services, and facilities for persons who have a disability in Minnesota;

(2) to encourage and assist in the development of coordinated, interdepartmental goals and objectives and the coordination of programs, services and facilities among all state departments and private providers of service as they relate to persons with a disability;

(3) to serve as a source of information to the public regarding all services, programs and legislation pertaining to persons with a disability;

(4) to review and make comment to the governor, state agencies, the legislature, and the public concerning adequacy of state programs, plans and budgets for services to persons with a disability and for funding under the various federal grant programs;

(5) to research, formulate and advocate plans, programs and policies which will serve the needs of persons who are disabled;

(6) to advise the departments of labor and industry and jobs and training on the administration and improvement of the workers' compensation law as it relates to programs, facilities and personnel providing assistance to workers who are injured and disabled;

(7) to advise the workers' compensation division of the department of labor and industry and the workers' compensation court of appeals as to the necessity and extent of any alteration or remodeling of an existing residence or the building or purchase of a new or different residence which is proposed by a licensed architect under section 176.137;

(8) to initiate or seek to intervene as a party in any administrative proceeding and judicial review thereof to protect and advance the right of all persons who are disabled to an accessible physical environment as provided in section 16B.67; and

(9) to initiate or seek to intervene as a party in any administrative or judicial proceeding which concerns programs or services provided by public or private agencies or organizations and which directly affects the legal rights of persons with a disability.

Subd. 5a. Technology for people with disabilities. The council has the following duties related to technology for people with disabilities:

(1) to identify individuals with disabilities, including individuals from underserved groups, who reside in the state and conduct an ongoing evaluation of their needs for technology-related assistance;

(2) to identify and coordinate state policies, resources, and services relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, including entering into interagency agreements;

(3) to provide assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities and payment for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

(4) to disseminate information relating to technology-related assistance and sources of funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies, and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities, including insurers, employers, and other appropriate individuals;

(5) to provide training and technical assistance relating to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of individuals with disabilities, individuals who work for public agencies, and private entities that have contact with individuals with disabilities, including insurers, employers, and other appropriate individuals;

(6) to conduct a public awareness program focusing on the efficacy and availability of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;

(7) to assist statewide and community-based organizations or systems that provide assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities;

(8) to support the establishment or continuation of partnerships and cooperative initiatives between the public sector and the private sector;

(9) to develop standards, or where appropriate, apply existing standards to ensure the availability of qualified personnel for assistive technology devices;

(10) to compile and evaluate appropriate data relating to the program; and

(11) to establish procedures providing for the active involvement of individuals with disabilities, the families or representatives of the individuals, and other appropriate individuals in the development and implementation of the program, and for individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, for their active involvement, to the maximum extent appropriate in decisions relating to the assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1975 c 315 s 26]

Subd. 7. Collection of fees. The council is empowered to establish and collect fees for documents or technical services provided to the public. The fees shall be set at a level to reimburse the council for the actual cost incurred in providing the document or service. All fees collected shall be deposited into the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

History: 1973 c 254 s 3; 1973 c 757 s 2; 1975 c 61 s 1; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1975 c 315 s 18; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1977 c 177 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 430 s 14; 1983 c 216 art 2 s 5; 1983 c 260 s 56; 1983 c 277 s 2; 1983 c 299 s 25; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 75; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 354 s 6; 1988 c 629 s 50; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 185,186; art 4 s 67

256.483 [Repealed, 1983 c 260 s 68; 1983 c 277 s 3]

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT SERVICES TO REFUGEES

256.484 SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT SERVICES TO REFUGEES.

Subdivision 1. Special projects. The commissioner of human services shall establish a grant program to provide social adjustment services to refugees residing in Minnesota who experience depression, emotional stress, and personal crises resulting from past trauma and refugee camp experiences.

Subd. 2. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them:

(a) "Refugee" means a refugee or asylee status granted by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(b) "Social adjustment services" means treatment or services, including psychiatric assessment, chemical therapy, individual or family counseling, support group participation, after care or follow-up, information and referral, and crisis intervention.

Subd. 3. Project selection. The commissioner shall select projects for funding under this section. Projects selected must be administered by service providers who have experience in providing bilingual social adjustment services to refugees. Project administrators must present evidence that the service provider's social adjustment services for targeted refugees has historically resolved major problems identified at the time of intake.

Subd. 4. Project design. Project proposals selected under this section must:

- (1) use existing resources when possible;
- (2) clearly specify program goals and timetables for project operation;
- (3) identify available support services, social services, and referral procedures to be used in serving the targeted refugees;
- (4) provide bilingual services; and
- (5) identify the training and experience that enable project staff to provide services to targeted refugees, and identify the number of staff with bilingual service expertise.

Subd. 5. Annual report. Selected service providers must report to the commissioner by June 30 of each year on the number of refugees served, the average cost per refugee served, the number and percentage of refugees who are successfully assisted through social adjustment services, and recommendations for modifications in service delivery for the upcoming year.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 22

256.485 CHILD WELFARE SERVICES TO MINOR REFUGEES.

Subdivision 1. Special projects. The commissioner of human services shall establish a grant program to provide specialized child welfare services to Asian and Amerasian refugees under the age of 18 who reside in Minnesota.

Subd. 2. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them:

(a) "Refugee" means refugee or asylee status granted by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(b) "Child welfare services" means treatment or services, including workshops or training regarding independent living skills, coping skills, and responsible parenting, and family or individual counseling regarding career planning, intergenerational relationships and communications, and emotional or psychological stress.

Subd. 3. Project selection. The commissioner shall select projects for funding under this section. Projects selected must be administered by service providers who have experience in providing child welfare services to minor Asian and Amerasian refugees.

Subd. 4. Project design. Project proposals selected under this section must:

- (1) use existing resources when possible;
 - (2) provide bilingual services;
 - (3) clearly specify program goals and timetables for project operation;
 - (4) identify support services, social services, and referral procedures to be used;
- and

(5) identify the training and experience that enable project staff to provide services to targeted refugees, as well as the number of staff with bilingual service expertise.

Subd. 5. Annual report. Selected service providers must report to the commissioner by June 30 of each year on the number of refugees served, the average cost per refugee served, the number and percentage of refugees who are successfully assisted through child welfare services, and recommendations for modifications in service delivery for the upcoming year.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 23

256.49 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1955 c 711 s 3]

256.50 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.51 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.515 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.52 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.53 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, Ex1971 c 16 s 6]

256.54 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.55 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.56 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.57 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.58 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.59 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.60 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.61 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.62 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.63 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.64 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.65 [Repealed, 1973 c 574 s 2]

256.66 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.67 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.68 [Repealed, 1971 c 550 s 2]

256.69 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.70 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

256.71 [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

256.72 DUTIES OF COUNTY AGENCIES.

The county agencies shall:

(1) Administer the provisions of sections 256.72 to 256.87 in the respective counties subject to the rules prescribed by the state agency pursuant to the provisions of those sections and to the supervision of the commissioner of human services specified in section 256.01.

(2) Report to the state agency at such times and in such manner and form as required under section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (17).

(3) Submit quarterly and annually to the county board of commissioners a budget containing an estimate and supporting data setting forth the amount of money needed to carry out the provisions of those sections.

(4) In addition to providing financial assistance, provide such services as will help to maintain and strengthen family life and promote the support and personal independence of parents and relatives insofar as such help is consistent with continuing parental care and protection.

History: (8688-5) 1937 c 438 s 3; 1963 c 794 s 3; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 4; 1989 c 89 s 6

256.73 ASSISTANCE, RECIPIENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Dependent children.** Assistance shall be given under sections 256.72 to 256.87 to or on behalf of any dependent child who:

(1) Resides in Minnesota;

(2) Is otherwise eligible; the child shall not be denied aid because of conditions of the home in which the child resides.

Subd. 2. **Allowance barred by ownership of property.** Ownership by an assistance unit of property as follows is a bar to any allowance under sections 256.72 to 256.87:

(1) The value of real property other than the homestead, which when combined with other assets exceeds the limits of paragraph (2), unless the assistance unit is making a good faith effort to sell the nonexcludable real property. The time period for disposal must not exceed nine months and the assistance unit shall execute an agreement to dispose of the property to repay assistance received during the nine months up to the amount of the net sale proceeds. The payment must be made when the property is sold. If the property is not sold within the required time or the assistance unit becomes ineligible for any reason the entire amount received during the nine months is an overpayment and subject to recovery. For the purposes of this section, "homestead" means the home that is owned by, and is the usual residence of, the child, relative, or other member of the assistance unit together with the surrounding property which is not separated from the home by intervening property owned by others. "Usual residence" includes the home from which the child, relative, or other members of the assistance unit is temporarily absent due to an employability development plan approved by the local human service agency, which includes education, training, or job search within the state but outside of the immediate geographic area. Public rights-of-way, such as roads which run through the surrounding property and separate it from the home, will not affect the exemption of the property; or

(2) Personal property of an equity value in excess of \$1,000 for the entire assistance unit, exclusive of personal property used as the home, one motor vehicle of an equity value not exceeding \$1,500 or the entire equity value of a motor vehicle determined to be necessary for the operation of a self-employment business, one burial plot for each member of the assistance unit, one prepaid burial contract with an equity value of no more than \$1,000 for each member of the assistance unit, clothing and necessary

household furniture and equipment and other basic maintenance items essential for daily living, in accordance with rules promulgated by and standards established by the commissioner of human services.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1973 c 717 s 33]

Subd. 3a. **Persons ineligible.** No assistance shall be given under sections 256.72 to 256.87:

(1) on behalf of any person who is receiving supplemental security income under title XVI of the Social Security Act unless permitted by federal regulations;

(2) for any month in which the assistance unit's gross income, without application of deductions or disregards, exceeds 185 percent of the standard of need for a family of the same size and composition; except that the earnings of a dependent child who is a full-time student may be disregarded for six calendar months per year and the earnings of a dependent child who is a full-time student that are derived from the jobs training and partnership act may be disregarded for six calendar months per year. If a stepparent's income is taken into account in determining need, the disregards specified in section 256.74, subdivision 1a, shall be applied to determine income available to the assistance unit before calculating the unit's gross income for purposes of this paragraph;

(3) to any assistance unit for any month in which any caretaker relative with whom the child is living is, on the last day of that month, participating in a strike;

(4) on behalf of any other individual in the assistance unit, nor shall the individual's needs be taken into account for any month in which, on the last day of the month, the individual is participating in a strike;

(5) on behalf of any individual who is the principal earner in an assistance unit whose eligibility is based on the unemployment of a parent when the principal earner, without good cause, fails or refuses to accept employment, or to register with a public employment office, unless the principal earner is exempt from these work requirements.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

Subd. 5. **Aid for unborn children.** (a) For the purposes of sections 256.72 to 256.87, assistance payments shall be made during the final three months of pregnancy to a woman who has no other children but who otherwise qualifies for assistance except for medical assistance payments which shall be made at the time that pregnancy is confirmed by a physician if the pregnant woman has no other children and otherwise qualifies for assistance as provided in sections 256B.055 and 256B.056. No payments shall be made for the needs of the unborn or for any special needs occasioned by the pregnancy except as provided in clause (b). The commissioner of human services shall promulgate, pursuant to the administrative procedures act, rules to implement this subdivision.

(b) The commissioner may, according to rules, make payments for the purpose of meeting special needs occasioned by or resulting from pregnancy both for a pregnant woman with no other children as well as for a pregnant woman receiving assistance as provided in sections 256.72 to 256.87. The special needs payments shall be dependent upon the needs of the pregnant woman and the resources allocated to the county by the commissioner and shall be limited to payments for medically recognized special or supplemental diet needs and the purchase of a crib and necessary clothing for the future needs of the unborn child at birth. The commissioner shall, according to rules, make payments for medically necessary prenatal care of the pregnant woman and the unborn child.

Subd. 6. **Reports by recipient.** (a) An assistance unit with a recent work history or with earned income shall report monthly to the county agency on income received and other circumstances affecting eligibility or assistance amounts. All other assistance units shall report on income and other circumstances affecting eligibility and assistance amounts at less frequent intervals, as specified by the state agency.

(b) An assistance unit required to submit a report on the form designated by the commissioner is considered to have continued its application for assistance effective the date the required report is received by the county agency, if a complete report is

received within a calendar month after the month in which assistance was received, except that no assistance shall be paid for the period beginning with the end of the month in which the report was due and ending with the date the report was received by the county agency.

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1989 c 343 s 7]

Subd. 8. **Recovery of overpayments.** (a) If an amount of aid to families with dependent children assistance is paid to a recipient in excess of the payment due, it shall be recoverable by the county agency. The agency shall give written notice to the recipient of its intention to recover the overpayment.

(b) When an overpayment occurs, the county agency shall recover the overpayment from a current recipient by reducing the amount of aid payable to the assistance unit of which the recipient is a member for one or more monthly assistance payments until the overpayment is repaid. For any month in which an overpayment must be recovered, recoupment may be made by reducing the grant but only if the reduced assistance payment, together with the assistance unit's total income after deducting work expenses as allowed under section 256.74, subdivision 1, clauses (3) and (4), equals at least 95 percent of the standard of need for the assistance unit, except that if the overpayment is due solely to agency error, this total after deducting allowable work expenses must equal at least 99 percent of the standard of need. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, beginning on the date on which the commissioner implements a computerized client eligibility and information system in one or more counties, all county agencies in the state shall reduce the assistance payment by three percent of the assistance unit's standard of need or the amount of the monthly payment, whichever is less, for all overpayments whether or not the overpayment is due solely to agency error. In cases when there is both an overpayment and underpayment, the county agency shall offset one against the other in correcting the payment.

(c) Overpayments may also be voluntarily repaid, in part or in full, by the individual, in addition to the above aid reductions, until the total amount of the overpayment is repaid.

(d) The county agency shall make reasonable efforts to recover overpayments to persons no longer on assistance in accordance with standards adopted in rule by the commissioner of human services. The county agency need not attempt to recover overpayments of less than \$35 paid to an individual no longer on assistance if the individual does not receive assistance again within three years, unless the individual has been convicted of fraud under section 256.98.

Subd. 9. **Appeal of overpayment determinations.** The recipient may appeal the agency's determination that an overpayment has occurred in accordance with section 256.045.

Subd. 10. **Underpayments.** The county agency shall promptly repay the recipient for any underpayment. The county agency shall disregard that payment when determining the assistance unit's income and resources in the month when the payment is made and the following month.

Subd. 11. **Compliance with federal law and regulation.** None of the provisions in this section shall be implemented to the extent that they violate federal law or regulation.

History: (8688-6) 1937 c 438 s 4; 1939 c 195 s 2; 1943 c 7 s 2; 1951 c 229 s 2; 1953 c 140 s 1,2; 1953 c 639 s 2; 1955 c 414 s 1; 1955 c 743 s 1; 1957 c 690 s 2; 1963 c 794 s 4; 1965 c 799 s 4; 1973 c 26 s 4; 1974 c 575 s 18; 1977 c 412 s 1,3-5; 1977 c 448 s 5; 1979 c 50 s 71; 1980 c 614 s 130; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 19; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 4 s 63; 3Sp1981 c 3 s 5-8; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 45 s 1; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1985 c 252 s 6-8; 1986 c 398 art 5 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 3; 1988 c 629 s 51; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 124-129, 268; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 24; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 1,2,84

256.735 [Repealed, 1969 c 334 s 2]

256.736 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 78 subd 1]

Subd. 1a. **Definitions.** As used in this section and section 256.7365, the following words have the meanings given them:

- (a) "AFDC" means aid to families with dependent children.
- (b) "AFDC-UP" means that group of AFDC clients who are eligible for assistance by reason of unemployment as defined by the commissioner under section 256.12, subdivision 14.
- (c) "Caretaker" means a parent or eligible adult, including a pregnant woman, who is part of the assistance unit that has applied for or is receiving AFDC.
- (d) "Employment and training services" means programs, activities, and services related to job training, job placement, and job creation, including job service programs, job training partnership act programs, wage subsidies, remedial and secondary education programs, post-secondary education programs excluding education leading to a post-baccalaureate degree, vocational education programs, work readiness programs, job search, counseling, case management, community work experience programs, displaced homemaker programs, self-employment programs, grant diversion, employment experience programs, youth employment programs, community investment programs, refugee employment and training programs, and counseling and support activities necessary to stabilize the caretaker or the family.
- (e) "Employment and training service provider" means a public, private, or non-profit agency certified by the commissioner of jobs and training to deliver employment and training services under section 268.0122, subdivision 3, and section 268.871, subdivision 1.
- (f) "Minor parent" means a caretaker relative who is the parent of the dependent child or children in the assistance unit and who is under the age of 18.
- (g) "Targeted groups" or "targeted caretakers" means recipients of AFDC or AFDC-UP designated as priorities for employment and training services under subdivision 16.
- (h) "Suitable employment" means employment which:
 - (1) is within the recipient's physical and mental capacity;
 - (2) meets health and safety standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the department of jobs and training;
 - (3) pays hourly gross earnings which are not less than the federal or state minimum wage for that type of employment, whichever is applicable;
 - (4) does not result in a net loss of income. Employment results in a net loss of income when the income remaining after subtracting necessary work-related expenses from the family's gross income, which includes cash assistance, is less than the cash assistance the family was receiving at the time the offer of employment was made. For purposes of this definition, "work expenses" means the amount withheld or paid for; state and federal income taxes; social security withholding taxes; mandatory retirement fund deductions; dependent care costs; transportation costs to and from work at the amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service for personal car mileage; costs of work uniforms, union dues, and medical insurance premiums; costs of tools and equipment used on the job; \$1 per work day for the costs of meals eaten during employment; public liability insurance required by an employer when an automobile is used in employment and the cost is not reimbursed by the employer; and the amount paid by an employee from personal funds for business costs which are not reimbursed by the employer;
 - (5) offers a job vacancy which is not the result of a strike, lockout, or other bona fide labor dispute;
 - (6) requires a round trip commuting time from the recipient's residence of less than two hours by available transportation, exclusive of the time to transport children to and from child care;
 - (7) does not require the recipient to leave children under age 12 unattended in order to work, or if child care is required, such care is available; and

(8) does not discriminate at the job site on the basis of age, sex, race, color, creed, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, religion, or place of national origin.

(i) "Support services" means programs, activities, and services intended to stabilize families and individuals or provide assistance for family needs related to employment or participation in employment and training services, including child care, transportation, housing assistance, personal and family counseling, crisis intervention services, peer support groups, chemical dependency counseling and treatment, money management assistance, and parenting skill courses.

Subd. 1b. [Repealed, 1990 c 568 art 4 s 85]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 78 subd 1]

Subd. 2a. [Repealed, 1990 c 568 art 4 s 85]

Subd. 3. **Registration.** (a) To the extent permissible under federal law, every caretaker or child is required to register for employment and training services, as a condition of receiving AFDC, unless the caretaker or child is:

(1) a child who is under age 16, a child age 16 or 17 who is attending elementary or secondary school or a secondary level vocational or technical school full time;

(2) ill, incapacitated, or age 60 or older;

(3) a person for whom participation in an employment and training service would require a round trip commuting time by available transportation of more than two hours;

(4) a person whose presence in the home is required because of illness or incapacity of another member of the household;

(5) a caretaker or other caretaker relative of a child under the age of three who personally provides full-time care for the child. In AFDC-UP cases, only one parent or other relative may qualify for this exemption;

(6) a caretaker or other caretaker relative personally providing care for a child under six years of age, except that when child care is arranged for or provided, the caretaker or caretaker relative may be required to register and participate in employment and training services up to a maximum of 20 hours per week. In AFDC-UP cases, only one parent or other relative may qualify for this exemption;

(7) a pregnant woman, if it has been medically verified that the child is expected to be born within the next six months; or

(8) employed at least 30 hours per week.

(b) To the extent permissible by federal law, applicants for benefits under the AFDC program are registered for employment and training services by signing the application form. Applicants must be informed that they are registering for employment and training services by signing the form. Persons receiving benefits on or after July 1, 1987, shall register for employment and training services to the extent permissible by federal law. The caretaker has a right to a fair hearing under section 256.045 with respect to the appropriateness of the registration.

Subd. 3a. **Participation.** (a) Except as provided under paragraphs (b) and (c), participation in employment and training services under this section is limited to the following recipients:

(1) caretakers who are required to participate in a job search under subdivision 14;

(2) custodial parents who are subject to the school attendance or case management participation requirements under subdivision 3b;

(3) caretakers whose participation in employment and training services began prior to May 1, 1990, if the caretaker's AFDC eligibility has not been interrupted for 30 days or more and the caretaker's employability development plan has not been completed;

(4) recipients who are members of a family in which the youngest child is within two years of being ineligible for AFDC due to age;

(5) effective September 1, 1990, custodial parents under the age of 22 who: (i) have not completed a high school education and who, at the time of application for AFDC, were not enrolled in high school or in a high school equivalency program; or (ii) have had little or no work experience in the preceding year;

(6) recipients who have received AFDC for 48 or more months out of the last 60 months;

(7) recipients who are participants in the self-employment investment demonstration project under section 268.95; and

(8) recipients who participate in the new chance research and demonstration project under contract with the department of human services.

