

Northstar Care for Children Update

Fall Supervisors Conference

September 15, 2015

A. Background

Northstar Care for Children began January 1, 2015. By creating a unified rate structure for children in foster care, relative care, and adoptions, Northstar Care provides counties and tribes with significant new tools to assist children in foster care to gain permanent legal families through transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to relatives or through adoption, including customary adoption. Based on prior experience, this should be of particular assistance to children who are American Indian, Black or African heritage, older, or part of sibling groups.

Northstar Care does not apply to residential facilities such as residential treatment centers or group homes. They don't represent permanency resources for children and have other rate-setting and payment processes already in place.

B. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment – the MAPCY

A uniform assessment process is a key part of Northstar Care for Children. Called the Minnesota Assessment of Parenting for Children and Youth (MAPCY), the tool has been built into SSIS (Social Services Information System).

Based on data and feedback from actual use, the department has made two major sets of improvements to the MAPCY. A third set is scheduled for September, another in November, and additional improvements will be made as needed.

The MAPCY is comprehensive and supports good practice. It doesn't rate the same things as the previous processes, and is designed to have different results. The prior tools were primarily focused on how "sick" the young person was. The MAPCY shifts the focus to how the caregiver can meet their needs. Some needs are handled by the caregiver, but some by others.

In general, the MAPCY rates two things:

- 1) What are the young person's needs?
- 2) What parenting is the caregiver(s) doing to meet those needs?

The assessor doesn't pick the level, but instead the assessor selects from yes/no or multiple choice answers (generally in consultation with the caregiver). This should result in a *less subjective rating*, with the computer deriving the level and the resulting score.

C. Northstar Care Benefits

There are three main benefits:

- Medical Assistance (Medicaid)
- Monthly Basic Payment
- Monthly Supplemental Payment

Tables on the next page compare the monthly payments with the previous programs.

D. Comparing Monthly Payments

Monthly Basic Payment	Legacy RCA	Legacy Adoption Assistance	Legacy Foster Care	Northstar Care *
Ages 0-5	\$247	\$247	\$659	\$565
Ages 6-11	\$277	\$277	\$659	\$670
Age 12	\$307	\$307	\$759	\$670
Age 13-14	\$307	\$307	\$759	\$790
Ages 15-17	\$337	\$337	\$786	\$790
Ages 18	None	\$337	\$786	\$790
Ages 19-20	None	\$337	\$786	\$790

NOTE: Northstar Care Monthly Basic Payments are higher for most. The key exception is for ages birth-5 compared to legacy foster care. Northstar Care Basic is always more than twice as much as for legacy RCA or Adoption Assistance.

Supplemental Payment **	Legacy RCA	Legacy Adoption Assistance	Legacy Foster Care	Northstar Care *
Basic Only	None	None	None	None
Level C	None	None	\$100	\$100
Level D	None	None	\$201	\$200
Level E	\$150	\$150	\$301	\$300
Level F	\$150	\$150	\$401	\$400
Level G	\$150	\$150	\$502	\$500
Level H	\$250	\$250	\$602	\$600
Level I	\$250	\$250	\$702	\$700
Level J	\$250	\$250	\$803	\$800
Level K	\$250	\$250	\$903	\$900
Level L	\$400	\$400	\$1003	\$1000
Level M	\$400	\$400	\$1104	\$1100
Level N	\$400	\$400	\$1204	\$1200
Level O	\$500	\$500	\$1304	\$1300
Level P	\$500	\$500	\$1405	\$1400
Level Q	\$500	\$500	\$1505	\$1500

* Under Northstar Care, children entering permanency at ages 5 and younger continue to get a lower monthly payment of half what they would receive in foster care

** Northstar Care supplemental levels and approximate equivalents for legacy programs

E. Improvements to the MAPCY Assessment

We've made a series of improvements to the MAPCY assessment over the past year, and ***we will make more***. For instance, based on the field test, we made scoring changes and changes to more adequately address children who are medically fragile, and may make additional changes.

