

## CHAPTER 256E

## COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

256E.03	Definitions.	256E.08	Duties of county boards.
256E.04	Biennial state plan.	256E.115	Safe houses, transitional housing, and independent living assistance services for youth.
256E.06	Distribution of state aids.		
256E.07	Title XX allocation.		

**256E.03 DEFINITIONS.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1996]*

Subd. 2. (a) "Community social services" means services provided or arranged for by county boards to fulfill the responsibilities prescribed in section 256E.08, subdivision 1, to the following groups of persons:

(1) families with children under age 18, who are experiencing child dependency, neglect or abuse, and also pregnant adolescents, adolescent parents under the age of 18 and their children, and other adolescents;

(2) persons, including adolescents, who are under the guardianship of the commissioner of human services as dependent and neglected wards;

(3) adults who are in need of protection and vulnerable as defined in section 626.5572;

(4) persons age 60 and over who are experiencing difficulty living independently and are unable to provide for their own needs;

(5) emotionally disturbed children and adolescents, chronically and acutely mentally ill persons who are unable to provide for their own needs or to independently engage in ordinary community activities;

(6) persons with mental retardation as defined in section 252A.02, subdivision 2, or with related conditions as defined in section 252.27, subdivision 1a, who are unable to provide for their own needs or to independently engage in ordinary community activities;

(7) drug dependent and intoxicated persons, including adolescents, as defined in section 254A.02, subdivisions 5 and 7, and persons, including adolescents, at risk of harm to self or others due to the ingestion of alcohol or other drugs;

(8) parents whose income is at or below 70 percent of the state median income and who are in need of child care services in order to secure or retain employment or to obtain the training or education necessary to secure employment;

(9) children and adolescents involved in or at risk of involvement with criminal activity; and

(10) other groups of persons who, in the judgment of the county board, are in need of social services.

(b) Except as provided in section 256E.08, subdivision 5, community social services do not include public assistance programs known as aid to families with dependent children, Minnesota family investment program—statewide, Minnesota supplemental aid, medical assistance, general assistance, general assistance medical care, or community health services authorized by sections 145A.09 to 145A.13.

*[For text of subs 3 to 7, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 85 art 4 s 15; 1997 c 239 art 6 s 1

**256E.04 BIENNIAL STATE PLAN.**

Subdivision 1. The commissioner shall prepare a biennial social services plan and present the plan to the governor. The commissioner shall update the plan biennially. The plan shall include:

(a) a description of state social service programs and priorities;

(b) an overview of all county biennial community social services plans;

- (c) identification of social services program requirements which counties have identified as unnecessarily administratively burdensome;
- (d) identification of social services program requirements for which inadequate state and local funding is available; and
- (e) identification of unmet needs reported by the county agencies.

The commissioner shall consult with the heads of human service related state departments and agencies in preparing the coordination statement required by this subdivision.

*[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 7 art 2 s 46

## **256E.06 DISTRIBUTION OF STATE AIDS.**

Subdivision 1. **Formula.** The commissioner of human services shall distribute community social service aids to each county board in an amount determined according to the following formula:

In calendar year 1982 and thereafter:

(a) One-third shall be distributed on the basis of the average unduplicated number of persons who receive AFDC, Minnesota family investment program—statewide, general assistance, and medical assistance per month in the calendar year two years prior to the year for which funds are being distributed as reported in the average monthly caseload reports required under sections 256.01, 256B.04 and 256D.04, and certified by the commissioner of human services; and

(b) One-third shall be distributed on the basis of the number of persons residing in the county as determined by the most recent data of the state demographer;

(c) One-third shall be distributed on the basis of the number of persons residing in the county who are 65 years old or older as determined by the most recent data of the state demographer.

*[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1996]*

Subd. 2b. **County social service grants for former GRH recipients.** (a) Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 and 2, and notwithstanding the provision in Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 1, section 2, subdivision 3, that authorized the commissioner to transfer funds from the group residential housing account to community social services aids to counties, beginning July 1, 1995, money used to provide continuous funding for assistance to persons who are no longer eligible for assistance under the group residential housing program under chapter 256I, as specified in paragraph (b), is added to the community social services aid amount for the county in which the group residential housing setting for which the person is no longer eligible is located. Notwithstanding the provision in Laws 1995, chapter 207, article 1, section 2, subdivision 3, that required the increased Community Social Services Act appropriations to be used to proportionately increase each county's aid, this money must not be appropriated to any other county or counties.

(b) Former group residential housing recipients for whom money is added to a county's aid amount under paragraph (a) include:

(1) persons receiving services in Hennepin county from a provider that on August 1, 1984, was licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0520 to 9525.0660, but was funded as a group residence under the general assistance or Minnesota supplemental aid programs;

(2) persons residing in a setting with a semi-independent living services license under Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0900 to 9525.1020; and

(3) persons residing in family foster care settings who have become ineligible for group residential housing assistance because they receive services through the medical assistance community-based waiver for persons with mental retardation or related conditions under section 256B.0916.