(b) If the commissioner determines that participation of persons listed in paragraph (a) in employment and training services is insufficient either to meet federal performance targets or to fully utilize funds appropriated under this section, the commissioner may, after notifying the chairs of the senate and house health and human services committees, the health and human services division of the senate finance committee, and the health and human services division of the house appropriations committee, permit additional groups of recipients to participate until the next meeting of the legislative advisory commission, after which the additional groups may continue to enroll for participation unless the legislative advisory commission disapproves the continued enrollment. The commissioner shall allow participation of additional groups in the following order only as needed to meet performance targets or fully utilize funding for employment and training services under this section:

(1) recipients who have received at least 42 months of AFDC out of the previous 60 months;

(2) custodial parents under the age of 24 who meet the criteria in paragraph (a), clause (5), subclause (i) or (ii);

(3) recipients who have received at least 36 months of AFDC out of the previous 60 months;

(4) recipients who have received 24 or more months of AFDC out of the previous 48 months; and

(5) recipients who have not completed a high school education or a high school equivalency program.

(c) To the extent of money appropriated specifically for this paragraph, the commissioner may permit AFDC caretakers who are not eligible for participation in employment and training services under the provisions of paragraph (a) or (b) to participate. Money must be allocated to county agencies based on the county's percentage of participants statewide in services under this section in the prior calendar year. Counties must provide equal or greater services to participants enrolled under this paragraph, as measured in average per client expenditures, as provided to other participants in employment and training services under this section. Caretakers must be selected on a first-come, first-served basis from a waiting list of caretakers who volunteer to participate. The commissioner may, on a quarterly basis, reallocate unused allocations to county agencies that have sufficient volunteers. If funding under this paragraph is discontinued in future fiscal years, caretakers who began participating under this paragraph must be deemed eligible under paragraph (a), clause (3).

Subd. 3b. Mandatory assessment and school attendance for certain custodial parents. This subdivision applies to the extent permitted under federal law and regulation.

(a) **Definitions.** The definitions in this paragraph apply to this subdivision.

(1) "Custodial parent" means a recipient of AFDC who is the natural or adoptive parent of a child living with the custodial parent.

(2) "School" means:

(i) an educational program which leads to a high school diploma. The program or coursework may be, but is not limited to, a program under the post-secondary enrollment options of section 123.3514, a regular or alternative program of an elementary or secondary school, a technical college, or a college;

(ii) coursework for a general educational development (GED) diploma of not less than six hours of classroom instruction per week; or

(iii) any other post-secondary educational program that is approved by the public school or the county agency under subdivision 11.

(b) Assessment and plan; requirement; content. The county agency must examine the educational level of each custodial parent under the age of 20 to determine if the recipient has completed a high school education or its equivalent. If the custodial parent has not completed a high school education or its equivalent and is not exempt from the requirement to attend school under paragraph (c), the county agency must complete an individual assessment for the custodial parent. The assessment must be performed as soon as possible but within 60 days of determining AFDC eligibility for the custodial parent. The assessment must provide an initial examination of the custodial parent's educational progress and needs, literacy level, child care and supportive service needs, family circumstances, skills, and work experience. In the case of a custodial parent under the age of 18, the assessment must also consider the results of the early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) screening, if available, and the effect of a child's development and educational needs on the parent's ability to participate in the program. The county agency must advise the parent that the parent's first goal must be to complete an appropriate educational option if one is identified for the parent through the assessment and, in consultation with educational agencies, must review the various school completion options with the parent and assist the parent in selecting the most appropriate option.

(c) Responsibility for assessment and plan. For custodial parents who are under age 18, the assessment and the employability plan must be completed by the county social services agency, as specified in section 257.33. For custodial parents who are age 18 or 19, the assessment and employability plan must be completed by the case manager. The social services agency or the case manager shall consult with representatives of educational agencies required to assist in developing educational plans under section 126.235.

(d) Education determined to be appropriate. If the case manager or county social services agency identifies an appropriate educational option, it must develop an employability plan in consultation with the custodial parent which reflects the assessment. The plan must specify that participation in an educational activity is required, what school or educational program is most appropriate, the services that will be provided, the activities the parent will take part in including child care and supportive services, the consequences to the custodial parent for failing to participate or comply with the specified requirements, and the right to appeal any adverse action. The employability plan must, to the extent possible, reflect the preferences of the participant.

(e) Education determined to be not appropriate. If the case manager determines that there is no appropriate educational option for a custodial parent who is age 18 or 19, the case manager shall indicate the reasons for the determination. The case manager shall then notify the county agency which must refer the custodial parent to case management services under subdivision 11 for completion of an employability plan and services. If the custodial parent fails to participate or cooperate with case management services and does not have good cause for the failure, the county agency shall apply the sanctions listed in subdivision 4, beginning with the first payment month after issuance of notice. If the county social services agency determines that school attendance is not appropriate for a custodial parent under age 18, the county agency shall refer the custodial parent to social services for services as provided in section 257.33.

(f) School attendance required. Notwithstanding subdivision 3, a custodial parent must attend school if all of the following apply:

- (1) the custodial parent is less than 20 years of age;
- (2) transportation services needed to enable the custodial parent to attend school are available;
- (3) licensed or legal nonlicensed child care services needed to enable the custodial parent to attend school are available;

(4) the custodial parent has not already received a high school diploma or its equivalent; and

(5) the custodial parent is not exempt because the custodial parent:

(i) is ill or incapacitated seriously enough to prevent him or her from attending school;

(ii) is needed in the home because of the illness or incapacity of another member of the household; this includes a custodial parent of a child who is younger than six weeks of age;

(iii) works 30 or more hours a week; or

(iv) is pregnant if it has been medically verified that the child's birth is expected within the next six months.

(g) **Enrollment and attendance.** The custodial parent must be enrolled in school and meeting the school's attendance requirements. The custodial parent is considered to be attending when he or she is enrolled but the school is not in regular session, including during holiday and summer breaks.

(h) **Good cause for not attending school.** The county agency shall not impose the sanctions in subdivision 4 if it determines that a custodial parent has good cause for not being enrolled or for not meeting the school's attendance requirements. The county agency shall determine whether good cause for not attending or not enrolling in school exists, according to this paragraph:

(1) Good cause exists when the county agency has verified that the only available school program requires round trip commuting time from the custodial parent's residence of more than two hours by available means of transportation, excluding the time necessary to transport children to and from child care.

(2) Good cause exists when the custodial parent has indicated a desire to attend school, but the public school system is not providing for his or her education and alternative programs are not available.

(i) **Failure to comply.** The case manager and social services agency shall establish ongoing contact with appropriate school staff to monitor problems that custodial parents may have in pursuing their educational plan and shall jointly seek solutions to prevent parents from failing to complete education. If the school notifies the county agency that the custodial parent is not enrolled or is not meeting the school's attendance requirements, or appears to be facing barriers to completing education, the information must be conveyed to the case manager for a custodial parent age 18 or 19, or to the social services agency for a custodial parent under age 18. The case manager or social services agency shall reassess the appropriateness of school attendance as specified in paragraph (f). If after consultation, school attendance is still appropriate and the case manager or social services agency determines that the custodial parent has failed to enroll or is not meeting the school's attendance requirements and the custodial parent does not have good cause, the case manager or social services agency shall inform the custodial parent's financial worker who shall apply the sanctions listed in subdivision 4 beginning with the first payment month after issuance of notice.

(j) **Notice and hearing.** A right to notice and fair hearing shall be provided in accordance with section 256.045 and the Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, section 205.10.

(k) **Social services.** When a custodial parent under the age of 18 has failed to attend school, is not exempt, and does not have good cause, the county agency shall refer the custodial parent to the social services agency for services, as provided in section 257.33.

(l) **Verification.** No less often than quarterly, the financial worker must verify that the custodial parent is meeting the requirements of this subdivision. Notwithstanding section 13.32, subdivision 3, when the county agency notifies the school that a custodial parent is subject to this subdivision, the school must furnish verification of school enrollment, attendance, and progress to the county agency. The county agency must not impose the sanctions in paragraph (i) if the school fails to cooperate in providing verification of the minor parent's education, attendance, or progress.

Subd. 3c. **Minor parents not living with relatives.** (a) This subdivision applies to a minor parent who is not living with a parent or other adult relative and who is not living in a group or foster home licensed by the commissioner.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the meanings given them:

(1) "Minor parent" means an applicant for or recipient of AFDC who is under age 18, and who is the natural or adoptive parent of a child living with the minor parent.

(2) "Other adult relative" means a person who qualifies to be an eligible relative caretaker for AFDC, as specified in federal regulations.

(c) The agency shall determine, for each minor parent who applies for or receives AFDC, whether this section applies. For a minor parent to whom this section applies, the county agency shall refer the minor parent to its social services unit within 30 days of the date the application for assistance is approved for development of a social service plan as required in section 257.33. The agency shall notify the minor parent of the referral to social services and that cooperation in developing and participating in a social service plan is required in order for AFDC eligibility to continue.

(d) In addition to meeting the requirements of section 257.33, the social service plan may, based upon the social service unit's evaluation of the minor caretaker's needs and parenting abilities, and the health, safety, and parenting needs of the minor caretaker's child, require the minor caretaker to live in a group or foster home or participate in available programs which teach skills in parenting or independent living.

(e) If the minor parent fails to cooperate in developing or participating in the social service plan, the social services unit shall notify the income maintenance unit of the county agency, which shall then notify the minor parent of the determination and of the sanctions in subdivision 4 that will be applied.

Subd. 4. **Conditions of certification.** The commissioner of human services shall:

(1) Arrange for or provide any caretaker or child required to participate in employment and training services pursuant to this section with child-care services, transportation, and other necessary family services;

(2) Provide that in determining a recipient's needs the additional expenses attributable to participation in a program are taken into account in grant determination to the extent permitted by federal regulation;

(3) Provide that the county board shall impose the sanctions in clause (4) when the county board:

(a) determines that a custodial parent under the age of 16 who is required to attend school under subdivision 3b has, without good cause, failed to attend school; or

(b) determines that subdivision 3c applies to a minor parent and the minor parent has, without good cause, failed to cooperate with development of a social service plan or to participate in execution of the plan, to live in a group or foster home, or to participate in a program that teaches skills in parenting and independent living;

(4) To the extent permissible by federal law, impose the following sanctions for a recipient's failure to participate in the requirements of subdivision 3b or 3c:

(a) For the first failure, 50 percent of the grant provided to the family for the month following the failure shall be made in the form of protective or vendor payments;

(b) For the second and subsequent failures, the entire grant provided to the family must be made in the form of protective or vendor payments. Assistance provided to the family must be in the form of protective or vendor payments until the recipient complies with the requirement; and

(c) When protective payments are required, the county agency may continue payments to the caretaker if a protective payee cannot reasonably be found;

(5) Provide that the county board shall impose the sanctions in clause (6) when the county board:

(a) determines that a caretaker or child required to participate in employment and training services has been found by the employment and training service provider to

have failed without good cause to participate in appropriate employment and training services or to have failed without good cause to accept, through the job search program described in subdivision 14, or the provisions of an employability development plan if the caretaker is a custodial parent age 18 or 19 and subject to the requirements of subdivision 3b, a bona fide offer of public or other employment;

(b) determines that a custodial parent aged 16 to 19 who is required to attend school under subdivision 3b has, without good cause, failed to enroll or attend school; or

(c) determines that a caretaker has, without good cause, failed to attend orientation;

(6) To the extent required by federal law, impose the following sanctions for a recipient's failure to participate in required employment and training services, to accept a bona fide offer of public or other employment, to enroll or attend school under subdivision 3b, or to attend orientation:

(a) For the first failure, the needs of the noncompliant individual shall not be taken into account in making the grant determination, until the individual complies with the requirements;

(b) For the second failure, the needs of the noncompliant individual shall not be taken into account in making the grant determination until the individual complies with the requirement or for three consecutive months, whichever is longer;

(c) For subsequent failures, the needs of the noncompliant individual shall not be taken into account in making the grant determination until the individual complies with the requirement or for six consecutive months, whichever is longer;

(d) Aid with respect to a dependent child who has been sanctioned under this paragraph shall be continued for the parent or parents of the child if the child is the only child receiving aid in the family, the child continues to meet the conditions of section 256.73, and the family is otherwise eligible for aid;

(e) If the noncompliant individual is a parent or other relative caretaker, payments of aid for any dependent child in the family must be made in the form of protective or vendor payments. When protective payments are required, the county agency may continue payments to the caretaker if a protective payee cannot reasonably be found. When protective payments are imposed on assistance units whose basis of eligibility is unemployed parent or incapacitated parent, cash payments may continue to the non-sanctioned caretaker in the assistance unit, subject to paragraph (g);

(f) If, after removing a caretaker's needs from the grant, only dependent children remain eligible for AFDC, the standard of assistance shall be computed using the special children standard;

(g) If the noncompliant individual is a principal wage earner in a family whose basis of eligibility is the unemployment of a parent and the nonprincipal wage earner is not participating in an approved employment and training service, the needs of both the principal and nonprincipal wage earner must not be taken into account in making the grant determination; and

(7) Request approval from the secretary of health and human services to use vendor payment sanctions for persons listed in paragraph (5), clause (b). If approval is granted, the commissioner must begin using vendor payment sanctions as soon as changes to the state plan are approved.

Subd. 4a. Notice and right of appeal. If the employment and training service provider determines that the caretaker has failed or refused, without good cause, to cooperate or accept employment, the employment and training service provider shall issue to the caretaker a written notice of its determination of noncooperation or refusal to accept employment. The notice must include a detailed explanation of the reason for the determination and must specify the consequences for failure or refusal to cooperate or accept employment, the actions which the employment and training service provider believes are necessary for the caretaker to comply with the employment and training program, and the right to request, within ten days of receipt of the notice, a conciliation

conference. If the dispute between the employment and training service provider and the caretaker is not resolved in the conciliation conference or a request for a conciliation conference is not made within the required time, then the employment and training service provider shall notify the county board of a caretaker's failure without good cause to cooperate or accept employment. Any determination, action, or inaction on the part of the county board relating to a caretaker's participation under section 256.736 is subject to the notice and hearing procedures in section 256.045, and Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, section 205.10.

Subd. 5. Extension of employment and training opportunities. The commissioner of human services shall cooperate with the commissioner of jobs and training to extend the availability of training and employment opportunities on a statewide basis.

Subd. 6. Protection from garnishment. Earnings of a caretaker while participating in full or part-time employment or training shall be protected from garnishment. This protection shall extend for a period of six months from the date of termination of a caretaker's grant of assistance.

Subd. 7. Rulemaking. The commissioner of human services, in cooperation with the commissioner of jobs and training, may adopt permanent and emergency rules necessary to qualify for any federal funds available under this section and to carry out this section.

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1990 c 568 art 4 s 85]

Subd. 9. Changes in state plan and rules; waivers. The commissioner of human services shall make changes in the state plan and rules or seek any waivers or demonstration authority necessary to minimize barriers to participation in the employment and training services or to employment. Changes must be sought in at least the following areas: allowances, child care, work expenses, the amount and duration of earnings incentives, medical care coverage, limitations on the hours of employment, and administrative standards and procedures. The commissioner shall implement each change as soon as possible. Before implementing any demonstration project or a program that is a result of a waiver, the conditions under section 256.01, subdivision 1, clause (12), must be met, and the chair of the senate health and human services committee and the chair of the house of representatives health and human services committee must be notified.

Subd. 10. County duties. (a) To the extent of available state appropriations, county boards shall:

(1) refer all mandatory and eligible volunteer caretakers required to register under subdivision 3 to an employment and training service provider for participation in employment and training services;

(2) identify to the employment and training service provider caretakers who fall into the targeted groups;

(3) provide all caretakers with an orientation which meets the requirements in subdivisions 10a and 10b;

(4) work with the employment and training service provider to encourage voluntary participation by caretakers in the targeted groups;

(5) work with the employment and training service provider to collect data as required by the commissioner;

(6) to the extent permissible under federal law, require all caretakers coming into the AFDC program to attend orientation;

(7) encourage nontargeted caretakers to develop a plan to obtain self-sufficiency;

(8) notify the commissioner of the caretakers required to participate in employment and training services;

(9) inform appropriate caretakers of opportunities available through the head start program and encourage caretakers to have their children screened for enrollment in the program where appropriate;

(10) provide transportation assistance using available funds to caretakers who participate in employment and training programs;

(11) ensure that orientation, job search, services to custodial parents under the age of 20, and case management services are made available to appropriate caretakers under this section, except that payment for case management services is governed by subdivision 13;

(12) explain in its local service unit plan under section 268.88 how it will ensure that targeted caretakers determined to be in need of social services are provided with such social services. The plan must specify how the case manager and the county social service workers will ensure delivery of needed services;

(13) to the extent allowed by federal laws and regulations, provide a job search program as defined in subdivision 14 and at least one of the following employment and training services: community work experience program (CWEP) as defined in section 256.737, grant diversion as defined in section 256.739, on-the-job training as defined in section 256.738, or another work and training program approved by the commissioner and the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Planning and approval for employment and training services listed in this clause must be obtained through submission of the local service unit plan as specified under section 268.88. Each county is urged to adopt grant diversion as the second program required under this clause;

(14) prior to participation, provide an assessment of each AFDC recipient who is required or volunteers to participate in an approved employment and training service. The assessment must include an evaluation of the participant's (i) educational, child care, and other supportive service needs; (ii) skills and prior work experience; and (iii) ability to secure and retain a job which, when wages are added to child support, will support the participant's family. The assessment must also include a review of the results of the early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) screening and preschool screening under chapter 123, if available; the participant's family circumstances; and, in the case of a custodial parent under the age of 18, a review of the effect of a child's development and educational needs on the parent's ability to participate in the program;

(15) develop an employability development plan for each recipient for whom an assessment is required under clause (14) which: (i) reflects the assessment required by clause (14); (ii) takes into consideration the recipient's physical capacity, skills, experience, health and safety, family responsibilities, place of residence, proficiency, child care and other supportive service needs; (iii) is based on available resources and local employment opportunities; (iv) specifies the services to be provided by the employment and training service provider; (v) specifies the activities the recipient will participate in; (vi) specifies necessary supportive services such as child care; (vii) to the extent possible, reflects the preferences of the participant; and (viii) specifies the recipient's long-term employment goal which shall lead to self-sufficiency; and

(16) assure that no work assignment under this section or sections 256.737, 256.738, and 256.739 results in: (i) termination, layoff, or reduction of the work hours of an employee for the purpose of hiring an individual under this section or sections 256.737, 256.738, and 256.739; (ii) the hiring of an individual if any other person is on layoff from the same or a substantially equivalent job; (iii) any infringement of the promotional opportunities of any currently employed individual; (iv) the impairment of existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements; or (v) except for on-the-job training under section 256.738, a participant filling an established unfilled position vacancy.

(b) Funds available under this subdivision may not be used to assist, promote, or deter union organizing.

(c) A county board may provide other employment and training services that it considers necessary to help caretakers obtain self-sufficiency.

(d) Notwithstanding section 256G.07, when a targeted caretaker relocates to another county to implement the provisions of the caretaker's case management contract or other written employability development plan approved by the county human service agency, its case manager or employment and training service provider, the

county that approved the plan is responsible for the costs of case management and other services required to carry out the plan, including employment and training services. The county agency's responsibility for the costs ends when all plan obligations have been met, when the caretaker loses AFDC eligibility for at least 30 days, or when approval of the plan is withdrawn for a reason stated in the plan, whichever occurs first. Responsibility for the costs of child care must be determined under chapter 256H. A county human service agency may pay for the costs of case management, child care, and other services required in an approved employability development plan when the nontargeted caretaker relocates to another county or when a targeted caretaker again becomes eligible for AFDC after having been ineligible for at least 30 days.

Subd. 10a. Orientation. (a) Each county agency must provide an orientation to all caretakers within its jurisdiction who are determined eligible for AFDC on or after July 1, 1989, and who are required to attend an orientation. The county agency shall require attendance at orientation of all caretakers except:

(1) caretakers who are exempt from registration under subdivision 3; and

(2) caretakers who are not a member of one of the groups listed in subdivision 3a, paragraph (a), and who are either responsible for the care of an incapacitated person or a dependent child under the age of six or enrolled at least half time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher learning. The county agency shall require attendance at orientation of caretakers described in subdivision 3a, paragraph (b), if they become eligible for participation in employment and training services.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (e), the orientation must consist of a presentation that informs caretakers of:

(1) the identity, location, and phone numbers of employment and training and support services available in the county;

(2) the types and locations of child care services available through the county agency that are accessible to enable a caretaker to participate in educational programs or employment and training services;

(3) the child care resource and referral program designated by the commissioner providing education and assistance to select child care services and a referral to the child care resource and referral when assistance is requested;

(4) the obligations of the county agency and service providers under contract to the county agency;

(5) the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of participants;

(6) the grounds for exemption from mandatory employment and training services or educational requirements;

(7) the consequences for failure to participate in mandatory services or requirements;

(8) the method of entering educational programs or employment and training services available through the county;

(9) the availability and the benefits of the early and periodic, screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) program and preschool screening under chapter 123;

(10) their eligibility for transition year child care assistance when they lose eligibility for AFDC due to their earnings; and

(11) their eligibility for extended medical assistance when they lose eligibility for AFDC due to their earnings.

(c) Orientation must encourage recipients to view AFDC as a temporary program providing grants and services to individuals who set goals and develop strategies for supporting their families without AFDC assistance. The content of the orientation must not imply that a recipient's eligibility for AFDC is time limited. Orientation may be provided through audio-visual methods, but the caretaker must be given an opportunity for face-to-face interaction with staff of the county agency or the entity providing the orientation, and an opportunity to express the desire to participate in educational programs and employment and training services offered through the county agency.