With SSIS release v15.3 (now out), there are three sets of changes:

- Addressing more fully the needs of young parents who are with caregivers (foster parents, relative custodians, or adoptive parents), where the baby is living with the young parent and the agency has custody of the young parent but does ***not*** have custody of the baby. NOTE: We had previously addressed young parents who are 18 up to 21 in supervised independent living (EFC-SIL).
- Corrections to Extraordinary Level scoring (it had accidentally been too restrictive).
- Comprehensive text updates for more consistent and clearer wording.

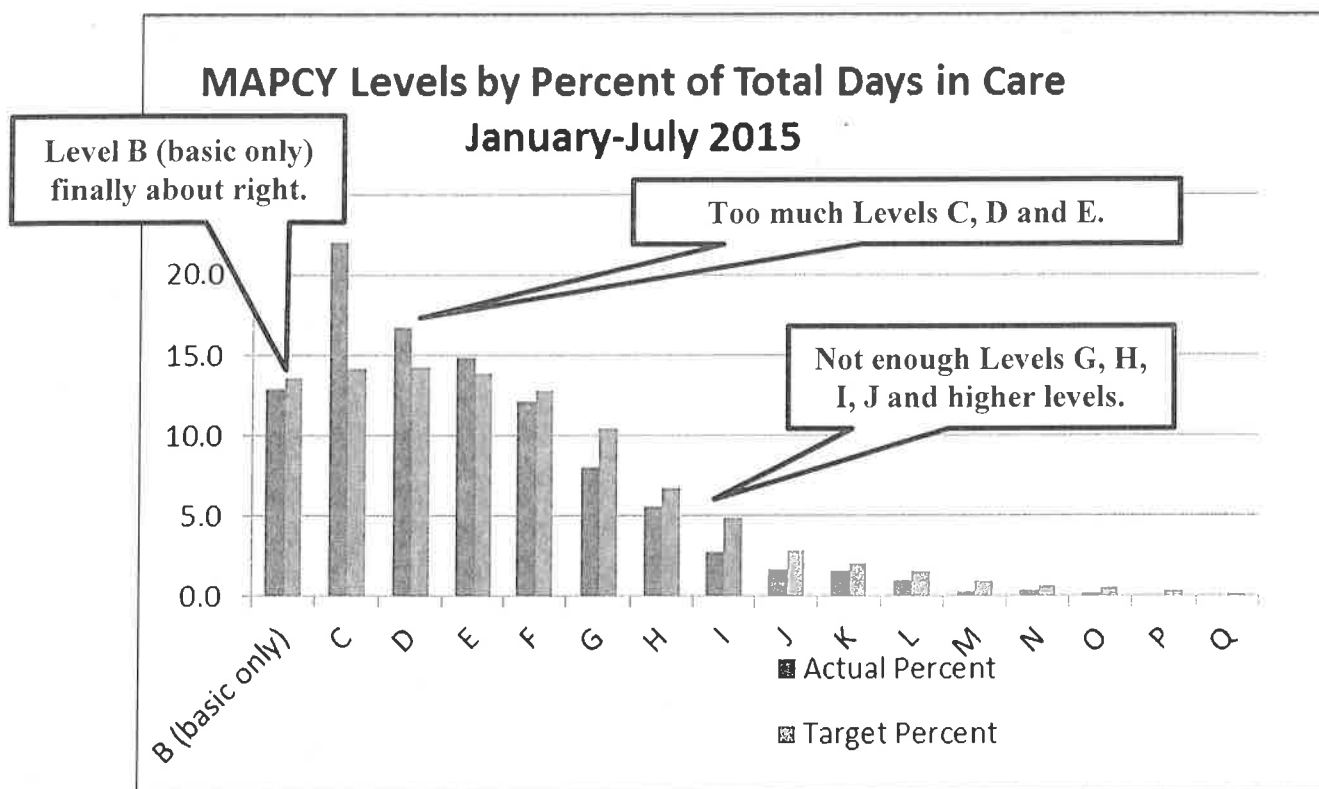
At this time, the distribution of MAPCY results is closer to target than ever. This chart and the graph on the next page show the same data. They include actual MAPCY results for January-July 2015, weighted by days of care.