Subd. 3. **Payments to counties.** The commissioner of human services shall make payments for community social services to each county in four installments per year. The com-

missioner of human services may certify the payments for the first three months of a calendar year based on estimates of the unduplicated number of persons receiving AFDC, Minnesota family investment program—statewide, general assistance and medical assistance for the prior year. The following three payments shall be adjusted to reflect the actual unduplicated number of persons who received AFDC, Minnesota family investment program—statewide, general assistance and medical assistance as required by subdivision 1. The commissioner shall ensure that the pertinent payment of the allotment for that quarter is made to each county on the first working day after the end of each quarter of the calendar year, except for the last quarter of the calendar year. The commissioner shall ensure that each county receives its payment of the allotment for that quarter no later than the last working day of that quarter. This scheduling of payments does not require compliance with subdivision 10.

*[For text of subs 5 to 10, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 85 art 4 s 16,17; 1997 c 203 art 9 s 14

### 256E.07 TITLE XX ALLOCATION.

Subdivision 1. **Formula.** In federal fiscal year 1985 and subsequent years, money for social services that is received from the federal government to reimburse counties for social service expenditures according to title XX of the Social Security Act shall be allocated to each county according to the following formula:

(a) Two-thirds shall be allocated on the basis of the annual average number of unduplicated active monthly caseloads in each county in the following programs: aid to families with dependent children, Minnesota family investment program—statewide, medical assistance, general assistance, supplementary security income, and Minnesota supplemental aid.

(b) One-third shall be allocated on the basis of the number of persons residing in the county as determined by the most recent estimate of the state demographer.

(c) The commissioner shall allocate to the counties according to this section the total money received from the federal government for social services according to title XX of the Social Security Act, except that portion of the state's allocation which the legislature authorizes for administrative purposes and for migrant day care.

*[For text of subd 1b, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 85 art 4 s 18

### 256E.08 DUTIES OF COUNTY BOARDS.

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.1996]*

Subd. 3. **Administration of income maintenance programs.** The county board may designate itself, a human services board, or a local social services agency to perform the functions of local social services agencies as prescribed in chapter 393 and assigned to county agencies in other law which pertains to the administration of income maintenance programs known as aid to families with dependent children, Minnesota family investment program—statewide, general assistance, Minnesota supplemental aid, medical assistance, general assistance medical care, and emergency assistance.

*[For text of subs 4 to 11, see M.S.1996]*

**History:** 1997 c 85 art 4 s 19

### 256E.115 SAFE HOUSES, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR YOUTH.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions; commissioner duties.** (a) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) "Targeted youth" means children who are ages 16 to 21 and who are in out-of-home placement, leaving out-of-home placement, at risk of becoming homeless, or homeless.

(2) "Safe house" means a facility providing emergency housing for homeless targeted youth with the goal of reuniting the family if appropriate and possible.

(3) "Transitional housing" means congregate or cooperative housing for targeted youth who are transitioning to independent living.

(4) "Independent living assistance" means services provided to assist targeted youth who are not living in a safe house or transitional housing to make the transition to independent living.

(b) The commissioner shall issue a request for proposals from organizations that are knowledgeable about the needs of targeted youth for the purpose of establishing a system of safe houses, transitional housing, and independent living assistance for such youth. The commissioner shall appoint a review committee of up to eight members to evaluate the proposals. The review panel must include representation from communities of color, youth, and other community providers and agency representatives who understand the needs and problems of targeted youth. The commissioner shall also assist in coordinating funding from federal and state grant programs and funding available from a variety of sources for efforts to promote a continuum of services for targeted youth through a consolidated grant application. The commissioner shall analyze the needs of targeted youth and gaps in services throughout the state and determine how to best serve those needs within the available funding.

**Subd. 2. Program service requirements; participation requirements; licensure of independent living assistance providers.** (a) The following services, or adequate access to referrals for the following services, must be made available to the targeted youth participating in the programs described in subdivision 1:

(1) counseling services for the youth, and their families, if appropriate, on site, to help with problems that contributed to the homelessness or could impede making the transition to independent living;

(2) job services to help youth find employment in addition to creating jobs on site, including food service, maintenance, child care, and tutoring;

(3) health services that are confidential and provide preventive care services, crisis referrals, and other necessary health care services;

(4) living skills training to help youth learn how to care for themselves; and

(5) education services that help youth enroll in academic programs, if they are currently not in a program.

(b)(1) Targeted youth who have current drug or alcohol problems, a recent history of violent behaviors, or a mental health disorder or issue that is not being resolved through counseling or treatment are not eligible to receive the services described in subdivision 1.

(2) Targeted youth who are not employed, participating in employment training, or enrolled in an academic program are not eligible to receive transitional housing or independent living assistance.

(c) Providers of independent living assistance services must be licensed under section 245A.22.

**History:** 1997 c 248 s 43