(d) County agencies shall not require caretakers to attend orientation for more than three hours during any period of 12 continuous months. The county agency shall also arrange for or provide needed transportation and child care to enable caretakers to attend.

(e) Orientation for caretakers not eligible for participation in employment and training services under the provisions of subdivision 3a, paragraphs (a) and (b), shall present information only on those employment, training, and support services available to those caretakers, and information on clauses (2), (3), (9), (10), and (11) of paragraph (a) and all of paragraph (c), and may not last more than two hours.

(f) Persons required to attend orientation must be informed of the penalties for failure to attend orientation, support services to enable the person to attend, what constitutes good cause for failure to attend, and rights to appeal. Persons required to attend orientation must be offered a choice of at least two dates for their first scheduled orientation. No person may be sanctioned for failure to attend orientation until after a second failure to attend.

Subd. 10b. Informing. Each county agency must provide written information concerning the topics identified in subdivision 10a, paragraph (b), to all AFDC caretakers within the county agency's jurisdiction who are exempt from the requirement to attend orientation, except those under age 16, and to recipients who have good cause for failing to attend orientation as specified in rules adopted by the commissioner. The written materials must tell the individual how the individual may indicate the desire to participate in educational programs and employment and training services offered through the county. The written materials must be mailed or hand delivered to the recipient at the time the recipient is determined to be exempt or have good cause for failing to attend an orientation.

Subd. 11. Case management services. (a) The county agency may, to the extent of available resources, enroll targeted caretakers described in subdivision 16 in case management services and for those enrolled shall:

(1) Provide an assessment as described in subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clause (14). As part of the assessment, the case manager shall inform caretakers of the screenings available through the early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) program under chapter 256B and preschool screening under chapter 123, and encourage caretakers to have their children screened. The case manager must work with the caretaker in completing this task;

(2) Develop an employability development plan as described in subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clause (15). The case manager must work with the caretaker in completing this task. For caretakers who are not literate or who have not completed high school, the first goal for the caretaker should be to complete literacy training or a general equivalency diploma. Caretakers who are literate and have completed high school shall be counseled to set realistic attainable goals, taking into account the long-term needs of both the caretaker and the caretaker's family;

(3) Coordinate services such as child care, transportation, and education assistance necessary to enable the caretaker to work toward the goals developed in clause (2). The case manager shall refer caretakers to resource and referral services, if available, and shall assist caretakers in securing appropriate child care services. When a client needs child care services in order to attend a Minnesota public or nonprofit college, university or technical college, the case manager shall contact the appropriate agency to reserve child care funds for the client. A caretaker who needs child care services in order to complete high school or a general equivalency diploma is eligible for child care under sections 256H.01 to 256H.19;

(4) Develop, execute, and monitor a contract between the county agency and the caretaker. The contract must be based upon the employability development plan described in subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clause (15), but must be a separate document. It must include: (a) specific goals of the caretaker including stated measurements of progress toward each goal, the estimated length of participation in the program, and the number of hours of participation per week; (b) educational, training, and employ-

ment activities and support services provided by the county agency, including child care; and (c) the participant's obligations and the conditions under which the county will withdraw the services provided;

The contract must be signed and dated by the case manager and participant and may include other terms as desired or needed by either party. In all cases, however, the case manager must assist the participant in reviewing and understanding the contract and must ensure that the caretaker has set forth in the contract realistic goals consistent with the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency for the caretaker's family; and

(5) Develop and refer caretakers to counseling or peer group networks for emotional support while participating in work, education, or training.

(b) In addition to the duties in paragraph (a), for minor parents and pregnant minors, the case manager shall:

(1) Ensure that the contract developed under paragraph (a), clause (4), considers all factors set forth in section 257.33, subdivision 2;

(2) Assess the housing and support systems needed by the caretaker in order to provide the dependent children with adequate parenting. The case manager shall encourage minor parents and pregnant minors who are not living with friends or relatives to live in a group home or foster care setting. If minor parents and pregnant minors are unwilling to live in a group home or foster care setting or if no group home or foster care setting is available, the case manager shall assess their need for training in parenting and independent living skills and when appropriate shall refer them to available counseling programs designed to teach needed skills; and

(3) Inform minor parents or pregnant minors of, and assist them in evaluating the appropriateness of, the high school graduation incentives program under section 126.22, including post-secondary enrollment options, and the employment-related and community-based instruction programs.

(c) A caretaker may request a conciliation conference to attempt to resolve disputes regarding the contents of a contract developed under this section or a housing and support systems assessment conducted under this section. The caretaker may request a hearing pursuant to section 256.045 to dispute the contents of a contract or assessment developed under this section. The caretaker need not request a conciliation conference in order to request a hearing pursuant to section 256.045.

Subd. 12. Case managers. (a) Counties may directly employ case managers if certified as an employment and training service provider under section 268.0122, or may contract for case management services with a certified employment and training service provider. Uncertified counties and contracting agencies may provide case management services only if they demonstrate the ability to coordinate employment, training, education, and support services. The commissioner of jobs and training shall determine whether or not an uncertified county or agency has demonstrated such ability.

(b) Counties that employ case managers must ensure that the case managers have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform the variety of tasks described in subdivision 11. Counties that contract with another agency for case management services must specify in the contract the skills and knowledge needed by the case managers. At a minimum, case managers must:

(1) have a thorough knowledge of training, education, and employment opportunities;

(2) have training or experience in understanding the needs of AFDC clients and their families; and

(3) be able to formulate creative individualized contracts.

Subd. 13. State share. The state must pay 75 percent of the nonfederal share of costs incurred by counties under subdivision 11.

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties, up to the limit of state appropriations, according to the payment schedule in section 256.025, for the county share of county agency expenditures made under subdivision 11 from January 1, 1991,

on. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017.

If the state appropriation is not sufficient to fund the cost of case management services for all caretakers identified in subdivision 2a, the commissioner must define a statewide subgroup of caretakers which includes all caretakers in subdivision 2a, clause (1), and as many caretakers as possible from subdivision 2a, clauses (2) and (3).

Subd. 14. Job search. (a) The commissioner of human services shall establish a job search program under Public Law Number 100-485. Unless exempt, the principal wage earner in an AFDC-UP assistance unit must be referred to the job search program within 30 days of being determined eligible for AFDC, and must begin participation within four months of being determined eligible. The principal wage earner is exempt from job search participation if:

(1) the caretaker is already participating in another approved employment and training service;

(2) the caretaker's employability plan specifies other activities;

(3) the caretaker is exempt from registration under subdivision 3; or

(4) the caretaker is unable to secure employment due to inability to communicate in the English language, is participating in an English as a second language course, and is making satisfactory progress towards completion of the course. If an English as a second language course is not available to the caretaker, the caretaker is exempt from participation until a course becomes available.

(b) The job search program must provide the following services:

(1) an initial period of up to four weeks of job search activities for not more than 32 hours per week. The employment and training service provider shall specify for each participating caretaker the number of weeks and hours of job search to be conducted and shall report to the county board if the caretaker fails to cooperate with the job search requirement; and

(2) an additional period of job search following the first period at the discretion of the employment and training service provider. The total of these two periods of job search may not exceed eight weeks for any 12 consecutive month period beginning with the month of application.

(c) The job search program may provide services to non-AFDC-UP caretakers.

Subd. 15. Reporting. The commissioner of human services, in cooperation with the commissioner of jobs and training shall develop reporting requirements for county agencies and employment and training service providers according to section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (17). Reporting requirements must, to the extent possible, use existing client tracking systems and must be within the limits of funds available. The requirements must include summary information necessary for state agencies and the legislature to evaluate the effectiveness of the services.

Subd. 16. Allocation and use of money. (a) State money appropriated for employment and training services under this section must be allocated to counties as specified in paragraphs (b) to (i).

(b) For purposes of this section, "targeted caretaker" means a recipient who:

(1) is a custodial parent under the age of 24 who: (i) has not completed a high school education and at the time of application for AFDC is not enrolled in high school or in a high school equivalency program; or (ii) had little or no work experience in the preceding year;

(2) is a member of a family in which the youngest child is within two years of being ineligible for AFDC due to age; or

(3) has received 36 months or more of AFDC over the last 60 months.

(c) One hundred percent of the money appropriated for case management services as described in subdivision 11 must be allocated to counties based on the average number of cases in each county described in clause (1). Money appropriated for employment and training services as described in subdivision 1a, paragraph (d), other than case management services, must be allocated to counties as follows:

(1) Forty percent of the state money must be allocated based on the average number of cases receiving AFDC in the county which either have been open for 36 or more consecutive months or have a caretaker who is under age 24 and who has no high school or general equivalency diploma. The average number of cases must be based on counts of these cases as of March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of the previous year.

(2) Twenty percent of the state money must be allocated based on the average number of cases receiving AFDC in the county which are not counted under clause (1). The average number of cases must be based on counts of cases as of March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of the previous year.

(3) Twenty-five percent of the state money must be allocated based on the average monthly number of assistance units in the county receiving AFDC-UP for the period ending December 31 of the previous year.

(4) Fifteen percent of the state money must be allocated at the discretion of the commissioner based on participation levels for targeted group members in each county.

(d) No more than 15 percent of the money allocated under paragraph (b) and no more than 15 percent of the money allocated under paragraph (c) may be used for administrative activities.

(e) At least 55 percent of the money allocated to counties under paragraph (c) must be used for employment and training services for caretakers in the targeted groups, and up to 45 percent of the money may be used for employment and training services for nontargeted caretakers. One hundred percent of the money allocated to counties for case management services must be used to provide those services to caretakers in the targeted groups.

(f) Money appropriated to cover the nonfederal share of costs for bilingual case management services to refugees for the employment and training programs under this section are allocated to counties based on each county's proportion of the total statewide number of AFDC refugee cases. However, counties with less than one percent of the statewide number of AFDC refugee cases do not receive an allocation.

(g) Counties and the department of jobs and training shall bill the commissioner of human services for any expenditures incurred by the county, the county's employment and training service provider, or the department of jobs and training that may be reimbursed by federal money. The commissioner of human services shall bill the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Agriculture for the reimbursement and appropriate the reimbursed money to the county, the department of jobs and training, or employment and training service provider that submitted the original bill. The reimbursed money must be used to expand employment and training services.

(h) The commissioner of human services shall review county expenditures of case management and employment and training block grant money at the end of the fourth quarter of the biennium and each quarter after that, and may reallocate unencumbered or unexpended money allocated under this section to those counties that can demonstrate a need for additional money. Reallocation of funds must be based on the formula set forth in paragraph (a), excluding the counties that have not demonstrated a need for additional funds.

(i) The county agency may continue to provide case management and supportive services to a participant for up to 90 days after the participant loses AFDC eligibility and may continue providing a specific employment and training service for the duration of that service to a participant if funds for the service are obligated or expended prior to the participant losing AFDC eligibility.

Subd. 17. [Repealed, 1990 c 568 art 4 s 85]

Subd. 18. **Program operation by Indian tribes.** (a) The commissioner may enter into agreements with any federally recognized Indian tribe with a reservation in the state to provide employment and training programs under this section to members of the Indian tribe receiving AFDC. For purposes of this section, "Indian tribe" means

a tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians; and for which a reservation exists as is consistent with Public Law Number 100-485, as amended.

(b) Agreements entered into under this subdivision must require the governing body of the Indian tribe to fulfill all county responsibilities required under this section in operation of the employment and training services covered by the contract, excluding the county share of costs in subdivision 13 and any county function related to AFDC eligibility determination or grant payment. The commissioner may enter into an agreement with a consortium of Indian tribes providing the governing body of each Indian tribe in the consortium agrees to these conditions.

(c) Agreements entered into under this subdivision must require the Indian tribe to operate the employment and training services within a geographic service area not to exceed the counties within which a border of the reservation falls. Indian tribes may also operate services in Hennepin and Ramsey counties or other geographic areas as approved by the commissioner of human services in consultation with the commissioner of jobs and training.

(d) Agreements entered into under this section must require the Indian tribe to operate a federal jobs program under Public Law Number 100-485, section 482(i).

(e) Agreements entered into under this section must require conformity with section 13.46 and any applicable federal regulations in the use of data about AFDC recipients.

(f) Agreements entered into under this section must require financial and program participant activity record keeping and reporting in the manner and using the forms and procedures specified by the commissioner and that federal reimbursement received must be used to expand operation of the employment and training services.

(g) Agreements entered into under this section must require that the Indian tribe coordinate operation of the programs with county employment and training programs, Indian Job Training Partnership Act programs, and educational programs in the counties in which the tribal unit's program operates.

(h) Agreements entered into under this section must require the Indian tribe to allow inspection of program operations and records by representatives of the department.

(i) Agreements entered into under this subdivision must require the Indian tribe to have its employment and training service provider certified by the commissioner of jobs and training for operation of the programs.

(j) Agreements entered into under this subdivision must require the Indian tribe to specify a starting date for each program with a procedure to enable tribal members participating in county-operated employment and training services to make the transition to the program operated by the tribal unit. Programs must begin on the first day of a month specified by the agreement.

(k) If the commissioner and Indian tribe enter into an agreement, the commissioner, after consulting with the commissioner of jobs and training regarding tribal plan status, may immediately reallocate county case management and employment and training block grant money from the counties in the Indian tribe's service area to the Indian tribe, prorating each county's annual allocations according to that percentage of the number of adult tribal unit members receiving AFDC residing in the county compared to the total number of adult AFDC recipients residing in the county and also prorating the annual allocation according to the month in which the Indian tribe program starts. If the Indian tribe cancels the agreement or fails, in the commissioner's judgment, to fulfill any requirement of the agreement, the commissioner shall reallocate money back to the counties in the Indian tribe's service area.

(l) Indian tribe members receiving AFDC and residing in the service area of an Indian tribe operating employment and training services under an agreement with the commissioner must be referred by county agencies in the service area to the Indian tribe for employment and training services.

(m) The Indian tribe shall bill the commissioner of human services for services performed under the contract. The commissioner shall bill the United States Department of Health and Human Services for reimbursement. Federal receipts are appropriated to the commissioner to be provided to the Indian tribe that submitted the original bill.

History: 1969 c 567 s 1; 1969 c 750 s 1; 1973 c 254 s 3; 1974 c 498 s 1,2; 1977 c 430 s 15-18; 1980 c 509 s 100; 3Sp1981 c 3 s 9,10; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 252 s 9,10; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 17-22; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 4-21; 1Sp1987 c 4 art 2 s 4; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 130-134; 1989 c 89 s 7; 1989 c 246 s 2; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 25-34; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 2; 1990 c 426 art 2 s 1; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 3-13,84

NOTE: Subdivision 1 was also amended by Laws 1985, First Special Session chapter 14, article 9, section 16, to read as follows:

"Subdivision 1. **Commissioner.** To the extent permitted by law, the commissioner of jobs and training shall administer, on behalf of the commissioner of human services, the aspects of the aid to families with dependent children program, excluding categorical and financial eligibility, that directly relate to:

- (1) recipients' participation in employment and training services;
- (2) requirements for and conditions of participating in employment and training services;
- (3) the design and administration of employment and training services; and
- (4) the supervision of county boards in carrying out responsibilities related to employment and training services.

The commissioner of jobs and training and the commissioner of human services may implement those programs and authorities, including supported work programs, employment search, and demonstration projects authorized under federal regulations to increase services or federal reimbursement available to provide employment and training services for recipients of aid to families with dependent children. Before a demonstration project is implemented, the conditions under section 256.01, subdivision 2, clause 12, must be met."

256.7365 SPECIAL PROJECTS TO ADDRESS DEPENDENCE ON AFDC.

Subdivision 1. Establishment and purpose. The commissioner shall establish a grant program for projects to serve AFDC caretakers who have received AFDC for at least 36 months, AFDC caretakers with substantial barriers to employment, or individuals at risk of long-term dependency on AFDC. The projects shall assist individuals to escape or avoid long-term dependency on AFDC.

Subd. 2. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(a) "Substantial barriers to employment" means disabilities, chemical dependency, having children with disabilities, lack of a high school degree, lack of a marketable occupational skill, three or more children, or lack of regular work experience in the previous five years.

(b) "Case management" means case management as defined in section 256.736, subdivision 11.

Subd. 3. Application. Counties, employment and training service providers, cities, local and state agencies, federally recognized Indian reservations, educational institutions, job training agencies, community-based organizations, displaced homemaker programs, supported work programs, and other nonprofit agencies may apply for grants under this section.

Subd. 4. Selection. A committee consisting of the commissioner of human services, the commissioner of jobs and training, and the chancellor of the state board of vocational technical education, or their designees, shall review the project proposals and select projects to receive grants under this section. The first set of projects must be selected by March 1, 1988. At least two projects must be selected that are operated by or in cooperation with tribes or organizations representing ethnic minorities, except that the committee may reject any project proposal that does not meet the design requirements established in subdivision 5.

Subd. 5. Project design. Projects selected under this section must:

- (1) use existing resources whenever possible;
- (2) serve one of the three groups listed in subdivision 1;
- (3) meet financial and administrative standards established by the commissioner;

(4) participate in reporting and evaluation requirements as specified by the commissioner; and

(5) provide matching funds, including in-kind matches, but not including income maintenance grants, medical assistance, food stamps, or state job training funds. Preference shall be given to projects which include multiagency participation or coordination.

Subd. 6. Allowable expenditures. (a) Projects may use money received under this section for education, employment, social services, child care, transportation, support services, rehabilitation services, relocation assistance, job development, work experience, on-the-job training, case management, medical services, and other appropriate services.

(b) Projects may use up to 15 percent of the money received under this section for administrative expenses. Administrative expenses do not include expenses for activities in paragraph (a).

(c) The commissioner may establish limits on the use of money for particular purposes or services.

Subd. 7. Demonstration and evaluation. For the biennium ending June 30, 1989, projects are demonstration projects to test the effectiveness of differing approaches to serving populations with acute needs. The commissioner of human services shall submit to the governor and the legislature a progress report by February 1, 1989, and shall submit subsequent program evaluation reports as part of the biennial plan.

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1990 c 568 art 4 s 85]

Subd. 9. Carryover authority. Money appropriated in one fiscal year may be carried forward into the next year to ensure continuity of services and funding for follow-up services.

History: 1987 c 403 art 3 s 22; 1990 c 375 s 3; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 14

256.737 COMMUNITY WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Establishment and purpose. In order that persons receiving aid under this chapter may be assisted in achieving self-sufficiency by enhancing their employability through meaningful work experience and training and the development of job search skills, the commissioner of human services shall continue the pilot community work experience demonstration programs that were approved by January 1, 1984. The commissioner may establish additional community work experience programs in as many counties as necessary to comply with the participation requirements of the Family Support Act of 1988, Public Law Number 100-485. Programs established on or after July 1, 1989, must be operated on a volunteer basis and must be operated according to the Family Support Act of 1988, Public Law Number 100-485.

Subd. 1a. Commissioner's duties. The commissioner shall: (a) assist counties in the design and implementation of these programs; (b) promulgate, in accordance with chapter 14, emergency rules necessary for the implementation of this section, except that the time restrictions of section 14.35 shall not apply and the rules may be in effect until June 30, 1993, unless superseded by permanent rules; (c) seek any federal waivers necessary for proper implementation of this section in accordance with federal law; and (d) prohibit the use of participants in the programs to do work that was part or all of the duties or responsibilities of an authorized public employee position established as of January 1, 1989. The exclusive bargaining representative shall be notified no less than 14 days in advance of any placement by the community work experience program. Concurrence with respect to job duties of persons placed under the community work experience program shall be obtained from the appropriate exclusive bargaining representative. The appropriate oversight committee shall be given monthly lists of all job placements under a community work experience program.

Subd. 2. Program requirements. (a) Programs under this section are limited to projects that serve a useful public service such as: health, social service, environmental protection, education, urban and rural development and redevelopment, welfare, recre-

ation, public facilities, public safety and child care. To the extent possible, the prior training, skills, and experience of a recipient must be used in making appropriate work experience assignments.

(b) As a condition to placing a person receiving aid to families with dependent children in a program under this subdivision, the county agency shall first provide the recipient the opportunity to participate in the following services:

(1) placement in suitable subsidized or unsubsidized employment through participation in job search under section 256.736, subdivision 14; or

(2) basic educational or vocational or occupational training for an identifiable job opportunity.

(c) A recipient who has completed a job search under section 256.736, subdivision 14, who is unable to secure suitable employment, and who is not enrolled in an approved training program may participate in a community work experience program.

(d) The county agency shall limit the maximum number of hours any participant under this section may work in any month to a number equal to the amount of the aid to families with dependent children payable to the family divided by the greater of the federal minimum wage or the applicable state minimum wage.

(e) After a participant has been assigned to a position under this section for nine months, the participant may not continue in that assignment unless the maximum number of hours a participant works is no greater than the amount of the aid to families with dependent children payable with respect to the family divided by the higher of (1) the federal minimum wage or the applicable state minimum wage, whichever is greater, or (2) the rate of pay for individuals employed in the same or similar occupations by the same employer at the same site.

(f) After each six months of a recipient's participation in an assignment, and at the conclusion of each assignment under this section, the county agency shall reassess and revise, as appropriate, each participant's employability development plan.