MAPCY Level	Total days in care by level	Actual Percent	Target Percent
B (basic only)	69,358	12.9	13.5
C	118,060	22.0	14.2
D	89,325	16.7	14.3
E	79,795	14.9	13.9
F	64,988	12.1	12.8
G	42,778	8.0	10.5
H	29,792	5.6	6.7
I	14,370	2.7	4.9
J	8,993	1.7	2.9
K	8,531	1.6	2.0
L	5,004	0.9	1.6
M	1,698	0.3	0.9
N	1,897	0.4	0.7
O	1,146	0.2	0.6
P	269	0.1	0.4
Q	364	0.1	0.2
Total	536,368	100.0	100.0

The recent corrections have resulted in more closely aligning the MAPCY to the target for Level B (Basic Only). Previously, too many children were getting Level B, and they are now about right.

However, there are too many MAPCY assessments that result in Levels C, D, and E, and not enough at higher levels, particularly G, H, I, and J, but higher levels as well.

This graph illustrates this same set of data as the chart on the previous page.



Although closer, the MAPCY continues to score too low.

We will make further adjustments for SSIS release v15.4 later this fall.

F. Child Care as Part of the Supplemental Payment

Contrary to some rumors, Northstar Care has **not** made child care any less available for foster care. In many cases has made it better. But it hasn't entirely solved the problem, and it has caused some logistical complications in other cases.

1. Child care is a Big Issue

- Child care is often important in foster care, particularly when recruiting relatives.
- Child care can also be indispensable for permanency.
- We recommend pursuing Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) eligibility whenever possible – it is cumbersome and underfunded, but it provides excellent benefits to families who can get on either MFIP or Basic Sliding Fee Child Care.

2. Child Care before Northstar Care

- Child care for foster care has sometimes been paid from county and tribal funds.
- It depended on the policies and practice at any given time for any given agency.
- Some agencies always provided child care, some did it sometimes, and some never did.
- Child care was never available through Relative Custody Assistance (RCA).
- Child care for legacy adoption assistance was paid from state funds to many families.

3. Child Care with Northstar Care

- Through the MAPCY assessment, Northstar Care unifies child care benefits among Northstar Foster Care, Northstar Kinship Assistance, and Northstar Adoption Assistance.
- It also establishes some consistency among agencies.
- The child care allowance is insufficient for most child care. For most children, it will partially defray the costs rather than cover the entire amount.

4. Paying for Future Child Care

- The Northstar Care child care allowance is available through Northstar Care.
- Counties and tribes had the option to pay for child care in the past.
- Counties and tribes have the option to pay for child care now and in the future.
- This could be either for the entire amount, or for the difference between what is available through the MAPCY and the full cost.

5. Current MAPCY Results

- MAPCY Domain H increases MAPCY levels based on the need for child care.
- This chart shows the amount of use – not weighted by days of care and therefore less precise than the distribution figures shown above.

Child Care Increase	Ages 0-5 as of MAPCY Effective Date		Ages 6 to 12 as of MAPCY Effective Date		Total (Ages birth-12)	
	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent
0	1,300	65.6	1,117	87.1	2,417	74.0
1	147	7.4	102	8.0	249	7.6
2	114	5.7	49	3.8	163	5.0
3	101	5.1	6	0.5	107	3.3
4	321	16.2	8	0.6	329	10.1
Total	1,983	100.0	1,282	100.0	3,265	100.0

G. The Importance of Getting Relatives Licensed

1. Federal Requirements for Northstar Foster Care

Federal Title IV-E already requires that foster parents be licensed in order to get federal revenue for foster care.

Less restrictive than the feds, Northstar Care state share covers unlicensed foster homes for up to six months, during which relatives can get licensed. After six months, foster care expenditures are left out of the calculations for Northstar Care state share.

2. Federal Requirements for Northstar Kinship Assistance

The same federal Title IV-E requirements that previously were only for foster care are extended to Northstar Kinship Assistance.

Federal regulations are clear that before a child's custody is transferred to a relative, the prospective relative custodian needs to have been that child's licensed foster parent for at least six consecutive months. As a result, that is a requirement of the Northstar Kinship Assistance component of Northstar Care.

The six consecutive months need not be 180 days in length. They may be portions of months. For example, February 28 - July 1, 2015. Even though that includes only one day in February and one day in July, the feds count that as six months: February, March, April, May, June, and July.

3. A Change

Although it provides the child with a Title IV-E benefit and brings in federal Title IV-E revenue, this is a significant change from legacy Relative Custody Assistance (RCA).

This change puts a real premium on getting the relative (or important friend or kin) licensed soon after placing the young person in their home. That includes getting Background Studies done early, and getting any non-safety problems resolved promptly whenever appropriate.

4. Background Studies

Background studies find items of concern in a person's past. The federal government has identified permanent barrier crimes (see other handout), for which no set-aside or variance is possible, although expungement is sometimes an option. Beyond the permanent barrier crimes, other disqualifications can often be resolved in various ways.

5. Focus

Within DHS, we are working with Background Studies and state Licensing staff in an attempt to streamline both processes as much as practical.

We encourage tribes and counties to focus resources on licensing relatives. If a barrier crime shows up in the background study, you probably should move the child. In other situations, best practice is to work with them to promptly resolve any issues to licensure.

6. Exemption

Under Northstar Care, DHS is permitted by law to grant an occasional exemption to the requirement that the prospective relative custodian be that child's licensed foster parent for at least six months. However, such exemptions will *not* be routine.

H. Northstar Care Fiscal Reconciliation

1. Very Slow

As planned, we are taking our time working through the issues on Northstar Care Fiscal Reconciliation. We have always said that the early quarters will be very slow. **Very** slow.

We anticipate completing the January-March 2015 quarter initial reconciliation in September or October. Subsequent quarters will likely go more quickly, but will remain slow for some time. Slow.

2. Not Very Automated – Spreadsheets with Limited SSIS

For a number of quarters, the reconciliation will be based on SSIS data but the calculations are all being done in Excel spreadsheets.

With every release, SSIS adds more capability to the Northstar Care Fiscal Reconciliation process. It is currently able to assemble the data. The next stage is for SSIS to be able to do more and more of the calculations. Eventually, it will be able to send a rich set of data back to counties and tribes.

3. Based on Shares Rather than Who Issued the Payment

Counties and tribes issue payments for:

- Northstar Foster Care
- Legacy Foster Care
- Relative Custody Assistance (RCA)
- Minnesota Permanency Demonstration (MnPD)

DHS issues payments for:

- Northstar Kinship Assistance
- Northstar Adoption Assistance
- Legacy Adoption Assistance

A key break from the past is that your agency's ultimate costs are based on a share calculated through the two Fundamental Calculations. As a result, there is a state share for all the payments made by your agency, and an agency share for all the payments issued by DHS.

If the total of all the **payments issued** by a county or tribe is **greater** than its **share** for that quarter, DHS will send money. On the other hand, if the total of all the payments issued by a county or tribe is **less** than its share for that quarter, DHS will invoice the agency for the difference.

4. Two Fundamental Calculations

At the heart of the Northstar Care Fiscal Reconciliation process are the two Fundamental Calculations:

1. State/Local Calculation
2. Proportionate Share Calculation

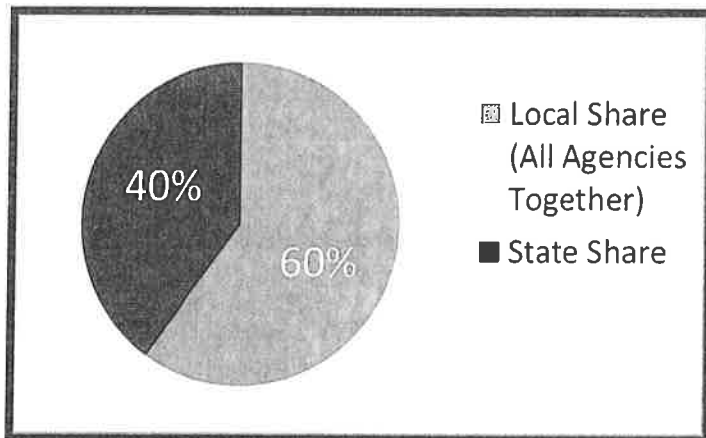
Both calculations are based on historical data, with adjustments as needed. The history covers the period 2011-2014, and counties and tribes have had the opportunity to request adjustments for miscoding, anomalies, expenditures that are not representative or not comparable, etc.