History: 1983 c 249 s 1; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 22,58; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 30; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 23; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 62; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 35; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 15-17

256.738 ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

(a) County agencies may, in accordance with section 256.736, subdivision 10, develop on-the-job training programs that permit voluntary participation by AFDC recipients. A county agency that chooses to provide on-the-job training as one of its optional employment and training services may make payments to employers for on-the-job training costs that, during the period of the training, must not exceed 50 percent of the wages paid by the employer to the participant. The payments are deemed to be in compensation for the extraordinary costs associated with training participants under this section and in compensation for the costs associated with the lower productivity of the participants during training.

(b) County agencies shall limit the length of training based on the complexity of the job and the recipient's previous experience and training. Placement in an on-the-job training position with an employer is for the purpose of training and employment with the same employer, who has agreed to retain the person upon satisfactory completion of training.

(c) Placement of any recipient in an on-the-job training position must be compatible with the assessment and employability development plan established for the recipient under section 256.736, subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clauses (14) and (15).

(d) Provision of an on-the-job training program under the job training partnership act, in and of itself, does not qualify as an on-the-job training program under section 256.736, subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clause (13).

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 36

256.739 GRANT DIVERSION.

(a) County agencies may, according to section 256.736, subdivision 10, develop grant diversion programs that permit voluntary participation by AFDC recipients. A county agency that chooses to provide grant diversion as one of its optional employment and training services may divert to an employer part or all of the AFDC payment for the participant's assistance unit, in compliance with federal regulations and laws. Such payments to an employer are to subsidize employment for AFDC recipients as an alternative to public assistance payments.

(b) County agencies shall limit the length of training to nine months. Placement in a grant diversion training position with an employer is for the purpose of training and employment with the same employer, who has agreed to retain the person upon satisfactory completion of training.

(c) Placement of any recipient in a grant diversion subsidized training position must be compatible with the assessment and employability development plan established for the recipient under section 256.736, subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clauses (14) and (15).

(d) No grant diversion participant may be assigned to fill any established, unfilled position vacancy with an employer.

(e) In addition to diverting the AFDC grant to the employer, employment and training block grant funds may be used to subsidize the grant diversion placement.

History: 1990 c 568 art 4 s 18

256.74 ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. **Amount.** The amount of assistance which shall be granted to or on behalf of any dependent child and mother or other needy eligible relative caring for the dependent child shall be determined by the county agency in accordance with rules promulgated by the commissioner and shall be sufficient, when added to all other income and support available to the child, to provide the child with a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health. The amount shall be based on the method of budgeting required in Public Law Number 97-35, section 2315, United States Code, title 42, section 602, as amended and federal regulations at Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, section 233. Nonrecurring lump sum income received by an assistance unit must be budgeted in the normal retrospective cycle. The number of months of ineligibility is determined by dividing the amount of the lump sum income and all other income, after application of the applicable disregards, by the standard of need for the assistance unit. An amount remaining after this calculation is income in the first month of eligibility. If the total monthly income including the lump sum income is larger than the standard of need for a single month the first month of ineligibility is the payment month that corresponds with the budget month in which the lump sum income was received. In making its determination the county agency shall disregard the following from family income:

(1) all of the earned income of each dependent child receiving aid to families with dependent children who is a full-time student or part-time student, and not a full-time employee, attending a school, college, or university, or a course of vocational or technical training designed to fit students for gainful employment as well as all the earned income derived from the job training and partnership act (JTPA) for a dependent child for six calendar months per year, together with unearned income derived from the job training and partnership act;

(2) all educational grants and loans;

(3) the first \$90 of each individual's earned income. For self-employed persons, the expenses directly related to producing goods and services and without which the goods and services could not be produced shall be disregarded pursuant to rules promulgated by the commissioner;

(4) thirty dollars plus one-third of each individual's earned income for individuals found otherwise eligible to receive aid or who have received aid in one of the four

months before the month of application. With respect to any month, the county welfare agency shall not disregard under this clause any earned income of any person who has: (a) reduced earned income without good cause within 30 days preceding any month in which an assistance payment is made; (b) refused without good cause to accept an offer of suitable employment; (c) left employment or reduced earnings without good cause and applied for assistance so as to be able later to return to employment with the advantage of the income disregard; or (d) failed without good cause to make a timely report of earned income in accordance with rules promulgated by the commissioner of human services. Persons who are already employed and who apply for assistance shall have their needs computed with full account taken of their earned and other income. If earned and other income of the family is less than need, as determined on the basis of public assistance standards, the county agency shall determine the amount of the grant by applying the disregard of income provisions. The county agency shall not disregard earned income for persons in a family if the total monthly earned and other income exceeds their needs, unless for any one of the four preceding months their needs were met in whole or in part by a grant payment. The disregard of \$30 and one-third of earned income in this clause shall be applied to the individual's income for a period not to exceed four consecutive months. Any month in which the individual loses this disregard because of the provisions of subclauses (a) to (d) shall be considered as one of the four months. An additional \$30 work incentive must be available for an eight-month period beginning in the month following the last month of the combined \$30 and one-third work incentive. This period must be in effect whether or not the person has earned income or is eligible for AFDC. To again qualify for the earned income disregards under this clause, the individual must not be a recipient of aid for a period of 12 consecutive months. When an assistance unit becomes ineligible for aid due to the fact that these disregards are no longer applied to income, the assistance unit shall be eligible for medical assistance benefits for a 12-month period beginning with the first month of AFDC ineligibility;

(5) an amount equal to the actual expenditures for the care of each dependent child or incapacitated individual living in the same home and receiving aid, not to exceed: (a) \$175 for each individual age two and older, and \$200 for each individual under the age of two, when the family member whose needs are included in the eligibility determination is employed for 30 or more hours per week; or (b) \$174 for each individual age two or older, and \$199 for each individual under the age of two, when the family member whose needs are included in the eligibility determination is not employed throughout the month or when employment is less than 30 hours per week. The dependent care disregard must be applied after all other disregards under this subdivision have been applied;

(6) the first \$50 per assistance unit of the monthly support obligation collected by the support and recovery (IV-D) unit. The first \$50 of periodic support payments collected by the public authority responsible for child support enforcement from a person with a legal obligation to pay support for a member of the assistance unit must be paid to the assistance unit within 15 days after the end of the month in which the collection of the periodic support payments occurred and must be disregarded when determining the amount of assistance. A review of a payment decision under this clause must be requested within 30 days after receiving the notice of collection of assigned support or within 90 days after receiving the notice if good cause can be shown for not making the request within the 30-day limit;

(7) that portion of an insurance settlement earmarked and used to pay medical expenses, funeral and burial costs, or to repair or replace insured property; and

(8) all earned income tax credit payments received by the family as a refund of federal income taxes or made as advance payments by an employer.

Subd. 1a. Stepparent's income. In determining income available, the county agency shall take into account the remaining income of the dependent child's stepparent who lives in the same household after disregarding:

(1) the first \$75 of the stepparent's gross earned income;

(2) an amount for support of the stepparent and any other individuals whom the stepparent claims as dependents for determining federal personal income tax liability and who live in the same household but whose needs are not considered in determining eligibility for assistance under sections 256.72 to 256.87. The amount equals the standard of need for a family of the same composition as the stepparent and these other individuals;

(3) amounts the stepparent actually paid to individuals not living in the same household but whom the stepparent claims as dependents for determining federal personal income tax liability; and

(4) alimony or child support, or both, paid by the stepparent for individuals not living in the same household.

Subd. 1b. Review of standard of need. The commissioner of human services shall develop a household budget sufficient to maintain a family in Minnesota. The budget must be based on a market survey of the cost of items needed by families raising children to the extent these factors are consistent with the requirements of federal regulations. The commissioner shall develop recommendations for an AFDC standard of need and level of payment that are based on the budget. The commissioner shall submit to the legislature by January 1, 1990, a report identifying the methods proposed for the conduct of the market survey, the funds required for the survey, and a timetable for completion of the survey, establishment of a family budget, and recommendation of an AFDC standard of need.

Subd. 2. Application. Application for assistance under sections 256.72 to 256.87 shall be made to the county agency of the county in which the dependent child lives. If the child is not living within the state at the time of application but is eligible for assistance, the application may be made to the agency of the county where the child is present and forwarded to the agency of the county where the child last lived. The application shall be in writing or reduced to writing in the manner and upon the form prescribed by the state agency and verified by the oath of the applicant or in lieu thereof shall contain the following declaration which shall be signed by the applicant: "I declare that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is a true and correct statement of every material point." The application shall be made by the person with whom the child will live and contain information as to the age and residence of the child and such other information as may be required by the rules of the state agency. One application may be made for several children of the same family if they live with the same person.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, Ex1971 c 16 s 6]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, Ex1971 c 16 s 6]

Subd. 5. Assignment of support and maintenance rights. An applicant for assistance, or a recipient of assistance, under sections 256.72 to 256.87 or an applicant or recipient for whom foster care maintenance is provided under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act is considered to have assigned to the public agency responsible for child support enforcement at the time of application all rights to child support and maintenance from any other person the applicant may have in the applicant's own behalf or in the behalf of any other family member for whom application is made under sections 256.72 to 256.87 or Title IV-E. The assignment:

(1) is effective as to both current and accrued child support and maintenance obligations;

(2) takes effect upon a determination that the applicant is eligible for assistance under sections 256.72 to 256.87 or that the applicant or family member is eligible for foster care maintenance under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act;

(3) terminates when an applicant ceases to receive assistance under sections 256.72 to 256.87 or when the applicant or family member ceases to receive foster care maintenance under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, except with respect to the amount of any unpaid support or maintenance obligation, or both, under the assignment.

History: (8688-7, 8688-8) 1937 c 438 s 5,6; 1943 c 580 s 1; 1945 c 320 s 1; 1947 c

192 s 1; 1949 c 606 s 1; 1951 c 229 s 3; 1955 c 763 s 1,2; 1957 c 690 s 3; 1963 c 296 s 1; 1963 c 794 s 5; 1967 c 653 s 1; 1969 c 478 s 1; 1969 c 747 s 1; 1979 c 250 s 1; 3Sp1981 c 3 s 11,12; 1982 c 640 s 1,2; 1983 c 308 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 131 s 1,2; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1985 c 252 s 11-13; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 23; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 37-39; 1990 c 568 art 2 s 61

256.745 SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT PILOT PROJECT.

Subdivision 1. **STEP.** "STEP" means the strive toward excellence program administered by the department of administration.

Subd. 2. **Pilot project established; goals.** The service delivery improvement project, consisting of six pilot projects selected under subdivision 4, is established to use STEP productivity improvement technology to achieve the following goals: redesign of employment and training and income maintenance delivery systems as required under Laws 1985, First Special Session chapter 14, article 9; and improvement of the quality and cost effectiveness of employment and training and income maintenance services provided to clients.

Subd. 3. **Committee.** The commissioner shall establish and select a committee to administer the service delivery improvement project. The committee consists of the commissioner, the commissioner of jobs and training, the commissioner of human services, one member of the senate, one member of the house of representatives, one public member representing the private sector, and other public members considered necessary by the commissioner. The commissioner may reimburse the public members for actual expenses in the same manner and amount as authorized by the commissioner's plan under section 43A.18, subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. **Duties.** The committee shall solicit from local service units or consortia of local service units proposals to conduct innovative pilot projects to redesign the employment and training and income maintenance delivery system. By December 1, 1987, the committee shall evaluate the proposals and select six pilot projects to receive training and technical assistance as provided in subdivision 6.

Subd. 5. **Evaluation.** The committee shall evaluate each proposal based upon the extent to which the proposed pilot project uses STEP productivity improvement technology, addresses the goals set forth under subdivision 2, and involves members of the private sector in joint financing of delivery system innovations.

Subd. 6. **Training and technical assistance.** The commissioner shall contract with the department of administration to provide staff training, technical assistance, and detailed periodic reports of the day-to-day operation of a pilot project to affected local service units.

Subd. 7. **Cooperation of agencies.** The commissioner of human services and the commissioner of jobs and training shall cooperate fully with local service units undertaking pilot projects under this section. If requested by a local service unit which has had a pilot project selected under subdivision 4, the commissioner shall reduce, to the extent possible, reporting and other requirements which may be applicable under state law to that pilot project.

History: 1987 c 403 art 3 s 24

256.75 INVESTIGATIONS TO BE MADE BY COUNTY AGENCIES.

When a county agency receives a notification of the dependency of a child or an application for assistance an investigation and record shall be made within a reasonable time of the circumstances to ascertain the dependency of the child or the facts supporting the application made under sections 256.72 to 256.87 and such other information as may be required by the rules of the state agency.

History: (8688-9) 1937 c 438 s 7

256.76 ASSISTANCE, DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.

Subdivision 1. Upon the completion of the investigation the county agency shall

decide whether the child is eligible for assistance under the provisions of sections 256.72 to 256.87 and determine the amount of the assistance and the date on which the assistance begins. A decision on an application for assistance must be made as promptly as possible and no more than 30 days from the date of application. Notwithstanding section 393.07, the county agency shall not delay approval or issuance of assistance pending formal action of the county board of commissioners. The first month's grant shall be based upon that portion of the month from the date of application, or from the date that the applicant meets all eligibility factors, whichever occurs later, provided that on the date that assistance is first requested, the county agency shall inquire and determine whether the person requesting assistance is in immediate need of food, shelter, clothing, or other emergency assistance. If an emergency need is found to exist, the applicant shall be granted assistance pursuant to section 256.871 within a reasonable period of time. It shall make a grant of assistance which shall be binding upon the county and be complied with by the county until the grant is modified or vacated. The county agency shall notify the applicant of its decision in writing. The assistance shall be paid monthly to the applicant or to the vendor of medical care upon order of the county agency from funds appropriated to the county agency for this purpose. The county agency shall, upon the granting of assistance under these sections, file an order on the form to be approved by the state agency with the auditor of the county. After the order is filed, warrants shall be drawn and payments made only in accordance with this order to or for recipients of this assistance or in accordance with any subsequent order.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

History: (8688-10) 1937 c 438 s 8; 1951 c 229 s 4; 1957 c 690 s 4; 1971 c 681 s 4; 1980 c 509 s 101; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 20; 1985 c 252 s 14; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 135; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.77 [Repealed, 1976 c 131 s 2]

256.78 ASSISTANCE GRANTS RECONSIDERED.

All assistance granted under sections 256.72 to 256.87 shall be reconsidered as frequently as may be required by the rules of the state agency. After such further investigation as the county agency may deem necessary or the state agency may require, the amount of assistance may be changed or assistance may be entirely withdrawn if the state or county agency find that the child's circumstances have altered sufficiently to warrant such action. The period of ineligibility for AFDC which results when an assistance unit receives lump sum income must be reduced when:

(1) the assistance unit's standard of need increases due to changes in state law or due to changes in the size or composition of the assistance unit, so that the amount of aid the assistance unit would have received would have increased had it not become ineligible;

(2) the lump sum income, or a portion of it becomes unavailable to the assistance unit due to expenditures to avoid a life-threatening circumstance, theft, or dissipation which is beyond the family's control by a member of the family who is no longer part of the assistance unit when the lump sum income is not used to meet the needs of members of the assistance unit; or

(3) the assistance unit incurs and pays medical expenses for care and services specified in sections 256B.02, subdivision 8, and 256B.0625.

The county agency may for cause at any time revoke, modify, or suspend any order for assistance previously made. When assistance is thus revoked, modified, or suspended the county agency shall at once report to the state agency such decision together with supporting evidence required by the rules of the state agency. All such decisions shall be subject to appeal and review by the state agency as provided in section 256.045.

History: (8688-12) 1937 c 438 s 10; 1980 c 509 s 102; 1985 c 252 s 15; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 268

256.79 [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

256.80 COUNTY BOARD TO APPROPRIATE MONEY; MANDATORY.

The county board of commissioners in each county in this state shall appropriate annually such sum as may be needed to carry out the provisions of sections 256.72 to 256.87, including expenses of administration based upon a budget prepared by the county agency, after taking into account state aid, and to include in the tax levy for such county the sum or sums appropriated for that purpose. Should the sum so appropriated be expended or exhausted during the year and for the purpose for which it was appropriated additional sums shall be appropriated by the board of county commissioners.

History: (8688-14) 1937 c 438 s 12

256.81 COUNTY AGENCY, DUTIES.

(1) The county agency shall keep such records, accounts, and statistics in relation to aid to families with dependent children as the state agency shall prescribe.

(2) Each grant of aid to families with dependent children shall be paid to the recipient by the county agency unless paid by the state agency. Payment must be by check or electronic means except in those instances in which the county agency, subject to the rules of the state agency, determines that payments for care shall be made to an individual other than the parent or relative with whom the dependent child is living or to vendors of goods and services for the benefit of the child because such parent or relative is unable to properly manage the funds in the best interests and welfare of the child. At the request of a recipient, the state or county may make payments directly to vendors of goods and services, but only for goods and services appropriate to maintain the health and safety of the child, as determined by the county.

(3) The county shall be paid from state and federal funds available therefor the amount provided for in section 256.82.

(4) Federal funds available for administrative purposes shall be distributed between the state and the counties in the same proportion that expenditures were made except as provided for in section 256.017.

History: (8688-15) 1937 c 438 s 13; 1943 c 619 s 2; 1951 c 229 s 5; 1963 c 794 s 6; 1967 c 885 s 5; 1969 c 451 s 1; 1969 c 749 s 4; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 5; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 19

256.82 PAYMENTS BY STATE.

Subdivision 1. Monthly payments. Based upon estimates submitted by the county agency to the state agency, which shall state the estimated required expenditures for the succeeding month, upon the direction of the state agency, payment shall be made monthly in advance by the state to the counties of all federal funds available for that purpose for such succeeding month. The state share of the nonfederal portion of county agency expenditures shall be 85 percent and the county share shall be 15 percent. Payments to counties for costs incurred shall include an amount of state funds equal to 85 percent of the difference between the total estimated cost and the federal funds so available for payments made. Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties according to the payment schedule in section 256.025 for the county share of county agency expenditures under this subdivision from January 1, 1991, on. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017. Adjustment of any overestimate or underestimate made by any county shall be paid upon the direction of the state agency in any succeeding month.

Subd. 2. Foster care maintenance payments. Notwithstanding subdivision 1, for the purposes of foster care maintenance payments under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 670 to 676, during the period beginning July 1, 1985, and ending December 31, 1985, the county paying the maintenance costs shall be reimbursed for the costs from those federal funds available for that purpose together with an amount of state funds equal to a percentage of the difference

between the total cost and the federal funds made available for payment. This percentage shall not exceed the percentage specified in subdivision 1 for the aid to families with dependent children program. In the event that the state appropriation for this purpose is less than the state percentage set in subdivision 1, the reimbursement shall be ratably reduced to the county. Beginning January 1, 1986, for the purpose of foster care maintenance payments under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, sections 670 to 676, the county paying the maintenance costs must be reimbursed for the costs from the federal money available for the purpose.

Subd. 3. Setting foster care standard rates. The commissioner shall annually establish minimum standard maintenance rates for foster care maintenance and difficulty of care payments for all children in foster care.

Subd. 4. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt emergency and permanent rules to implement subdivision 3. In developing rules, the commissioner shall take into consideration any existing difficulty of care payment rates so that, to the extent possible, no child for whom a difficulty of care rate is currently established will be adversely affected.

History: (8688-16) 1937 c 438 s 14; 1943 c 619 s 1; 1951 c 229 s 6; 1977 c 423 art 3 s 3; 1979 c 303 art 2 s 1; 1980 c 607 art 2 s 2; 1982 c 553 s 1; 1983 c 312 art 5 s 5; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 31; 1987 c 235 s 1,2; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 6; 1989 c 277 art 2 s 5; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 3; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.83 [Repealed, 1971 c 550 s 2]

256.84 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE NOT TO BAR AID.

The receipt or possession by any person of sums received from United States government war risk insurance or any government compensation shall not be a bar to the granting of an allowance provided for in sections 256.72 to 256.87 if, in the opinion of the county agency having jurisdiction to order the allowance, such insurance or compensation is not sufficient to maintain the children, in whose behalf an allowance is requested, in their own home.

History: (8688-18) 1937 c 438 s 16

256.85 LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.

Sections 256.031 to 256.036 and 256.72 to 256.87 shall be liberally construed with a view to accomplishing their purpose, which is to enable the state and its several counties to cooperate with responsible primary caretakers of children in rearing future citizens, when the cooperation is necessary on account of relatively permanent conditions, in order to keep the family together in the same household, reasonably safeguard the health of the children's primary caretaker and secure personal care and training to the children during their tender years.

History: (8688-19) 1937 c 438 s 17; 1981 c 31 s 6; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 40

256.851 RULES.

The commissioner of human services shall promulgate emergency and permanent rules necessary to implement Laws 1981, Third Special Session chapter 3, sections 1 to 19, and sections 256.72 to 256.871.

History: 3Sp1981 c 3 s 13; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 23,58

256.86 UNITED STATES FUNDS TO BE APPROPRIATED TO STATE AGENCY.

All moneys received, or to be received, from the United States government for aid to dependent children are hereby appropriated to the state agency for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of sections 256.72 to 256.87.

History: (8688-20) 1937 c 438 s 18

256.863 RECOVERY OF MONEYS; APPORTIONMENT.

When any amount shall be recovered from any source for assistance furnished under the provisions of sections 256.72 to 256.87, except as provided in sections 256.019 and 256.98, subdivision 7, there shall be paid to the United States the amount which shall be due under the terms of the Social Security Act and the balance thereof shall be paid into the treasury of the state or county substantially in the proportion in which they have respectively contributed toward the total assistance paid.

History: 1953 c 55 s 1; 1959 c 24 s 1; 1976 c 239 s 80; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 7

256.87 CONTRIBUTION BY PARENTS.

Subdivision 1. Actions against parents for assistance furnished. A parent of a child is liable for the amount of assistance furnished under sections 256.72 to 256.87 to and for the benefit of the child, including any assistance furnished for the benefit of the caretaker of the child, which the parent has had the ability to pay. Ability to pay must be determined according to chapter 518. The parent's liability is limited to the amount of assistance furnished during the two years immediately preceding the commencement of the action, except that where child support has been previously ordered, the state or county agency providing the assistance, as assignee of the obligee, shall be entitled to judgments for child support payments accruing within ten years preceding the date of the commencement of the action up to the full amount of assistance furnished. The action may be ordered by the state agency or county agency and shall be brought in the name of the county by the county attorney of the county in which the assistance was granted, or by the state agency against the parent for the recovery of the amount of assistance granted, together with the costs and disbursements of the action.

Subd. 1a. Continuing support contributions. In addition to granting the county or state agency a money judgment, the court may, upon a motion or order to show cause, order continuing support contributions by a parent found able to reimburse the county or state agency. The order shall be effective for the period of time during which the recipient receives public assistance from any county or state agency and for five months thereafter. The order shall require support according to chapter 518. An order for continuing contributions is reinstated without further hearing upon notice to the parent by any county or state agency that assistance is again being provided for the child of the parent under sections 256.72 to 256.87. The notice shall be in writing and shall indicate that the parent may request a hearing for modification of the amount of support or maintenance.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1983 c 308 s 32]

Subd. 3. MS 1980 [Repealed, 1981 c 360 art 2 s 52]

Subd. 3. Continuing contributions to former recipient. The order for continuing support contributions shall remain in effect following the five-month period after public assistance granted under sections 256.72 to 256.87 is terminated if:

(a) the former recipient files an affidavit with the court within five months of the termination of assistance requesting that the support order remain in effect;

(b) the public authority serves written notice of the filing by mail on the parent responsible for making the support payments at that parent's last known address and notice that the parent may move the court under section 518.64 to modify the order respecting the amount of support or maintenance; and

(c) the former recipient authorizes use of the public authority's collection services.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 2 s 219]

Subd. 5. Child not receiving assistance. A parent having custody of a dependent child not receiving assistance under sections 256.72 to 256.87 has a cause of action for child support against the child's absent parent. Upon an order to show cause and a motion served on the absent parent, the court shall order child support payments from the absent parent under chapter 518.

Subd. 6. Entry of judgment. Any order for support issued under this section shall provide for a conspicuous notice that, if the obligor fails to make a support payment, the payment owed becomes a judgment by operation of law on and after the date the payment is due, and the obligee or public agency responsible for support enforcement may obtain entry and docketing of the judgment for the unpaid amounts under the provisions of section 548.091.

Subd. 7. Notice of docketing of maintenance judgment. Every order for maintenance issued under this section shall provide for a conspicuous notice that, if the obligor fails to make the maintenance payments, the obligee or public agency responsible for maintenance enforcement may obtain docketing of a judgment for the unpaid amount under the provisions of section 548.091. The notice shall enumerate the conditions that must be met before the judgment can be docketed.

History: (8688-21, 8688-22, 8688-23) 1937 c 438 s 19-21; 1953 c 639 s 3; 1977 c 282 s 1; 1980 c 408 s 1; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 21; 1983 c 308 s 2; 1984 c 547 s 2; 1985 c 131 s 3,4; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 32; 1988 c 593 s 1-4; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 114

256.871 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE 21.

Subdivision 1. County welfare agency; duties. The county welfare agency shall grant emergency financial assistance and services to any needy family with a child under the age of 21 years who is or was within six months prior to application living with an eligible relative specified in section 256.12, subdivision 14.

Subd. 2. Eligibility for emergency assistance. Notwithstanding any other eligibility provision of this chapter, any child without resources immediately available to meet emergency needs shall be furnished assistance for a period not in excess of 30 days during any 12-month period. Assistance shall be furnished under the following conditions:

(a) The child is without resources immediately available to meet emergency needs.

(b) Assistance is necessary to avoid destitution or provide emergency shelter arrangements.

(c) The child's destitution or need for living arrangements did not arise because the child or the relative refused without good cause to accept employment or training for employment.

(d) Assistance shall be in the form of money payments, vendor payments, payments in kind or interest free loans for tools, equipment or expenses required for return to employment. Such loans shall not exceed \$100 and shall be considered only when other private or public resources are not immediately available.

Subd. 3. County of responsibility. No state or county durational residence is required to qualify for such assistance. The county which shall be financially responsible and grant assistance shall be the county wherein the child lives who is found to be in emergency need.

Subd. 4. Emergency defined. An emergency is a situation or set of circumstances which endangers or threatens to endanger the health or safety of a child or the child's relative caretaker. Examples of emergencies which create the need for such assistance include natural disasters such as floods, fires, or storms; civil disorders; strikes; illness; accident; death; eviction from shelter; migrant families in necessitous circumstances; or other crises, as defined by the commissioner, in accordance with directives of the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services. The commissioner shall limit, entirely or in part, emergency assistance payments for utilities and housing when eligible families do not demonstrate that they have made a good faith effort to meet those payments.

Subd. 5. County welfare authority. The county welfare board shall designate a person or persons who shall be authorized to immediately grant emergency assistance pursuant to this section.

Subd. 6. Reports of estimated expenditures; payments. The county agency shall submit to the state agency reports required under section 256.01, subdivision 2, para-

graph (17). Fiscal reports shall estimate expenditures for each succeeding month in such form as required by the state agency. Payment shall be made monthly in advance by the state agency to the counties, of federal funds available for that purpose for each succeeding month. The state share of the nonfederal portion of county agency expenditures shall be ten percent and the county share shall be 90 percent. Payments to counties for costs incurred shall include an amount of state funds equal to ten percent of the difference between the total estimated cost and the federal funds available. Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties according to the payment schedule set forth in section 256.025 for the county share of county agency expenditures made under this subdivision from January 1, 1991, on. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017. Adjustment of any overestimate or underestimate made by any county shall be paid upon the direction of the state agency in any succeeding month.

Subd. 7. Authority of the commissioner. The commissioner is hereby authorized, subject to the provisions of chapter 14, to promulgate permanent rules and may promulgate emergency rules not inconsistent with this section as necessary to qualify for maximum federal funds to implement sections 256.72 to 256.871.

History: 1971 c 943 s 1; 1983 c 216 art 1 s 38; 1984 c 580 s 1; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1985 c 252 s 17; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 33; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 8; 1989 c 89 s 8; 1989 c 277 art 2 s 6; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 4; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.872 [Repealed, 1983 c 308 s 32]

256.873 [Repealed, 1983 c 308 s 32]

256.874 [Repealed, 1982 c 488 s 8]

256.875 [Repealed, 1982 c 488 s 8]

256.876 [Repealed, 1983 c 308 s 32]

256.877 [Repealed, 1982 c 488 s 8]

256.878 [Repealed, 1982 c 488 s 8]

256.879 SUPPLEMENTAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner of human services may, with the approval of the federal department of health, education and welfare, provide an annual supplemental housing allowance for recipients of the aid to families with dependent children program who would otherwise qualify for the credit set forth in sections 290A.01 to 290A.22.

Subd. 2. The amount of the supplemental housing allowance, if any, shall be calculated in the same manner as the income adjusted homestead credit set forth at sections 290A.01 to 290A.22. Recipients may apply for this supplement in the same manner as claims submitted to the department of revenue under sections 290A.01 to 290A.22. The supplemental allowance shall be paid by local welfare agencies.

Subd. 3. The supplemental housing allowance shall be financed from funds appropriated to the department of revenue pursuant to chapter 290A. The commissioner of human services and the commissioner of revenue shall cooperate with the federal department of health, education and welfare in any reasonable manner as may be necessary to qualify for reimbursement under the aid to families with dependent children program for costs incurred in the provision of the supplemental housing allowance.

History: 1976 c 334 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

SOCIAL WELFARE FUND

256.88 SOCIAL WELFARE FUND ESTABLISHED.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, all moneys and funds held by the commissioner of human services and the county welfare boards of the several counties in trust or for the benefit of handicapped, dependent, neglected, and delinquent children, children born to mothers who were not married to the children's fathers at the times of the

conception nor at the births of the children, persons determined to be mentally retarded, mentally ill or chemically dependent, or other wards or beneficiaries, under any law, shall be kept in a single fund to be known as the "social welfare fund" which shall be deposited at interest, held, or disbursed as provided in sections 256.89 to 256.92.

History: (4462) 1923 c 106 s 1; 1939 c 8 s 1; 1983 c 7 s 4; 1983 c 243 s 5 subd 4; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.89 FUND DEPOSITED IN STATE TREASURY.

The social welfare fund and all accretions thereto shall be deposited in the state treasury, as a separate and distinct fund, to the credit of the commissioner of human services as trustee for the beneficiaries thereof in proportion to their several interests. The state treasurer shall be responsible only to the commissioner of human services for the sum total of the fund, and shall have no duties nor direct obligations toward the beneficiaries thereof individually. Subject to the rules of the commissioner of human services money so received by a county welfare board may be deposited by the executive secretary of the county welfare board in a local bank carrying federal deposit insurance, designated by the county welfare board for this purpose. The amount of such deposit in each such bank at any one time shall not exceed the amount protected by federal deposit insurance.

History: (4463) 1923 c 106 s 2; 1939 c 8 s 2; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 248 s 70

256.90 SOCIAL WELFARE FUND; USE; DISPOSITION; DEPOSITORIES.

The commissioner of human services at least 30 days before the first day of January and the first day of July in each year shall file with the state treasurer an estimate of the amount of the social welfare fund to be held in the treasury during the succeeding six-month period, subject to current disbursement. Such portion of the remainder thereof as may be at any time designated by the request of the commissioner of human services may be invested by the state treasurer in bonds in which the permanent trust funds of the state of Minnesota may be invested, upon approval by the state board of investment. The portion of such remainder not so invested shall be placed by the treasurer at interest for the period of six months, or when directed by the commissioner of human services, for the period of 12 months thereafter at the highest rate of interest obtainable in a bank, or banks, designated by the board of deposit as a suitable depository therefor. All the provisions of law relative to the designation and qualification of depositories of other state funds shall be applicable to sections 256.88 to 256.92, except as herein otherwise provided. Any bond given, or collateral assigned or both, to secure a deposit hereunder may be continuous in character to provide for the repayment of any moneys belonging to the fund theretofore or thereafter at any time deposited in such bank until its designation as such depository is revoked and the security thereof shall be not impaired by any subsequent agreement or understanding as to the rate of interest to be paid upon such deposit, or as to time for its repayment. The amount of money belonging to the fund deposited in any bank, including other state deposits, shall not at any time exceed the amount of the capital stock thereof. In the event of the closing of the bank any sum deposited therein shall immediately become due and payable.

History: (4464) 1923 c 106 s 3; 1925 c 253; 1943 c 236 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.91 PURPOSES.

From that part of the social welfare fund held in the state treasury subject to disbursement as provided in section 256.90 the commissioner of human services at any time may pay out such amounts as the commissioner deems proper for the support, maintenance, or other legal benefit of any of the handicapped, dependent, neglected, and delinquent children, children born to mothers who were not married to the children's fathers at the times of the conception nor at the births of the children, persons with mental retardation, chemical dependency, or mental illness, or other wards or persons entitled thereto, not exceeding in the aggregate to or for any person the principal

amount previously received for the benefit of the person, together with the increase in it from an equitable apportionment of interest realized from the social welfare fund.

When any such person dies or is finally discharged from the guardianship, care, custody, and control of the commissioner of human services, the amount then remaining subject to use for the benefit of the person shall be paid as soon as may be from the social welfare fund to the persons thereto entitled by law.

History: (4465) 1923 c 106 s 4; 1983 c 7 s 5; 1983 c 243 s 5 subd 5; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 21 s 50; 1986 c 444

256.92 COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES, ACCOUNTS.

It shall be the duty of the commissioner of human services and of the county welfare boards of the several counties of this state to cause to be deposited with the state treasurer all moneys and funds in their possession or under their control and designated by section 256.91 as and for the social welfare fund; and all such moneys and funds shall be so deposited in the state treasury as soon as received. The commissioner of human services shall keep books of account or other records showing separately the principal amount received and deposited in the social welfare fund for the benefit of any person, together with the name of such person, and the name and address, if known to the commissioner of human services, of the person from whom such money was received; and, at least once every two years, the amount of interest, if any, which the money has earned in the social welfare fund shall be apportioned thereto and posted in the books of account or records to the credit of such beneficiary.

The provisions of sections 256.88 to 256.92 shall not apply to any fund or money now or hereafter deposited or otherwise disposed of pursuant to the lawful orders, decrees, judgments, or other directions of any probate or district court having jurisdiction thereof.

History: (4466, 4467) 1923 c 106 s 5,6; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.925 OPTIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS.

A county agency shall provide voter registration cards to every individual eligible to vote who applies for a public assistance program at the time application is made. The agency shall also make voter registration cards available to a public assistance recipient upon the recipient's request or at the time of the recipient's eligibility redetermination. The county agency shall assist applicants and recipients in completing the voter registration cards, as needed. Applicants must be informed that completion of the cards is optional. Completed forms shall be collected by agency employees and submitted to proper election officials.

History: 1988 c 689 art 2 s 136

256.93 COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES, POSSESSION OF ESTATES.

Subdivision 1. Limitations. In any case where the guardianship of the person of any mentally retarded, handicapped, dependent, neglected or delinquent child, or a child born to a mother who was not married to the child's father when the child was conceived nor when the child was born, has been committed to the commissioner of human services, and in any case where the guardianship or conservatorship of the person of any person with mental retardation has been committed to the commissioner of human services, the probate court having jurisdiction of the estate may on such notice as the court may direct, authorize the commissioner to take possession of the personal property in the estate, liquidate it, and hold the proceeds in trust for the ward, to be invested, expended and accounted for as provided by sections 256.88 to 256.92.

Subd. 2. Annual report. The commissioner of human services shall annually or at such other times as the probate court may direct file with the court an account of moneys received and disbursed by the commissioner for wards and conservatees, pursuant

to subdivision 1. Upon petition of the ward or conservatee or of any person interested in such estate and upon notice to the commissioner the probate court may terminate such trust and require final accounting thereof.

History: (4467-1, 4467-2) 1929 c 55 s 1,2; 1939 c 9; 1943 c 612 s 4,5; 1949 c 32 s 1; 1975 c 208 s 31,32; 1983 c 7 s 6; 1983 c 10 s 1; 1983 c 243 s 5 subd 6; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 21 s 51; 1986 c 444

256.935 FUNERAL EXPENSES, PAYMENT BY COUNTY AGENCY.

Subdivision 1. On the death of any person receiving public assistance through aid to dependent children, the county agency shall pay an amount for funeral expenses not exceeding \$370 and actual cemetery charges. No funeral expenses shall be paid if the estate of the deceased is sufficient to pay such expenses or if the children, or spouse, who were legally responsible for the support of the deceased while living, are able to pay such expenses; provided, that the additional payment or donation of the cost of cemetery lot, interment, religious service, or for the transportation of the body into or out of the community in which the deceased resided, shall not limit payment by the county agency as herein authorized. Freedom of choice in the selection of a funeral director shall be granted to persons lawfully authorized to make arrangements for the burial of any such deceased recipient. In determining the sufficiency of such estate, due regard shall be had for the nature and marketability of the assets of the estate. The county agency may grant funeral expenses where the sale would cause undue loss to the estate. Any amount paid for funeral expenses shall be a prior claim against the estate, as provided in section 524.3-805, and any amount recovered shall be reimbursed to the agency which paid the expenses. The commissioner shall specify requirements for reports, including fiscal reports, according to section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (17). The state share of county agency expenditures shall be 50 percent and the county share shall be 50 percent. The state shall reimburse the county for 50 percent of county agency expenditures made for funeral expenses.

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties according to the payment schedule set forth in section 256.025 for the county share of county agency expenditures made under this subdivision from January 1, 1991, on. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 3Sp1981 c 3 s 20]

History: Ex1971 c 16 s 4,5; 1973 c 717 s 15; 1976 c 239 s 81; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 9; 1989 c 89 s 9; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 5; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLAN

256.936 CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the meanings given them:

(a) "Eligible persons" means children who are one year of age or older but less than 18 years of age who have gross family incomes that are equal to or less than 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines and who are not eligible for medical assistance under chapter 256B or general assistance medical care under chapter 256D and who are not otherwise insured for the covered services. The period of eligibility extends from the first day of the month in which the child's first birthday occurs to the last day of the month in which the child becomes 18 years old.

(b) "Covered services" means children's health services.

(c) "Children's health services" means the health services reimbursed under chapter 256B, with the exception of inpatient hospital services, special education services, private duty nursing services, orthodontic services, medical transportation services, personal care assistant and case management services, hospice care services, nursing home or intermediate care facilities services, inpatient mental health services, outpatient mental health services in excess of \$1,000 per enrolled child per 12-month eligibil-

ity period, and chemical dependency services. Outpatient mental health services covered under the children's health plan are limited to diagnostic assessments, psychological testing, explanation of findings, and individual, family, and group psychotherapy.

(d) "Eligible providers" means those health care providers who provide children's health services to medical assistance recipients under rules established by the commissioner for that program. Reimbursement under this section shall be at the same rates and conditions established for medical assistance.

(e) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services.

(f) "Gross family income" for farm and nonfarm self-employed means income calculated using as the baseline the adjusted gross income reported on the applicant's federal income tax form for the previous year and adding back in reported depreciation, carryover loss, and net operating loss amounts that apply to the business in which the family is currently engaged. Applicants shall report the most recent financial situation of the family if it has changed from the period of time covered by the federal income tax form. The report may be in the form of percentage increase or decrease.

Subd. 2. Plan administration. The children's health plan is established to promote access to appropriate primary health care to assure healthy children. The commissioner shall establish an office for the state administration of this plan. The plan shall be used to provide children's health services for eligible persons. Payment for these services shall be made to all eligible providers. The commissioner may adopt rules to administer this section. The commissioner shall establish marketing efforts to encourage potentially eligible persons to receive information about the program and about other medical care programs administered or supervised by the department of human services. A toll-free telephone number must be used to provide information about medical programs and to promote access to the covered services. The commissioner must make a quarterly assessment of the expected expenditures for the covered services and the appropriation. Based on this assessment the commissioner may limit enrollments and target former aid to families with dependent children recipients. If sufficient money is not available to cover all costs incurred in one quarter, the commissioner may seek an additional authorization for funding from the legislative advisory committee.

Subd. 3. Application procedures. Applications and other information must be made available to provider offices, local human services agencies, school districts, public and private elementary schools in which 25 percent or more of the students receive free or reduced price lunches, community health offices, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program sites. These sites may accept applications, collect the enrollment fee, and forward the forms and fees to the commissioner. Otherwise, applicants may apply directly to the commissioner. The commissioner may use individuals' social security numbers as identifiers for purposes of administering the plan and conduct data matches to verify income. Applicants shall submit evidence of family income, earned and unearned, that will be used to verify income eligibility. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, benefits under this section are secondary to a plan of insurance or benefit program under which an eligible person may have coverage. The commissioner shall identify eligible persons who may have coverage or benefits under other plans of insurance or who become eligible for medical assistance.

Subd. 4. Enrollment fee. An annual enrollment fee of \$25, not to exceed \$150 per family, is required from eligible persons for children's health services. Enrollment fees are dedicated to the commissioner for the children's health plan program. The commissioner shall make an annual redetermination of continued eligibility and identify people who may become eligible for medical assistance.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 63; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 137; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 33-35; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 14

256.9365 PURCHASE OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE FOR AIDS PATIENTS.

Subdivision 1. Program established. The commissioner of human services shall

establish a program to pay private health plan premiums for persons who have contracted human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to enable them to continue coverage under a group or individual health plan. If a person is determined to be eligible under subdivision 2, the commissioner shall pay the eligible person's group plan continuation coverage premium for 18 months after termination of employment, or pay the eligible person's individual plan premium for 24 months after initial application.

Subd. 2. Eligibility requirements. To be eligible for the program, an applicant must satisfy the following requirements:

(1) the applicant must provide a physician's statement verifying that the applicant is infected with HIV and is, or within three months is likely to become, too ill to work in the applicant's current employment because of HIV-related disease;

(2) the applicant's monthly gross family income must not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, after deducting medical expenses and insurance premiums;

(3) the applicant must not own assets with a combined value of more than \$25,000;

(4) if applying for payment of group plan premiums, the applicant must be covered by an employer's or former employer's group insurance plan and be eligible to purchase continuation coverage; and

(5) if applying for payment of individual plan premiums, the applicant must be covered by an individual health plan whose coverage and premium costs satisfy additional requirements established by the commissioner in rule.

Subd. 3. Rules. The commissioner shall establish rules as necessary to implement the program. Special requirements for the payment of individual plan premiums under subdivision 2, clause (5), must be designed to ensure that the state cost of paying an individual plan premium over a two-year period does not exceed the estimated state cost that would otherwise be incurred in the medical assistance program.

History: 1990 c 568 art 3 s 15

256.94 CONFERENCES OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS.

For the purpose of promoting economy and efficiency in the enforcement of laws relating to children, and particularly of laws relating to defective, delinquent, dependent, and neglected children, the commissioner of human services may, at such times and places as the commissioner deems advisable, call an annual conference with officials responsible for the enforcement of such laws. When practicable such conference shall be held at the same time and place as the state conference of social work.