Both calculations also work only with the nonfederal portion – all federal Title IV-E earnings are netted off first.

5. 1st Fundamental Calculation: State/Local Calculation

The State/Local Calculation divides the nonfederal portion into:

- State share (how much the state should pay)
- Local share (how much all county and tribal agencies together should pay).



We trend the historical state share and local shares forward, then add in phase-in costs as a state cost. Northstar Care costs more than the collection of previous programs. The state picks up the extra costs that the feds don't, so these phase-in costs are added onto the trended-forward state share.

Preliminary estimates suggest that this 1st Fundamental Calculation split might be 40% state and 60% local.

1st Fundamental Calculation: State/Local Share


100.000000%	Total Nonfederal Portion Issued:	\$20,000
40.000000%	Nonfederal State Share:	\$8,000
60.000000%	Nonfederal Local Share:	\$12,000

6. 2nd Fundamental Calculation: Proportionate Share Calculation

To avoid cost shifting the local share is divided up based on historic proportionate shares. The proportionate share starts by determining a percentage for each year 2011-2014. The percentage is the nonfederal portion paid by your agency divided by the nonfederal portion paid by all agencies. Next we average the annual percentages for your agency for those four years.

Calendar Year Historical Data	Your Agency's Nonfederal Portion	All Agencies' Nonfederal Portion	Your Agency's Proportionate Share Percentage
2011	\$ 234	\$ 10,000	2.240%
2012	\$ 251	\$ 10,500	2.391%
2013	\$ 286	\$ 11,000	2.600%
2014	\$ 317	\$ 11,500	2.669%
Average of Annual Percentages:			2.475%

The 2nd fundamental calculation determines the nonfederal share for each agency. Multiply each agency's Proportionate Share percentage (2.475% in our example above) by the current quarter's Local Nonfederal Share for each agency in turn. The result is the Local Share for each agency. In our example, if the Local Nonfederal Share for all agencies is \$12,000 (it's more likely to be \$12 million), then $2.475\% \times \$12,000 = \297 as the agency's share.

2nd Fundamental Calculation: Proportionate Share			
100.00000%	Nonfederal Local Share:	\$12,000	
97.52500%	All Other Agency Shares:	\$11,703	
2.47500%	This Agency Share:	\$297	
			

Historic data is adjusted when needed. **DHS also adjusts the proportionate shares** for various reasons: These include trends, and changes in the use of Foster Care, Kinship Assistance, and Adoption Assistance. Counties and tribes that use more than they did in the past should go up, while those that use less should go down. We will also adjust to avoid wild swings, anomalies and other kinds of distortions. DHS is to ensure that *none* of the adjustments are unduly influenced by one-time events, anomalies, small changes that appear large compared to a narrow historic base (such as one family moving into or out of one county), or the results of the transfer of responsibilities to tribal social service agencies under the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative.

7. Interim Process, Interim Outputs in Two Parts

We need to accomplish Northstar Care Fiscal Reconciliation while building the future into SSIS. That means SSIS data spilled into spreadsheets for the calculations. That also means spreadsheet-based outputs. The outputs are similar to but less sophisticated than what SSIS will have.

The Interim Outputs will have two parts:

1. Part 1 - Two pages packed with useful information
2. Part 2 - Your agency's history, as adjusted

See examples of the two pages of Part 1 on the following page and then later in this handout.

8. Part 1, Page 1

Page 1 has four big sections:

- Columns A-G at the top (Lines in teens)
- Columns H-J in left middle (Lines in 20s)
- Columns K-M in right middle (also Lines in 20s)
- Columns N-S at the bottom (Lines in 30s)

On Page 1, the first number of the Line number indicates section (the middle 2 sections in the 20s). The second number indicates:

- x0: Nonfederal Effective Rates
- x1: Family Foster Care and EFC-SIL (legacy & NFC)
- x2: Relative Custody Assistance (RCA)
- x3: MN Permanency Demonstration Project (MnPD)
- x4: Northstar Kinship Assistance
- x5: Adoption Assistance (legacy & NAA)
- x6: Total

Figures on Page 1 are generally additive. The sign tells you whether to add or subtract. Negative figures include Title IV-E Earnings, Amounts Owed to DHS, and Prior DHS Payments. The main exception is the very last figure (S-41), which says Owe or Due and is **always** a positive number.