History: (4468) 1917 c 224 s 1; 1921 c 403 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444

256.95 EXPENSE OF ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE.

The necessary expenses of all probate judges and of one member of the county child welfare board in each county invited to attend such conference shall be paid out of the funds of their respective counties.

History: (4469) 1917 c 224 s 2; 1921 c 403 s 2

256.96 COOPERATION WITH OTHER BOARDS.

The commissioner of human services and the several county child welfare boards within their respective jurisdictions, upon request of county boards, city councils, town boards, or other public boards or authorities charged by law with the administration of the laws relating to the relief of the poor, may cooperate with such boards and authorities in the administration of such laws.

History: (4461) 1923 c 152 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.965 [Repealed, 1988 c 719 art 8 s 33]

256.9655 PAYMENTS TO MEDICAL PROVIDERS.

The commissioner shall establish procedures to analyze and correct problems associated with medical care claims preparation and processing under the medical assistance, general assistance medical care, and children's health plan programs. At a minimum, the commissioner shall:

- (1) designate a full-time position as a liaison between the department of human services and providers;
- (2) analyze impediments to timely processing of claims, provide information and consultation to providers, and develop methods to resolve or reduce problems;
- (3) provide to each acute care hospital a quarterly listing of claims received and identify claims that have been suspended and the reason the claims were suspended;
- (4) provide education and information on reasons for rejecting and suspending claims and identify methods that would avoid multiple submissions of claims; and
- (5) for each acute care hospital, identify and prioritize claims that are in jeopardy of exceeding time factors that eliminate payment.

History: 1988 c 689 art 2 s 138

256.966 MEDICAL CARE PAYMENTS; ALLOWABLE INCREASE IN COST PER SERVICE UNIT.

Subdivision 1. **In general.** For the biennium ending June 30, 1985, the annual increase in the cost per service unit paid to any vendor under medical assistance and general assistance medical care shall not exceed five percent, except that the five percent annual increase limitation applied to vendors under this subdivision does not apply to nursing homes licensed under chapter 144A or boarding care homes licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56. The estimated acquisition cost of prescription drug ingredients is not subject to the five percent increase limit, any general state payment reduction, or cost limitation described in this section, except as required under federal law or regulation. For vendors enrolled in the general assistance medical care program, the annual increase in cost per service unit allowable during state fiscal year 1984 shall not exceed five percent. The basis for measuring growth shall be the cost per service unit that would have been reimbursable in state fiscal year 1983 if payments had not been ratably reduced and if payments had been based on the 50th percentile of usual and customary billings for medical assistance in 1978. The increase in cost per service unit allowable for vendors in the general assistance medical care program during state fiscal year 1985 shall not exceed five percent. The basis for measuring growth shall be state fiscal year 1984.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

History: 1981 c 360 art 2 s 1; 1982 c 640 s 9; 1983 c 312 art 5 s 6; 1984 c 580 s 2; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256.967 [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 104]

256.968 [Repealed, 1987 c 299 s 25]

INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM**256.9685 ESTABLISHMENT OF INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM.**

Subdivision 1. **Authority.** The commissioner shall establish procedures for determining medical assistance and general assistance medical care payment rates under a prospective payment system for inpatient hospital services in hospitals that qualify as vendors of medical assistance. The commissioner shall establish, by rule, procedures for implementing this section and sections 256.9686, 256.969, and 256.9695. The payment rates must be based on methods and standards that the commissioner finds are adequate to provide for the costs that must be incurred for the care of recipients in efficiently and economically operated hospitals. Services must meet the requirements of

section 256B.04, subdivision 15, or 256D.03, subdivision 7, paragraph (b), to be eligible for payment.

Subd. 2. **Federal requirements.** If it is determined that a provision of this section or section 256.9686, 256.969, or 256.9695 conflicts with existing or future requirements of the United States government with respect to federal financial participation in medical assistance, the federal requirements prevail. The commissioner may, in the aggregate, prospectively reduce payment rates to avoid reduced federal financial participation resulting from rates that are in excess of the Medicare limitations.

History: 1989 c 282 art 3 s 36

256.9686 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For purposes of this section and sections 256.9685, 256.969, and 256.9695, the following terms and phrases have the meanings given.

Subd. 2. **Base year.** "Base year" means a hospital's fiscal year that is recognized by the Medicare program or a hospital's fiscal year specified by the commissioner if a hospital is not required to file information by the Medicare program from which cost and statistical data are used to establish medical assistance and general assistance medical care payment rates.

Subd. 3. **Case mix index.** "Case mix index" means a hospital's distribution of relative values among the diagnostic categories.

Subd. 4. **Charges.** "Charges" means the usual and customary payment requested of the general public.

Subd. 5. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services.

Subd. 6. **Hospital.** "Hospital" means a facility licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.58 or an out-of-state facility licensed under the requirements of that state in which it is located.

Subd. 7. **Medical assistance.** "Medical assistance" means the program established under chapter 256B and Title XIX of the Social Security Act. Medical assistance includes general assistance medical care established under chapter 256D, unless otherwise specifically stated.

Subd. 8. **Rate year.** "Rate year" means a calendar year from January 1 to December 31.

Subd. 9. **Relative value.** "Relative value" means the average allowable cost of inpatient services provided within a diagnostic category divided by the average allowable cost of inpatient services provided in all diagnostic categories.

History: 1989 c 282 art 3 s 37

256.969 PAYMENT RATES.

Subdivision 1. **Hospital cost index.** The hospital cost index shall be obtained from an independent source and shall represent a weighted average of historical and projected cost change estimates determined for expense categories to include wages and salaries, employee benefits, medical and professional fees, raw food, utilities, insurance including malpractice insurance, and other applicable expenses as determined by the commissioner. The index shall reflect Minnesota cost category weights. Individual indices shall be specific to Minnesota if the commissioner determines that sufficient accuracy of the hospital cost index is achieved. The hospital cost index shall be used to adjust the base year operating payment rate through the rate year on an annually compounded basis.

Subd. 2. **Diagnostic categories.** The commissioner shall use to the extent possible existing diagnostic classification systems, including the system used by the Medicare program to determine the relative values of inpatient services and case mix indices. The commissioner may combine diagnostic classifications into diagnostic categories and may establish separate categories and numbers of categories based on program eligibil-

ity or hospital peer group. Relative values shall be recalculated when the base year is changed and shall not be determined on a hospital specific basis. Relative value determinations shall include paid claims for admissions during each hospital's base year. The commissioner may extend the time period forward to obtain sufficiently valid information to establish relative values. Relative value determinations shall not include property cost data, Medicare crossover data, and data from the transferring hospital on transfer discharges, except data on transfer discharges with a burn diagnostic classification or data on transfer discharges for the patient's convenience that have been reported by the hospital to the commissioner by the October 1 preceding the rate year. The computation of the base year cost per admission must include identified outlier cases and their weighted costs up to the point that they become outlier cases, but must exclude costs recognized in outlier payments beyond that point. The commissioner may recategorize the diagnostic classifications and recalculate relative values and case mix indices to reflect actual hospital practices, the specific character of specialty hospitals, or to reduce variances within the diagnostic categories after notice in the State Register and a 30-day comment period.

Subd. 2a. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 3 s 98]

Subd. 2b. **Operating payment rates.** In determining operating payment rates for admissions occurring on or after the rate year beginning January 1, 1991, and every two years after, or more frequently as determined by the commissioner, the commissioner shall obtain operating data from an updated base year and establish operating payment rates per admission for each hospital based on the cost-finding methods and allowable costs of the Medicare program in effect during the base year. The base year operating payment rate per admission is standardized by the case mix index and adjusted by the hospital cost index, relative values, and disproportionate population adjustment. The cost and charge data used to establish operating rates shall only reflect inpatient services covered by medical assistance and shall not include property cost information and costs recognized in outlier payments.

Subd. 2c. **Property payment rates.** For each hospital's first two consecutive fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 1988, the commissioner shall limit the annual increase in property payment rates for depreciation, rents and leases, and interest expense to the annual growth in the hospital cost index derived from the methodology in effect on the day before July 1, 1989. When computing budgeted and settlement property payment rates, the commissioner shall use the annual increase in the hospital cost index forecasted by Data Resources, Inc., consistent with the quarter of the hospital's fiscal year end. For admissions occurring on or after the rate year beginning January 1, 1991, the commissioner shall obtain property data from an updated base year and establish property payment rates per admission for each hospital. Property payment rates shall be derived from data from the same base year that is used to establish operating payment rates. The property information shall include cost categories not subject to the hospital cost index and shall reflect the cost-finding methods and allowable costs of the Medicare program in effect during the base year. The property payment rate per admission shall be adjusted for positive percentage change differences in the net book value of hospital property and equipment by increasing the property payment rate per admission 85 percent of the percentage change from the base year through the most recent year ending prior to the rate year for which required information is available. The percentage change shall be derived from equivalent audited information in both years and shall be adjusted to account for changes in generally accepted accounting principles, reclassification of assets, allocations to nonhospital areas, and fiscal years. The cost, audit, and charge data used to establish property rates shall only reflect inpatient services covered by medical assistance and shall not include operating cost information. To be eligible for the property payment rate per admission adjustment, the hospital must provide the necessary information to the commissioner, in a format specified by the commissioner, by the October 1 preceding the rate year. The commissioner shall adjust rates for the rate year beginning January 1, 1991, to ensure that all hospitals are subject to the hospital cost index limitation for two complete years.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 3 s 98]

Subd. 3a. **Payments.** Acute care hospital billings under the medical assistance program must not be submitted until the recipient is discharged. However, the commissioner shall establish monthly interim payments for inpatient hospitals that have individual patient lengths of stay over 30 days regardless of diagnostic category. To establish interim rates, the commissioner is exempt from the requirements of chapter 14. Medical assistance reimbursement for treatment of mental illness shall be reimbursed based on diagnostic classifications. The commissioner may selectively contract with hospitals for services within the diagnostic categories relating to mental illness and chemical dependency under competitive bidding when reasonable geographic access by recipients can be assured. No physician shall be denied the privilege of treating a recipient required to use a hospital under contract with the commissioner, as long as the physician meets credentialing standards of the individual hospital. Individual hospital payments established under this section and sections 256.9685, 256.9686, and 256.9695, in addition to third party liability, for admissions occurring during the rate year shall not exceed, in aggregate, the charges for the medical assistance covered inpatient services paid for the same period of time to the hospital. This payment limitation is not applicable and shall not be calculated to include general assistance medical care services. Services that have rates established under subdivision 6a, paragraph (a), clause (5) or (6), must be limited separately from other services. After consulting with the affected hospitals, the commissioner may consider related hospitals one entity and may merge the payment rates while maintaining separate provider numbers. The operating and property base rates per admission or per day shall be derived from the best Medicare and claims data available when rates are established. The commissioner shall determine the best Medicare and claims data, taking into consideration variables of recency of the data, audit disposition, settlement status, and the ability to set rates in a timely manner. The commissioner shall notify hospitals of payment rates by December 1 of the year preceding the rate year. The rate setting data must reflect the admissions data used to establish relative values. Base year changes from 1981 to the base year established for the rate year beginning January 1, 1991, and for subsequent rate years, shall not be limited to the limits ending June 30, 1987, on the maximum rate of increase under subdivision 1. The commissioner may adjust base year cost, relative value, and case mix index data to exclude the costs of services that have been discontinued by the October 1 of the year preceding the rate year or that are paid separately from inpatient services. Inpatient stays that encompass portions of two or more rate years shall have payments established based on payment rates in effect at the time of admission unless the date of admission preceded the rate year in effect by six months or more. In this case, operating payment rates for services rendered during the rate year in effect and established based on the date of admission shall be adjusted to the rate year in effect by the hospital cost index.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 3 s 98]

Subd. 4a. **Reports.** If, under this section or section 256.9685, 256.9686, or 256.9695, a hospital is required to report information to the commissioner by a specified date, the hospital must report the information on time. If the hospital does not report the information on time, the commissioner may determine the information that will be used and may disregard the information that is reported late. If the Medicare program does not require or does not audit information that is needed to establish medical assistance rates, the commissioner may, after consulting the affected hospitals, require reports to be provided, in a format specified by the commissioner, that are based on allowable costs and cost-finding methods of the Medicare program in effect during the base year. The commissioner may require any information that is necessary to implement this section and sections 256.9685, 256.9686, and 256.9695 to be provided by a hospital within a reasonable time period.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 3 s 98]

Subd. 5a. **Audits and adjustments.** Inpatient hospital rates and payments must be established under this section and sections 256.9685, 256.9686, and 256.9695. The

commissioner may adjust rates and payments based on the findings of audits of payments to hospitals, hospital billings, costs, statistical information, charges, or patient records performed by the commissioner or the Medicare program that identify billings, costs, statistical information, or charges for services that were not delivered, never ordered, in excess of limits, not covered by the medical assistance program, paid separately from rates established under this section and sections 256.9685, 256.9686, and 256.9695, or for charges that are not consistent with other payor billings. Charges to the medical assistance program must be less than or equal to charges to the general public. Charges to the medical assistance program must not exceed the lowest charge to any other payor. The audit findings may be based on a statistically valid sample of hospital information that is needed to complete the audit. If the information the commissioner uses to establish rates or payments is not audited by the Medicare program, the commissioner may require an audit using Medicare principles and may adjust rates and payments to reflect any subsequent audit.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 3 s 98]

Subd. 6a. **Special considerations.** (a) In determining the payment rates, the commissioner shall consider whether the following circumstances exist:

(1) **Minimal medical assistance use.** Minnesota hospitals with 30 or fewer annualized admissions of Minnesota medical assistance recipients in the base year, excluding Medicare crossover admissions, may have the base year operating rates, as adjusted by the case mix index, and property payment rates established at the 70th percentile of hospitals in the peer group in effect during the base year as established by the Minnesota department of health for use by the rate review program. Rates within a peer group shall be adjusted for differences in fiscal years and outlier percentage payments before establishing the 70th percentile. The operating payment rate portion of the 70th percentile shall be adjusted by the hospital cost index. To have rates established under this paragraph, the hospital must notify the commissioner in writing by November 1 of the year preceding the rate year. This paragraph shall be applied to all payment rates of the affected hospital.

(2) **Unusual cost or length of stay experience.** The commissioner shall establish day and cost outlier thresholds for each diagnostic category established under subdivision 2 at two standard deviations beyond the geometric mean length of stay or allowable cost. Payment for the days and cost beyond the outlier threshold shall be in addition to the operating and property payment rates per admission established under subdivisions 2, 2b, and 2c. Payment for outliers shall be at 70 percent of the allowable operating cost calculated by dividing the operating payment rate per admission, after adjustment by the case mix index, hospital cost index, relative values and the disproportionate population adjustment, by the arithmetic mean length of stay for the diagnostic category. The outlier threshold for neonatal and burn diagnostic categories shall be established at one standard deviation beyond the geometric mean length of stay or allowable cost, and payment shall be at 90 percent of allowable operating cost calculated in the same manner as other outliers. A hospital may choose an alternative percentage outlier payment to a minimum of 60 percent and a maximum of 80 percent if the commissioner is notified in writing of the request by October 1 of the year preceding the rate year. The chosen percentage applies to all diagnostic categories except burns and neonates. The percentage of allowable cost that is unrecognized by the outlier payment shall be added back to the base year operating payment rate per admission. Cost outliers shall be calculated using hospital specific allowable cost data. If a stay is both a day and a cost outlier, outlier payments shall be based on the higher outlier payment.

(3) **Disproportionate numbers of low-income patients served.** For admissions occurring on or after July 1, 1989, the medical assistance disproportionate population adjustment shall comply with federal law at fully implemented rates. The commissioner may establish a separate disproportionate population operating payment rate adjustment under the general assistance medical care program. For admissions occurring on or after the rate year beginning January 1, 1991, the disproportionate population adjustment shall be derived from base year Medicare cost report data and may be adjusted by data reflecting actual claims paid by the department.

(4) **Separate billing by certified registered nurse anesthetists.** Hospitals may exclude certified registered nurse anesthetist costs from the operating payment rate as allowed by section 256B.0625, subdivision 11. To be eligible, a hospital must notify the commissioner in writing by October 1 of the year preceding the rate year of the request to exclude certified registered nurse anesthetist costs. The hospital must agree that all hospital claims for the cost and charges of certified registered nurse anesthetist services will not be included as part of the rates for inpatient services provided during the rate year. In this case, the operating payment rate shall be adjusted to exclude the cost of certified registered nurse anesthetist services. Payments made through separate claims for certified registered nurse anesthetist services shall not be paid directly through the hospital provider number or indirectly by the certified registered nurse anesthetist to the hospital or related organizations.

(5) **Special rates.** The commissioner may establish special rate-setting methodologies, including a per day operating and property payment system, for hospice, ventilator dependent, and other services on a hospital and recipient specific basis taking into consideration such variables as federal designation, program size, and admission from a medical assistance waiver or home care program. The data and rate calculation method shall conform to the requirements of paragraph (7), except that hospice rates shall not exceed the amount allowed under federal law and payment shall be secondary to any other medical assistance hospice program. Rates and payments established under this paragraph must meet the requirements of section 256.9685, subdivisions 1 and 2, and must not exceed payments that would otherwise be made to a hospital in total for rate year admissions under subdivisions 2, 2b, 2c, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The cost and charges used to establish rates shall only reflect inpatient medical assistance covered services. Hospital and claims data that are used to establish rates under this paragraph shall not be used to establish payments or relative values under subdivisions 2, 2b, 2c, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

(6) **Rehabilitation distinct parts.** Units of hospitals that are recognized as rehabilitation distinct parts by the Medicare program shall have separate provider numbers under the medical assistance program for rate establishment and billing purposes only. These units shall also have operating and property payment rates and the disproportionate population adjustment established separately from other inpatient hospital services, based on the methods of subdivisions 2, 2b, 2c, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The commissioner may establish separate relative values under subdivision 2 for rehabilitation hospitals and distinct parts as defined by the Medicare program. For individual hospitals that did not have separate medical assistance rehabilitation provider numbers or rehabilitation distinct parts in the base year, hospitals shall provide the information needed to separate rehabilitation distinct part cost and claims data from other inpatient service data.

(7) **Neonatal transfers.** For admissions occurring on or after July 1, 1989, neonatal diagnostic category transfers shall have operating and property payment rates established at receiving hospitals which have neonatal intensive care units on a per day payment system that is based on the cost finding methods and allowable costs of the Medicare program during the base year. Other neonatal diagnostic category transfers shall have rates established according to paragraph (8). The rate per day for the neonatal service setting within the hospital shall be determined by dividing base year neonatal allowable costs by neonatal patient days. The operating payment rate portion of the rate shall be adjusted by the hospital cost index and the disproportionate population adjustment. The cost and charges used to establish rates shall only reflect inpatient services covered by medical assistance. Hospital and claims data used to establish rates under this paragraph shall not be used to establish payments or relative values under subdivisions 2, 2b, 2c, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

(8) **Transfers.** Except as provided in paragraphs (5) and (7), operating and property payment rates for admissions that result in transfers and transfers shall be established on a per day payment system. The per day payment rate shall be the sum of the adjusted operating and property payment rates determined in subdivisions 2b and 2c, divided by the arithmetic mean length of stay for the diagnostic category. Each admis-

sion that results in a transfer and each transfer is considered a separate admission to each hospital, and the total of the admission and transfer payments to each hospital must not exceed the total per admission payment that would otherwise be made to each hospital under paragraph (2) and subdivisions 2b and 2c.

(b) The computation of each hospital's payment rate and the relative values of the diagnostic categories are not subject to the routine service cost limitation imposed under the Medicare program.

(c) Indian health service facilities are exempt from the rate establishment methods required by this section and shall be reimbursed at the facility's usual and customary charges to the general public. This exemption is not effective for payments under general assistance medical care.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (a), clauses (1) and (3), out-of-state hospitals that are located within a Minnesota local trade area shall have rates established using the same procedures and methods that apply to Minnesota hospitals. Hospitals that are not required by law to file information in a format necessary to establish rates shall have rates established based on the commissioner's estimates of the information. Relative values of the diagnostic categories shall not be redetermined under this paragraph until required by rule. Hospitals affected by this paragraph shall then be included in determining relative values. However, hospitals that have rates established based upon the commissioner's estimates of information shall not be included in determining relative values. This paragraph is effective for hospital fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 1988. A hospital shall provide the information necessary to establish rates under this paragraph at least 90 days before the start of the hospital's fiscal year.

(e) Hospitals that are not located within Minnesota or a Minnesota local trade area shall have operating and property rates established at the average of statewide and local trade area rates or, at the commissioner's discretion, at an amount negotiated by the commissioner. Relative values shall not include data from hospitals that have rates established under this paragraph. Payments, including third party liability, established under this paragraph may not exceed the charges on a claim specific basis for inpatient services that are covered by medical assistance.

(f) Medical assistance inpatient payment rates must include the cost incurred by hospitals to pay the department of health for metabolic disorder testing of newborns who are medical assistance recipients, if the cost is not recognized by another payment source.

(g) Medical assistance inpatient payments shall increase 20 percent for inpatient hospital originally paid admissions, excluding Medicare crossovers, that occurred between July 1, 1988, and December 31, 1990, if: (i) the hospital had 100 or fewer Minnesota medical assistance annualized paid admissions, excluding Medicare crossovers, that were paid by March 1, 1988, for the period January 1, 1987, to June 30, 1987; (ii) the hospital had 100 or fewer licensed beds on March 1, 1988; (iii) the hospital is located in Minnesota; and (iv) the hospital is not located in a city of the first class as defined in section 410.01. For this paragraph, medical assistance does not include general assistance medical care.