Columns A-D: Payments Issued & Title IV-E Earned

- Columns A and B summarize payments issued by the State and by the Agency
- Column C totals A and B
- Column D shows Title IV-E Earnings matched to the **payments** in Columns A and B

Columns E-G: Nonfederal Portion before Prior DHS Payments

- Columns E, F, and G are the results when Columns A, B, and C (payments issued) are reduced by Column D (Title IV-E)
- We'll talk about "Prior DHS Payments" soon – this is **before** recognizing them
- **Column G** is the total that the 1st and 2nd Fundamental Calculations split into State and Agency Shares.

Northstar Care Fiscal Reconciliation Summary - Interim Format

Agency: XX EXAMPLE

Quarter: January-March 2015

Reconciliation: Initial 09/07/2015

Fake data - all fake - completely made up!

Page 1

Nonfederal Portion		Payments Issued		D. (Federal Title IV-E)	Nonfederal Portion before Prior DHS Payments	
		A. State Issued	B. Agency Issued		E. State Issued	F. Agency Issued
11. Family Foster Care and EFC-SIL (legacy & NFC)		\$0.00	\$334.00	(\$55.00)	\$0.00	\$279.00
12. Relative Custody Assistance (RCA)		\$0.00	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.00
13. MN Permanency Demonstration Project (MnPD)		\$0.00	\$22.00	(\$11.00)	\$0.00	\$11.00
14. Northstar Kinship Assistance		\$14.00	\$0.00	(\$4.00)	\$10.00	\$0.00
15. Adoption Assistance (legacy & NAA)		\$190.00	\$0.00	(\$58.00)	\$132.00	\$0.00
16. TOTAL:		\$204.00	\$364.00	(\$128.00)	\$142.00	\$298.00

G. Total

Shares	Shares		J. Total
	H. State Share	I. Agency Share	
20. Nonfederal Effective Rates for this Agency	32.5000%	67.5000%	100.0000%
21. Family Foster Care and EFC-SIL (legacy & NFC)	\$90.68	\$188.32	\$279.00
22. Relative Custody Assistance (RCA)	\$2.60	\$5.40	\$8.00
23. MN Permanency Demonstration Project (MnPD)	\$3.57	\$7.43	\$11.00
24. Northstar Kinship Assistance	\$3.25	\$6.75	\$10.00
25. Adoption Assistance (legacy & NAA)	\$42.90	\$89.10	\$132.00
26. TOTAL:	\$145.00	\$297.00	\$440.00

Nonfederal Portion after Prior DHS Payments		M. Total
K. State Issued	L. Agency Issued	
\$3.00	\$276.00	\$279.00
\$0.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
\$0.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
\$132.00	\$0.00	\$132.00
\$145.00	\$295.00	\$440.00

I-26. This is the Total Agency Share for Northstar Care, including legacy

L-26. This is the Agency Net Outlay prior to this reconciliation

(Owe) & Due		P. Net before Prior DHS Paymt	Q. (Prior DHS Payments)	R. Net after Prior DHS Payments
N. (Owe) to State	O. Due to Agency			
31. Family Foster Care and EFC-SIL (legacy & NFC)	\$0.00	\$90.68	(\$3.00)	\$87.68
32. Relative Custody Assistance (RCA)	\$0.00	\$2.60	\$0.00	\$2.60
33. MN Permanency Demonstration Project (MnPD)	\$0.00	\$3.57	\$0.00	\$3.57
34. Northstar Kinship Assistance	(\$6.75)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$6.75)
35. Adoption Assistance (legacy & NAA)	(\$89.10)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$89.10)
36. TOTAL:	(\$95.85)	\$96.85	(\$3.00)	(\$2.00)

S. This is the

41. Amount that Agency Owes DHS - DHS will invoice this amount:

\$2.00

Columns H-J: Shares

- Columns J and G are always equal
- Column H shows the State Share of the Nonfederal Portion (Column J or G)
- Column I shows the Agency Share of the Nonfederal Portion (Column J or G)
- Column J shows the total, the same Total Nonfederal Portion shown in Column G
- The 1st and 2nd Fundamental Calculations split the total into State and Agency Shares
- Shares will always be different from who issued the payments:
 - The State gets a share of foster care, RCA, and MnPD
 - The Agency gets a share of Northstar Kinship Assistance and Adoption Assistance (legacy and NAA)
- How do we allocate the State and Agency Share (Line 26) to the expenditures for the current quarter?
 - We use Line 20, the Nonfederal Effective Rates
 - These are used to allocate costs from Line 26 to Lines 21 – 25
-

What are the Effective Rates (Line 20)?

- The Nonfederal Agency Effective Rate is the percentage of all nonfederal expenditures that are the Agency's share for that quarter
- It's a result of the two Fundamental Equations for your agency that quarter
- It can range very low to very high:
 - As low as 20% if trends are sharply up
 - As high as 90% or even higher, such as for small agencies with expenditures sharply down
- The Nonfederal State Effective Rate is the percentage of all nonfederal expenditures that are the State's share for that quarter – it's just the reciprocal of the Nonfederal Agency Effective Rate.
- In our example, the Nonfederal Agency Effective Rate is 67.5%, while the Nonfederal State Effective Rate is 32.5%.

Columns N-P: (Owe) & Due

- Column N shows amounts owed to the State, shown as negative figures
 - Typically Agency Shares for Northstar Kinship Assistance and/or Adoption Assistance
- Column O shows amounts due to the Agency from the State, shown as positive figures
 - Typically State Share for foster care, RCA, MnPD
- Column P nets owed and due in a single column
- These amounts are before Prior DHS Payments
- Prior DHS Payments is our next topic

What are Prior DHS Payments?

- We use the term "Prior DHS Payments" for state revenue received by the agency for these expenditures

- Only state revenue – not federal Title IV-E (already in Column D)
- This includes advances for Northstar Foster Care, even those labeled RCA or MnPD
- In the future, it will include the settle-up for the Initial Fiscal Reconciliation for that quarter


Columns P-R: (Owe) & Due

- Column P shows nets owed and due in a single column, before Prior DHS Payments
- Column Q shows any Prior DHS Payments sent to your agency **for payments issued in this quarter**
- It will not show RCA or MnPD payments for 2014
- Prior DHS Payments show as **negative** figures, since they reduce the amount due from DHS (or increase the amount owed to DHS)
- Column R nets Columns P and Q

Columns R-S: Net (Owe) & Due

- Column R shows nets owed and due in a single column, after Prior DHS Payments
- Negative figures are what the Agency owes DHS
- Positive figures are due to the Agency from DHS
- Column S shows the **bottom line as S-41**, always as a positive figure below the gold arrow
- The label changes depending on whether:
 - The Agency owes DHS
 - Funds are due to the Agency from DHS
 - It's exactly even

The bottom line is at S-41. Here the Agency owes DHS \$2.00

(Owe) & Due		R. Net after Prior DHS Payments	S. This is the net result
31. Family Foster Care and EFC-SIL (legacy & NFC)	00	\$87.68	41. Amount that Agency Owes DHS - DHS will invoice this amount:  \$2.00
32. Relative Custody Assistance (RCA)	00	\$2.60	
33. MN Permanency Demonstration Project (MnPD)	00	\$3.57	
34. Northstar Kinship Assistance	00	(\$6.75)	
35. Adoption Assistance (legacy & NAA)	0	(\$89.10)	
36. TOTAL:	00	(\$2.00)	

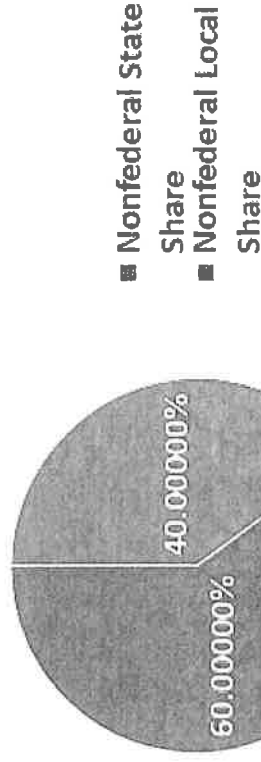
Agency Share of What? State Share of What?