(h) Medical assistance inpatient payments shall increase 15 percent for inpatient hospital originally paid admissions, excluding Medicare crossovers, that occurred between July 1, 1988, and December 31, 1990, if: (i) the hospital had more than 100 but fewer than 250 Minnesota medical assistance annualized paid admissions, excluding Medicare crossovers, that were paid by March 1, 1988, for the period January 1, 1987, to June 30, 1987; (ii) the hospital had 100 or fewer licensed beds on March 1, 1988; (iii) the hospital is located in Minnesota; and (iv) the hospital is not located in a city of the first class as defined in section 410.01. For this paragraph, medical assistance does not include general assistance medical care.

(i) Admissions occurring on or after July 1, 1990, that are classified to a diagnostic category of mental health or chemical dependency shall have rates established according to the methods of paragraph (a), clause (8), except the per day rate shall be multiplied by a factor of 2, provided that the total of the per day rates shall not exceed the

per admission rate. This methodology shall also apply when a hold or commitment is ordered by the court for the days that inpatient hospital services are medically necessary. Stays which are medically necessary for inpatient hospital services and covered by medical assistance shall not be billable to any other governmental entity. Medical necessity shall be determined under criteria established to meet the requirements of section 256B.04, subdivision 15, or 256D.03, subdivision 7, paragraph (b).

History: 1983 c 312 art 5 s 9; 1984 c 534 s 20,21; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 34-36; 1986 c 420 s 6; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 2 s 51; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 64,65; 1988 c 435 s 1; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 139,140; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 38; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 16,17

256.9691 TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE REVIEW PANEL.

Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of health shall establish a technology assistance review panel to resolve disputes over the provision of health care benefits for technology-assisted persons who receive benefits under a policy or plan of health, medical, hospitalization, or accident and sickness insurance regulated under chapter 62A, a subscriber contract of a nonprofit health service plan corporation regulated under chapter 62C, or a certificate of coverage of a health maintenance organization regulated under chapter 62D.

Subd. 2. Definition. For purposes of this section, "technology-assisted person" means a person who:

- (1) has a chronic health condition;
- (2) requires the routine use of a medical device to compensate for the loss of a life-sustaining body function; and
- (3) requires ongoing care or monitoring by trained personnel on a daily basis.

Subd. 3. Steering committee. The commissioner shall appoint a seven-member steering committee to appoint the review panel members, develop policies and procedures for the review process, including the replacement of review panel members, serve as a liaison between the regulatory agencies and the review panel, and provide the review panel with technical assistance. The steering committee shall consist of representatives of the departments of health, human services, and commerce; a health maintenance organization regulated under chapter 62D; an insurer regulated under chapter 62A or a health service plan corporation regulated under chapter 62C; an advocacy organization representing persons who are technology assisted; and a tertiary care center that serves technology-assisted persons. The steering committee shall not be reimbursed for any expenses as defined under section 15.0575, subdivision 3. The steering committee shall dissolve no later than June 30, 1992.

Subd. 4. Composition of review panel. (a) The review panel shall be appointed by the members of the steering committee that do not represent state agencies and must include:

- (1) a medical director from an insurer regulated under chapter 62A, a health service plan corporation regulated under chapter 62C, or a health maintenance organization regulated under chapter 62D;
- (2) a contract benefits analyst from an insurer regulated under chapter 62A, a health service plan corporation regulated under chapter 62C, or a health maintenance organization regulated under chapter 62D;
- (3) a consumer board member of an insurer regulated under chapter 62A, a health service plan corporation regulated under chapter 62C, or a health maintenance organization regulated under chapter 62D;
- (4) a physician with expertise in providing care for technology-assisted persons in a nonhospital setting;
- (5) a registered nurse with expertise in providing care for technology-assisted persons in a nonhospital setting; and
- (6) a consumer of health care benefits regulated under chapter 62A, 62C, or 62D

who is a technology-assisted person or the parent or guardian of a technology-assisted person.

(b) The term of service for review panel members is three years except that, for the initial appointment, the steering committee shall establish procedures to assure that the terms of the members are staggered. Members are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

Subd. 5. Authority. The review panel may review cases involving disputes over the provision of contract benefits regarding discharge planning, home health care benefits eligibility and coverage, or changes in the level of home health care services for technology-assisted persons. The review may be requested by a third-party payor, a health or social service professional, or a parent or guardian of a technology-assisted child or a technology-assisted adult. For the case to be eligible for review by the panel, the parent or guardian of a technology-assisted child or technology-assisted adult must consent to the review. The review panel may not review cases involving discharge to a long-term care facility or cases involving coverage by title 18 or 19 of the Social Security Act or other public funding sources. The review panel may seek advice from experts outside the membership of the panel as necessary. The internal grievance process within an insurer, health service plan corporation, or health maintenance organization, except binding arbitration, must be exhausted before requesting a review by the review panel. The recommendations of the review panel are not binding. If, following a review by the review panel, a complaint is filed with the appropriate state agency regarding the same subject matter, the findings of the review panel must be made available to the agency upon request and with the consent of the parent or guardian of a technology-assisted child or technology-assisted adult. The information must be maintained by the agency as nonpublic information under chapter 13. The steering committee may establish policies for reimbursement of expenses for review panel members consistent with the provisions of section 15.0575, subdivision 3.

Subd. 6. Confidentiality. All proceedings of the review organization are nonpublic under chapter 13. All data, information, and findings acquired and developed by the review panel in the exercise of its duties or functions must be held in confidence, may not be disclosed to anyone except to the extent necessary to carry out one or more of the purposes of the review panel or as described in subdivision 5, and are not subject to subpoena or discovery. Members of the review panel may not disclose what transpired at a meeting of the review panel except to the extent necessary to carry out one or more of the purposes of the review panel. The proceedings and record of the review panel are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil action against a health care professional or insurer, health service plan corporation, or health maintenance organization, arising out of the matter or matters that are the subject of consideration by the review panel.

Subd. 7. Limitation on liability for members of steering committee and review panel. A person who is a member of, or who acts in an advisory capacity to or who gives counsel or services to, the steering committee or review panel is not liable for damages or other relief in any action brought by a person or persons whose case has been reviewed by the panel, by reason of the performance of any duty, function, or activity of the review panel, unless the performance of the duty, function, or activity was motivated by malice toward the person affected. A member is not liable for damages or other relief in any action by reason of the performance of the member of any duty, function, or activity as a member of the steering committee or review panel or by reason of any recommendation or action of the review committee when the member acts in the reasonable belief that the action or recommendation is warranted by the facts known to the member or review panel after reasonable efforts to ascertain the facts.

History: 1990 c 534 s 1

256.9695 APPEALS OF RATES; PROHIBITED PRACTICES FOR HOSPITALS; TRANSITION RATES.

Subdivision 1. Appeals. A hospital may appeal a decision arising from the applica-

tion of standards or methods under section 256.9685, 256.9686, or 256.969, if an appeal would result in a change to the hospital's payment rate or payments. Both overpayments and underpayments that result from the submission of appeals shall be implemented. Regardless of any appeal outcome, relative values shall not be recalculated. The appeal shall be heard by an administrative law judge according to sections 14.48 to 14.56, or upon agreement by both parties, according to a modified appeals procedure established by the commissioner and the office of administrative hearings. In any proceeding under this section, the appealing party must demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the commissioner's determination is incorrect or not according to law.

(a) To appeal a payment rate or payment determination or a determination made from base year information, the hospital shall file a written appeal request to the commissioner within 60 days of the date the payment rate determination was mailed. The appeal request shall specify: (i) the disputed items; (ii) the authority in federal or state statute or rule upon which the hospital relies for each disputed item; and (iii) the name and address of the person to contact regarding the appeal. A change to a payment rate or payments that results from a successful appeal to the Medicare program of the base year information establishing rates for the rate year beginning in 1991 and after is a prospective adjustment to subsequent rate years. After December 31, 1990, payment rates shall not be adjusted for appeals of base year information that affect years prior to the rate year beginning January 1, 1991. Facts to be considered in any appeal of base year information are limited to those in existence at the time the payment rates of the first rate year were established from the base year information. In the case of Medicare settled appeals, the 60-day appeal period shall begin on the mailing date of the notice by the Medicare program or the date the medical assistance payment rate determination notice is mailed, whichever is later.

(b) To appeal a payment rate or payment change that results from a difference in case mix between the base year and a rate year, the procedures and requirements of paragraph (a) apply. However, the appeal must be filed with the commissioner within 120 days after the end of a rate year. A case mix appeal must apply to the cost of services to all medical assistance patients that received inpatient services from the hospital during the rate year appealed.

Subd. 2. Prohibited practices. (a) Hospitals that have a provider agreement with the department may not limit medical assistance admissions to percentages of certified capacity or to quotas unless patients from all payors are limited in the same manner. This requirement does not apply to certified capacity that is unavailable due to contracts with payors for specific occupancy levels.

(b) Hospitals may not transfer medical assistance patients to or cause medical assistance patients to be admitted to other hospitals without the explicit consent of the receiving hospital when service needs of the patient are available and within the scope of the transferring hospital. The transferring hospital is liable to the receiving hospital for patient charges and ambulance services without regard to medical assistance payments plus the receiving hospital's reasonable attorney fees if found in violation of this prohibition.

Subd. 3. Transition. Except as provided in section 256.969, subdivision 6a, paragraph (a), clause (3), the commissioner shall establish a transition period for the calculation of payment rates from July 1, 1989, to the implementation date of the upgrade to the Medicaid management information system.

During the transition period:

(a) Changes resulting from section 256.969, subdivision 6a, paragraph (a), clauses (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (8), shall not be implemented, except as provided in section 256.969, subdivision 6a, paragraph (a), clause (7), and paragraph (i).

(b) The beginning of the 1991 rate year shall be delayed and the rates notification requirement shall not be applicable.

(c) Operating payment rates shall be indexed from the hospital's most recent fiscal

year ending prior to January 1, 1991, by prorating the hospital cost index methodology in effect on January 1, 1989. Payments made for admissions occurring on or after June 1, 1990, shall not be adjusted by the one percent technology factor included in the hospital cost index and the hospital cost index shall not exceed five percent. This hospital cost index limitation shall not apply to hospitals that meet the requirements of section 256.969, subdivision 6a, paragraphs (g) and (h).

(d) Property and pass-through payment rates shall be maintained at the most recent payment rate effective for June 1, 1990. However, all hospitals are subject to the hospital cost index limitation of subdivision 2c, for two complete fiscal years. Property and pass-through costs shall be retroactively settled through the transition period. The laws in effect on the day before July 1, 1989, apply to the retroactive settlement.

Subd. 4. **Study.** The commissioner shall contract for an evaluation of the inpatient and outpatient hospital payment systems. The study shall include recommendations concerning:

- (1) more effective methods of assigning operating and property payment rates to specific services or diagnoses;
- (2) effective methods of cost control and containment;
- (3) fiscal impacts of alternative payment systems;
- (4) the relationships of the use of and payment for inpatient and outpatient hospital services;
- (5) methods to relate reimbursement levels to the efficient provision of services; and
- (6) methods to adjust reimbursement levels to reflect cost differences between geographic areas.

The commissioner shall report the findings to the legislature by January 15, 1991, along with recommendations for implementation.

Subd. 5. **Rules.** The commissioner of human services shall adopt permanent rules to implement this section and sections 256.9685, 256.9686, and 256.969 under chapter 14, the administrative procedure act.

History: 1989 c 282 art 3 s 39; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 18,19

256.97 [Repealed, 1957 c 737 s 2]

256.971 SERVICES FOR DEAF.

The commissioner of human services shall provide such services for the deaf and hard of hearing in the state as will best promote their personal, economic and social well being. The commissioner shall maintain a register of all such persons, with such information as the commissioner deems necessary to improve services for them. The commissioner shall gather and disseminate information relating to the causes of deafness, collect statistics on the deaf and ascertain what trades or occupations are most suitable for them, and use best efforts to aid them in securing vocational rehabilitation and employment, through cooperation with other agencies, both public and private.

History: 1957 c 737 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444

256.974 OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN FOR OLDER MINNESOTANS; LOCAL PROGRAMS.

The ombudsman for older Minnesotans serves in the classified service under section 256.01, subdivision 7, in an office within the Minnesota board on aging that incorporates the long-term care ombudsman program required by the Older Americans Act, Public Law Number 100-75, United States Code, title 42, section 3027(a)(12), and established within the Minnesota board on aging. The Minnesota board on aging may make grants to and designate local programs for the provision of ombudsman services to clients in county or multicounty areas. The local program may not be an agency engaged in the provision of nursing home care, hospital care, or home care services

either directly or by contract, or have the responsibility for planning, coordinating, funding, or administering nursing home care, hospital care, or home care services.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 66; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 115

256.9741 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. "Long-term care facility" means a nursing home licensed under sections 144A.02 to 144A.10 or boarding care home licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56.

Subd. 2. "Acute care facility" means a facility licensed as a hospital under sections 144.50 to 144.56.

Subd. 3. "Client" means an individual who requests, or on whose behalf a request is made for, ombudsman services and is (a) a resident of a long-term care facility or (b) a Medicare beneficiary who requests assistance relating to access, discharge, or denial of inpatient or outpatient services, or (c) an individual reserving or requesting a home care service.

Subd. 4. "Area agency on aging" means an agency responsible for coordinating a comprehensive aging services system within a planning and service area that has been designated an area agency on aging by the Minnesota board on aging.

Subd. 5. "Office" means the office of ombudsman established within the Minnesota board on aging or local ombudsman programs that the board on aging designates.

Subd. 6. "Home care service" means health, social, or supportive services provided to an individual for a fee in the individual's residence and in the community to promote, maintain, or restore health, or maximize the individual's level of independence, while minimizing the effects of disability and illness.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 67; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 116-118

256.9742 DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE OFFICE.

Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The ombudsman shall:

(1) gather information and evaluate any act, practice, policy, procedure, or administrative action of a long-term care facility, acute care facility, home care service provider, or government agency that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of any client;

(2) mediate or advocate on behalf of clients;

(3) monitor the development and implementation of federal, state, or local laws, rules, regulations, and policies affecting the rights and benefits of clients;

(4) comment on and recommend to the legislature and public and private agencies regarding laws, rules, regulations, and policies affecting clients;

(5) inform public agencies about the problems of clients;

(6) provide for training of volunteers and promote the development of citizen participation in the work of the office;

(7) conduct public forums to obtain information about and publicize issues affecting clients;

(8) provide public education regarding the health, safety, welfare, and rights of clients; and

(9) collect and analyze data relating to complaints, conditions, and services.

Subd. 1a. **Designation; local ombudsman representatives.** (a) In designating an individual to perform duties under this section, the ombudsman must determine that the individual is qualified to perform the duties required by this section.

(b) An individual designated under this section must successfully complete an orientation training conducted under the direction of the ombudsman or approved by the ombudsman. Orientation training shall be at least 20 hours and will consist of training in: investigation, dispute resolution, health care regulation, confidentiality, resident and patients' rights, and health care reimbursement.

(c) The ombudsman shall develop and implement a continuing education program for individuals designated under this section. The continuing education program shall be at least 60 hours annually.

(d) The ombudsman may withdraw an individual's designation if the individual fails to perform duties of this section or meet continuing education requirements. The individual may request a reconsideration of such action by the board on aging whose decision shall be final.

Subd. 2. Immunity from liability. The ombudsman or designee under this section is immune from civil liability that otherwise might result from the person's actions or omissions if the person's actions are in good faith, are within the scope of the person's responsibilities as an ombudsman, and do not constitute willful or reckless misconduct.

Subd. 3. Posting. Every long-term care facility and acute care facility shall post in a conspicuous place the address and telephone number of the office. A home care service provider shall provide all recipients with the address and telephone number of the office. The posting or notice is subject to approval by the ombudsman.

Subd. 4. Access to long-term care and acute care facilities and clients. The ombudsman or designee may:

- (1) enter any long-term care facility without notice at any time;
- (2) enter any acute care facility without notice during normal business hours;
- (3) enter any acute care facility without notice at any time to interview a patient or observe services being provided to the patient as part of an investigation of a matter that is within the scope of the ombudsman's authority, but only if the ombudsman's or designee's presence does not intrude upon the privacy of another patient or interfere with routine hospital services provided to any patient in the facility;
- (4) communicate privately and without restriction with any client in accordance with section 144.651;
- (5) inspect records of a long-term care facility, home care service provider, or acute care facility that pertain to the care of the client according to sections 144.335 and 144.651; and
- (6) with the consent of a client or client's legal guardian, have access to review records pertaining to the care of the client according to sections 144.335 and 144.651. If a client cannot consent and has no legal guardian, access to the records is authorized by this section.

A person who denies access to the ombudsman or designee in violation of this subdivision or aids, abets, invites, compels, or coerces another to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 5. Access to state records. The ombudsman or designee has access to data of a state agency necessary for the discharge of the ombudsman's duties, including records classified confidential or private under chapter 13, or any other law. The data requested must be related to a specific case and is subject to section 13.03, subdivision 4. If the data concerns an individual, the ombudsman or designee shall first obtain the individual's consent. If the individual cannot consent and has no legal guardian, then access to the data is authorized by this section.

Each state agency responsible for licensing, regulating, and enforcing state and federal laws and regulations concerning long-term care, home care service providers, and acute care facilities shall forward to the ombudsman on a quarterly basis, copies of all correction orders, penalty assessments, and complaint investigation reports, for all long-term care facilities, acute care facilities, and home care service providers.

Subd. 6. Prohibition against discrimination or retaliation. (a) No entity shall take discriminatory, disciplinary, or retaliatory action against an employee or volunteer, or a patient, resident, or guardian or family member of a patient, resident, or guardian for filing in good faith a complaint with or providing information to the ombudsman or designee. A person who violates this subdivision or who aids, abets, invites, compels, or coerces another to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) There shall be a rebuttable presumption that any adverse action, as defined below, within 90 days of report, is discriminatory, disciplinary, or retaliatory. For the purpose of this clause, the term "adverse action" refers to action taken by the entity involved in a report against the person making the report or the person with respect to whom the report was made because of the report, and includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) discharge or transfer from a facility;
- (2) termination of service;
- (3) restriction or prohibition of access to the facility or its residents;
- (4) discharge from or termination of employment;
- (5) demotion or reduction in remuneration for services; and
- (6) any restriction of rights set forth in section 144.651 or 144A.44.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 68; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 119

256.9743 REPORTING.

By February 1, 1989, the board on aging shall recommend methods for expanding and funding local ombudsman programs to serve clients receiving in-home services or care in acute care facilities.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 69

256.9744 OFFICE DATA.

Subdivision 1. **Classification.** Except as provided in this section, data maintained by the office under sections 256.974 to 256.9744 are private data on individuals or non-public data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 9 or 12, and must be maintained in accordance with the requirements of Public Law Number 100-75, United States Code, title 42, section 3027(a)(12)(D).

Subd. 2. **Release.** Data maintained by the office that does not relate to the identity of a complainant or a resident of a long-term facility may be released at the discretion of the ombudsman responsible for maintaining the data. Data relating to the identity of a complainant or a resident of a long-term facility may be released only with the consent of the complainant or resident or by court order.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 70; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 120

256.9745 IN-HOME SERVICES ADVISORY TASK FORCE.

The Minnesota board on aging shall appoint an advisory task force to make recommendations for expanding ombudsman services to recipients of in-home services. The task force shall include clients or representatives of clients, providers of in-home services, representatives of the Minnesota department of health, department of human services, counties, area agencies on aging, and members of the public at large. Compensation, terms, and removal of members shall be as provided in section 15.059. The Minnesota board on aging shall issue a report of the recommendations of the task force by February 1, 1989.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 71

256.975 MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING.

Subdivision 1. **Creation.** There is created a Minnesota board on aging consisting of 25 members to be appointed by the governor. At least one member shall be appointed from each congressional district and the remaining members shall be appointed at large. No member shall be appointed for more than two consecutive terms of four years each. In making appointments, the governor shall give consideration to individuals having a special interest in aging, and so far as practicable, shall include persons affiliated with agriculture, labor, industry, education, social work, health, housing, religion, recreation, and voluntary citizen groups, including senior citizens.

The governor shall designate the chair. Other officers, including vice-chair and secretary, shall be elected by the board members.

Subd. 1a. Removal; vacancies. The membership terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the board shall be as provided in section 15.0575.

Subd. 2. Duties. The board shall carry out the following duties:

(a) to advise the governor and heads of state departments and agencies regarding policy, programs, and services affecting the aging;

(b) to provide a mechanism for coordinating plans and activities of state departments and citizens' groups as they pertain to aging;

(c) to create public awareness of the special needs and potentialities of older persons;

(d) to gather and disseminate information about research and action programs, and to encourage state departments and other agencies to conduct needed research in the field of aging;

(e) to stimulate, guide, and provide technical assistance in the organization of local councils on aging;

(f) to provide continuous review of ongoing services, programs and proposed legislation affecting the elderly in Minnesota;

(g) to administer and to make policy relating to all aspects of the older Americans act of 1965, as amended, including implementation thereof; and

(h) to award grants, enter into contracts, and adopt rules the Minnesota board on aging deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

Subd. 3. Policy. The board shall recommend to the state legislature no later than January 1, 1977, a proposed state policy for citizens dependent on long term care and services. The proposed state policy shall address, but need not be limited to, the following:

(a) Developing alternatives to institutionalization in long term care facilities and other programs which will assist each citizen dependent on long term care and services to maintain the highest level of self-sufficiency and independence which the citizen's mental and physical condition allows;

(b) Developing methods for ensuring citizens dependent on long term care and services an effective voice in determining which programs and services are made available to them;

(c) Protecting citizens dependent on long term care and services from unnecessary governmental interference in private and personal affairs; and

(d) Informing citizens dependent on long term care and services of the programs and services for which they are eligible.

Subd. 4. Home-delivered meals. The board on aging shall take appropriate action to secure reimbursement from public and private medical care programs, health plans, and health insurers for home-delivered meals that are a necessary part of medical treatment for the elderly.

Subd. 5. Programs for senior citizens and handicapped persons. Any sums collected under section 325F.71 must be deposited into the state treasury and credited to the account of the state board on aging. The money credited to the account of the state board on aging is annually appropriated to the state board on aging and shall be expended for the following purposes:

(1) to prepare and distribute educational materials to inform senior citizens, handicapped persons, and the public regarding consumer protection laws and consumer rights that are of particular interest to senior citizens and handicapped persons; or

(2) to underwrite educational seminars and other forms of educational projects for the benefit of senior citizens and handicapped persons.

History: 1961 c 466 s 1,2; 1974 c 536 s 1; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1976 c 134 s 59,60; 1976 c 275 s 1; 1986 c 404 s 10; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 121; 1989 c 294 s 1

256.9753 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS FOR RETIRED SENIOR CITIZENS.

Subdivision 1. **Policy.** The legislature finds that the services of volunteers are crucial to the effectiveness of public and private human services programs in the state. The legislature further finds that retired senior citizens are an excellent source of volunteer services, and that by recognizing and supporting retired senior volunteer programs the state will be serving the interests of human services as well as the interests of those senior citizens who participate in the volunteer programs.

Subd. 2. **State support.** The board on aging, with the cooperation of heads of other affected state agencies, shall provide staff and material support and shall make financial grants consistent with the purposes of subdivisions 1 to 4, to retired senior volunteer programs in the state. This support may include reimbursement of expenses incurred by program participants in the performance of their volunteer activities.

Subd. 3. **Expenditures.** The board shall consult with the office of volunteer services prior to expending money available for the retired senior volunteer programs. Expenditures shall be made (1) to strengthen and expand existing retired senior volunteer programs, and (2) to encourage the development of new programs in areas in the state where these programs do not exist. Grants shall be made consistent with applicable federal guidelines.

Subd. 4. **Report.** The board shall report to the governor and the legislature by July 1, 1981, on (1) the number, type and location of human services activities assisted by retired senior volunteer programs supported pursuant to subdivisions 1 to 4; (2) the number of retired seniors participating in these activities; (3) the sources and recipients of direct support for the volunteer programs; and (4) any other information which the board believes will assist the governor and the legislature in evaluating the programs.

History: 1980 c 455 s 1-4

256.976 FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. There is established a foster grandparents program which will engage the services of low income persons aged 60 or over to provide supportive person to person assistance in health, education, welfare, and related fields to persons receiving care in resident group homes for dependent and neglected persons, day care centers or other public or private nonprofit institutions or agencies providing care for neglected and disadvantaged persons who lack close personal relationships.

Subd. 2. Persons employed as foster grandparents shall be compensated for no more than 20 hours per week and at an hourly rate not to exceed the federal minimum wage by more than 20 percent. In addition to such compensation foster grandparents shall be eligible for protective clothing, including replacement of glasses; transportation assistance, not to exceed mileage payments for 20 miles per day or chartered transportation service, for travel between residence and place of employment; workers' compensation; annual physical examinations; food services during employment, generally provided by the employing agency or institution; and such other assistance as the Minnesota board on aging may prescribe. No person employed as a foster grandparent shall be terminated because of redefinition of income standards, or a change of income, marital status, or number of dependents.

Subd. 3. The Minnesota board on aging, hereinafter called the board, may make grants-in-aid for the employment of foster grandparents to qualified resident group homes for dependent and neglected persons, day care centers and other public or nonprofit private institutions and agencies providing care for neglected and disadvantaged persons who lack close personal relationships. Agencies and institutions seeking aid shall apply on a form prescribed by the board. Priority shall be given to agencies and institutions providing care for retarded children. Grants shall not be made to local public or nonprofit agencies until 40 percent of the recognized need for foster grandparents within state institutions has been met. Grants shall be for a period of 12 months or less, and grants to local public and nonprofit agencies or institutions shall be based on 90 percent state, and ten percent local sharing of program expenditures authorized by the

board. Grants shall not be used to match other state funds nor shall any person paid from grant funds be used to replace any staff member of the grantee. Grants may be used to match federal funds. Each grantee shall file a semiannual report with the board at the time and containing such information as the board shall prescribe.

Subd. 4. The board is authorized, subject to the provisions of chapter 14, to make rules necessary to the operation of the foster grandparent program and to employ assistance in performing its administrative duties. In adopting rules the board shall give consideration to applicable federal guidelines.

History: 1971 c 938 s 1; 1973 c 302 s 1,2; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1983 c 216 art 1 s 39

256.977 SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Citation. This section may be cited as the "Minnesota senior companion act."

Subd. 2. **Establishment of program.** There is established a senior companion program to engage the services of low income persons aged 60 or over to provide supportive person to person assistance in health, education, welfare and related fields primarily to handicapped adults and elderly people living in their own homes. Senior companions may also be used to provide such services to handicapped adults and elderly persons living or receiving care in resident group homes for dependent and neglected persons, nursing homes, private homes, or other public or private nonprofit institutions or agencies providing care for handicapped adults or elderly persons. Foster grandparents currently serving individuals over 21 years of age pursuant to section 256.976 shall, after July 1, 1976, be called senior companions.

Subd. 3. **Compensation.** Persons serving as senior companions shall be compensated for no more than 20 hours per week at an hourly rate not to exceed the rate established under the older americans act. In addition, senior companions shall receive such other assistance as the Minnesota board on aging may prescribe. No person serving as a senior companion shall be terminated as a result of a change in the eligibility requirements set by the Minnesota board on aging, nor as a result of a change in income, marital status, or number of dependents.

Subd. 4. **Grants.** The Minnesota board on aging may make grants-in-aid for the purchase of senior companion services by nonprofit agencies and institutions and individuals who have access to or responsibility for handicapped adults and the elderly. Applications to provide senior companion services to individuals in their homes shall have priority over applications to provide services to individuals living in group homes, nursing homes, or other institutions. Applications for grants shall be made on forms prescribed by the Minnesota board on aging.

Grants shall be paid as follows: 90 percent of the program expenditures authorized by the Minnesota board on aging shall be paid by the state and ten percent shall be paid by local matching funds. Grants shall be for a period of 12 months or less. Grants shall not be used to match other state funds nor shall any person paid from grant funds be used to replace any staff members of the grantee. Each grantee shall file a semiannual report with the Minnesota board on aging at the time and containing the information as the board shall prescribe.

Subd. 5. **Rules.** The Minnesota board on aging shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section and may employ necessary assistance in performing its administrative duties. Rules adopted shall be consistent with applicable federal guidelines.

History: 1976 c 323 s 1-2; 1986 c 444

256.978 LOCATION OF PARENTS DESERTING THEIR CHILDREN, ACCESS TO RECORDS.

The commissioner of human services, in order to carry out the child support enforcement program and to assist in the location of parents who have, or appear to

have, deserted their children, may request information from the records of all departments, boards, bureaus, or other agencies of this state, which shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 268.12, subdivision 12, or any other law to the contrary, provide the information necessary for this purpose. Employers and utility companies doing business in this state shall provide information upon written request by an agency responsible for child support enforcement regarding individuals owing or allegedly owing a duty to support. A request for this information may be made to an employer when there is reasonable cause to believe that the subject of the inquiry is or was employed by the employer where the request is made. The request must include a statement that reasonable cause exists. Information to be released by utility companies is restricted to place of residence. Information to be released by employers is restricted to place of residence, employment status, and wage information. Information relative to the identity, whereabouts, employment, income, and property of a person owing or alleged to be owing an obligation of support may be requested and used or transmitted by the commissioner pursuant to the authority conferred by this section. The commissioner of human services may make such information available only to public officials and agencies of this state and its political subdivisions and other states of the union and their political subdivisions who are seeking to enforce the support liability of parents or to locate parents who have, or appear to have, deserted their children. Any person who, pursuant to this section, obtains information from the department of revenue the confidentiality of which is protected by law shall not divulge the information except to the extent necessary for the administration of the child support enforcement program or when otherwise authorized by law.

History: 1963 c 401 s 1; 1982 c 488 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1988 c 668 s 3; 1989 c 184 art 2 s 10

256.979 CHILD SUPPORT INCENTIVES.

Subdivision 1. Incentive award account. The state share of AFDC child support collections received by the commissioner of human services during fiscal year 1988 in excess of a threshold of \$14,273,000 and during fiscal year 1989 in excess of a threshold of \$15,628,000 must be deposited in an incentive award account for nonpublic assistance collections. Money in the incentive award account is appropriated to the commissioner of human services for distribution to counties under this section. This subdivision does not apply to an increase in child support collections that may result from changes in federal law pertaining to the treatment of the first \$50 of periodic support payments collected by the child support enforcement office.

Subd. 2. Ratio determination. Using information reported to the commissioner of human services under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act by county agencies responsible for child support enforcement, the commissioner shall determine the cost-benefit ratio for each county on a quarterly basis. The commissioner shall determine the ratio by dividing each county's nonpublic assistance collections by the county child support agency costs. For purposes of this section, collections made on behalf of another county agency in Minnesota shall be identified and counted only by the county agency making the collection.

Subd. 3. Percentage determination. The commissioner shall use the following table to determine the percentage for each county that corresponds to the ratio determined in subdivision 2. The commissioner shall multiply each county agency's quarterly nonpublic assistance collections by the applicable percentage to determine the county agency's nonpublic assistance dollar amount for purposes of this subdivision.

Ratio*	Percent
.1 or less	3.0
.2	3.5
.4	4.0
.6	4.5
.8	5.0
1.0	5.5

1.2	6.0
1.4	6.5
1.6	7.0
1.8	7.5
2.0	8.0
2.2	8.5
2.4	9.0
2.6	9.5
2.8 or more	10.0

*A county ratio that falls between two listed ratios must be rounded up to the next listed ratio.

Subd. 4. Distribution formula. (a) The commissioner shall determine each county child support enforcement agency's share of the state's quarterly incentive award for nonpublic assistance collections according to the formula in paragraph (b). County agencies that do not submit the required report to the commissioner within 30 days after the end of the quarter shall not receive an incentive award under this section and are excluded for purposes of the formula in this subdivision. Within 45 days after the end of the quarter, the commissioner shall inform each county agency of the determinations and pay the determined amount to the county agency. Incentive payments under this section must begin with the quarter ending September 30, 1988.

(b) To determine the county agency's quarterly incentive award, the commissioner shall:

(1) add all county agency quarterly nonpublic assistance dollar amounts as determined in subdivision 3;

(2) divide the state's quarterly nonpublic assistance incentive award by the total obtained in clause (1); and

(3) multiply the quotient obtained in clause (2) by each county agency's quarterly nonpublic assistance dollar amount as determined under subdivision 3.

History: 1987 c 403 art 3 s 25

256.9791 MEDICAL SUPPORT BONUS INCENTIVES.

Subdivision 1. Bonus incentive. (a) A bonus incentive program is created to increase the identification and enforcement by county agencies of dependent health insurance coverage for persons who are receiving medical assistance under section 256B.055 and for whom the county agency is providing child support enforcement services.

(b) The bonus shall be awarded to a county child support agency for each person for whom coverage is identified and enforced by the child support enforcement program when the obligor is under a court order to provide dependent health insurance coverage.

Subd. 2. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following definitions apply.

(a) "Case" means a family unit that is receiving medical assistance under section 256B.055 and for whom the county agency is providing child support enforcement services.

(b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of human services.

(c) "County agency" means the county child support enforcement agency.

(d) "Coverage" means initial dependent health insurance benefits for a case or individual member of a case.

(e) "Enforce" or "enforcement" means obtaining proof of current or future dependent health insurance coverage through an overt act by the county agency.

(f) "Enforceable order" means a child support court order containing the statutory language in section 518.171 or other language ordering an obligor to provide dependent health insurance coverage.

(g) "Identify" or "identification" means obtaining proof of dependent health insurance coverage through an overt act by the county agency.

Subd. 3. Eligibility; reporting requirements. (a) In order for a county to be eligible to claim a bonus incentive payment, the county agency must report to the commissioner, no later than August 1 of each fiscal year, the number of cases as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year in which (1) the court has established an obligation for coverage by the obligor and (2) coverage was in effect as of June 30. The ratio resulting when the number of cases reported under (2) is divided by the number of cases reported under (1) shall be used to determine the amount of the bonus incentive according to subdivision 4.

(b) A county that fails to submit the required information by August 1 of each fiscal year is not eligible for any bonus payments under this section for that fiscal year.

Subd. 4. Rate of bonus incentive. The rate of the bonus incentive shall be determined according to paragraphs (a) to (c).

(a) When a county agency has identified or enforced coverage in up to and including 50 percent of its cases, the county shall receive \$15 for each additional person for whom coverage is identified or enforced.

(b) When a county agency has identified or enforced coverage in more than 50 percent but less than 80 percent of its cases, the county shall receive \$20 for each person for whom coverage is identified or enforced.

(c) When a county agency has identified or enforced coverage in 80 percent or more of its cases, the county shall receive \$25 for each person for whom coverage is identified or enforced.

(d) Bonus payments according to paragraphs (a) to (c) are limited to one bonus for each covered person each time the county agency identifies or enforces previously unidentified health insurance coverage and apply only to coverage identified or enforced after July 1, 1990.

Subd. 5. Claims for bonus incentive. (a) Beginning July 1, 1990, county agencies shall file a claim for a medical support bonus payment by reporting to the commissioner the following information for each case where dependent health insurance is identified or enforced as a result of an overt act of the county agency:

- (1) child support enforcement system case number or county specific case number;
- (2) names and dates of birth for each person covered; and
- (3) the effective date of coverage.

(b) The report must be made upon enrollment in coverage but no later than September 30 for coverage identified or established during the preceding fiscal year.

(c) The county agency making the initial contact resulting in the establishment of coverage is the county agency entitled to claim the bonus incentive even if the case is transferred to another county agency prior to the time coverage is established.

(d) Disputed claims must be submitted to the commissioner and the commissioner's decision is final.

Subd. 6. Distribution. (a) Bonus incentives must be issued to the county agency quarterly, within 45 days after the last day of each quarter for which a bonus incentive is being claimed, and must be paid up to the limit of the appropriation in the order in which claims are received.

(b) Total bonus incentives must be computed by multiplying the number of persons included in claims submitted in accordance with this section by the applicable bonus payment as determined in subdivision 4.

(c) The county agency must repay any bonus erroneously issued.

(d) A county agency must maintain a record of bonus incentives claimed and received for each quarter.

History: 1990 c 568 art 2 s 62

256.98 WRONGFULLY OBTAINING ASSISTANCE; THEFT.

Subdivision 1. Wrongfully obtaining assistance. A person who obtains, or attempts to obtain, or aids or abets any person to obtain by means of a willfully false statement or representation, by intentional concealment of a material fact, or by impersonation or other fraudulent device, assistance to which the person is not entitled or assistance greater than that to which the person is entitled, or who knowingly aids or abets in buying or in any way disposing of the property of a recipient or applicant of assistance without the consent of the county agency with intent to defeat the purposes of sections 256.12, 256.72 to 256.871, and chapter 256B, or all of these sections is guilty of theft and shall be sentenced pursuant to section 609.52, subdivision 3, clauses (2), (3)(a) and (c), (4), and (5).

Subd. 2. Joint trials. When two or more defendants are jointly charged with the same offense under subdivision 1, or are jointly charged with different offenses under subdivision 1 arising from the same course of conduct, they shall be tried jointly; however, if it appears to the court that a defendant or the state is substantially prejudiced by the joinder for trial, the court may order an election or separate trial of counts, grant a severance of defendants, or provide other relief.

Subd. 3. Amount of assistance incorrectly paid. The amount of the assistance incorrectly paid under this section is the difference between the amount of assistance actually received on the basis of misrepresented or concealed facts and the amount to which the recipient would have been entitled had the specific concealment or misrepresentation not occurred. Unless required by law, rule, or regulation, earned income disregards shall not be applied to earnings not reported by the recipient.

Subd. 4. Recovery of assistance. The amount of assistance determined to have been incorrectly paid is recoverable from the recipient or the recipient's estate by the county or the state as a debt due the county or the state or both in proportion to the contribution of each.

Subd. 5. Criminal or civil action. To prosecute or to recover assistance wrongfully obtained under this section, the attorney general or the appropriate county attorney, acting independently or at the direction of the attorney general, may institute a criminal or civil action or both.

Subd. 6. Rule superseded. Rule 17.03, subdivision 2, of the Minnesota Rules of Criminal Procedures that relates to joint trials is superseded by this section to the extent that it conflicts with this section.

Subd. 7. Division of recovered amounts. If the state is responsible for the recovery, the amounts recovered shall be paid to the appropriate units of government as provided under section 256.863. If the recovery is directly attributable to a county, the county may retain one-half of the nonfederal share of any recovery from a recipient or the recipient's estate. This subdivision does not apply to recoveries from medical providers or to recoveries involving the department of human services, surveillance and utilization review division, state hospital collections unit, and the benefit recoveries division.

History: 1971 c 550 s 1; 1973 c 348 s 1; 1973 c 717 s 16; 1975 c 437 art 2 s 2; 1977 c 225 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 254 s 6; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 72; 1988 c 712 s 2; 1990 c 566 s 6; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256.981 TRAINING OF WELFARE FRAUD PROSECUTORS.

The commissioner of human services shall, to the extent an appropriation is provided for this purpose, contract with the county attorney's council or other public or private entity experienced in providing training for prosecutors to conduct quarterly workshops and seminars focusing on current aid to families with dependent children program issues, other income maintenance program changes, recovery issues, alternative sentencing methods, use of technical aids for interviews and interrogations, and other matters affecting prosecution of welfare fraud cases.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 154

256.982 TRAINING OF WELFARE FRAUD INVESTIGATORS.

The commissioner of human services shall, to the extent an appropriation is provided for this purpose, establish a pilot project for further education and training of welfare fraud investigators. The commissioner may enter into contractual agreements with other state, federal, or county agencies as part of cooperative projects employing experienced investigators to provide on-the-job training to county investigators.

History: 1987 c 403 art 2 s 155

256.983 FRAUD PREVENTION INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) Within the limits of available appropriations, and to the extent either required or authorized by applicable federal regulations, the commissioner of human services shall select and fund not less than four pilot projects for a two-year period to test the effectiveness of fraud prevention investigations conducted at the point of application for assistance. County agencies must be selected to be involved in the pilot projects based on their response to requests for proposals issued by the commissioner. One of the county agencies selected must be located in either Hennepin or Ramsey county, one must be from a county in the seven-county metropolitan area other than Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and two must be located outside the metropolitan area.

(b) If proposals are not submitted, the commissioner may select the county agencies to be involved. The county agencies must be selected from the locations described in paragraph (a).

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 41

256.99 REVERSE MORTGAGE PROCEEDS DISREGARDED.

All reverse mortgage loan proceeds received pursuant to section 47.58, including interest or earnings thereon, shall be disregarded and shall not be considered available to the borrower for purposes of determining initial or continuing eligibility for, or amount of, medical assistance, Minnesota supplemental assistance, general assistance, general assistance medical care, or a federal or state low interest loan or grant. This section applies regardless of the time elapsed since the loan was made or the disposition of the proceeds.

For purposes of medical assistance eligibility provided under sections 256B.055, 256B.056, and 256B.06, proceeds from a reverse mortgage must be disregarded as income in the month of receipt but are a resource if retained after the month of receipt.

History: 1979 c 265 s 2; 3Sp1981 c 3 s 16; 1985 c 252 s 18; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 268

256.991 RULES.

The commissioner of human services may promulgate emergency and permanent rules as necessary to implement sections 256.01, subdivision 2; 256.82, subdivision 3; 256.966, subdivision 1; 256D.03, subdivisions 3, 4, 6, and 7; and 261.23. The commissioner shall promulgate emergency and permanent rules to establish standards and criteria for deciding which medical assistance services require prior authorization and for deciding whether a second medical opinion is required for an elective surgery. The commissioner shall promulgate permanent and emergency rules as necessary to establish the methods and standards for determining inappropriate utilization of medical assistance services.

The commissioner of human services shall adopt emergency rules which meet the requirements of sections 14.29 to 14.36 for the medical assistance demonstration project. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14.35, the emergency rules promulgated to implement section 256B.69 shall be effective for 360 days and may be continued in effect for an additional 900 days if the commissioner gives notice by publishing a notice in the State Register and mailing notice to all persons registered with the commissioner to receive notice of rulemaking proceedings in connection with the project. The emergency rules shall not be effective beyond December 31, 1986, without meeting the requirements of sections 14.131 to 14.20.

History: 1983 c 312 art 5 s 38; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 10; 1989 c 209 art 2 s 28