- Because the agency issues payments primarily for foster care, the **net that is due to the agency from DHS** will always be considered the **state share of foster care**
- Similarly, because DHS issues payments for Northstar Kinship Assistance and Adoption Assistance, the amount that the **agency owes the state** is considered to be the **agency share for those permanency components**
- At this point, DHS will either pay the amount due to the agency, or will invoice the agency for the amount owed to the State

1st Fundamental Calculation: State/Local Share

100.000000%	Total Nonfederal Portion Issued:	\$20,000
40.000000%	Nonfederal State Share:	\$8,000
60.000000%	Nonfederal Local Share:	\$12,000

Statewide State/Local Shares

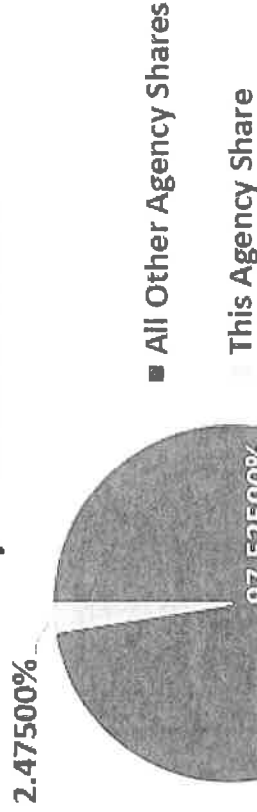


2nd Fundamental Calculation: Proportionate Share

100.000000%	Nonfederal Local Share:	\$12,000
97.525000%	All Other Agency Shares:	\$11,703
2.475000%	This Agency Share:	\$297



Proportionate Share



Nonfederal Effective Rates for this Agency

Nonfederal Effective Rate Local Shar	67.50000%	Nonfederal Local Share:	\$297.00
Nonfederal Effective Rate State Share	32.50000%	Nonfederal State Share:	\$143.00
Total Nonfederal Portion	100.00000%	Total Nonfederal Portion:	\$440.00

Columns K-M: Nonfederal *after* Prior DHS Payments

- Columns K and I show the amounts issued by the State (K) or the Agency (L), reduced or increased by any Prior DHS Payments
- This provides an alternative way to calculate Column R
- The amounts in Column L (Agency Issued) less the amounts in Column I (Agency Share) will equal Column R

9. Part 1, Page 2

- Page 2 illustrates the 1st and 2nd Fundamental Calculations and repeats the Nonfederal Effective Rates
- This was covered when we went through those calculations

I. Resources

1. Northstar Care

Northstar Care Website:

CountyLink > DHS Program Resources > Northstar Care for Children

Northstar Care Email

northstar.care@state.mn.us

Northstar Care Call Line

(651) 431-4485

2. SSIS

SSIS Website

CountyLink > DHS Program Resources > DHS Systems & IT Updates > SSIS resources

SSIS Help Desk Email

dhs.ssishelp@state.mn.us

SSIS Help Desk Phone

(651) 431-4801

3. AMSSA Presentations

- All of the AMSSA presentations are available on the [SSIS Fiscal Training Documentation](#) page under AMSSA 2015
- Refer to NC4C Sessions and handouts for additional information on the Northstar Care Fiscal Reconciliation process

**Northstar Care
for Children**

Child Protection Grant (Allocation and Other General Information)

Formula for county staffing funds (256M.41)

State funds will be allocated to each county on a calendar year basis determined to the following formula:

1. 50 percent must be distributed on the basis of the child population residing in the county as determined by the most recent data of the state demographer.
2. 25 percent must be distributed based on the basis of the number of screened-in reports of child maltreatment under sections 626.556 and 626.5561, and in the county as determined by the most recent data of the commissioner.
3. 25 percent must be distributed on the basis of the number of open child protection cases management cases in the county as determined by the most recent data of the commissioner.

No county shall be awarded an allocation of less than \$75,000.

Child Protection Updated Formula (Sec. 124.)

The commissioner of human services shall evaluate the formulas in Minnesota Statutes, section 256M.41, and recommend an updated equitable distribution formula beginning in fiscal year 2018, for funding child protection staffing and expanded services to counties and tribes, taking into consideration any relief to counties and tribes for child welfare and foster care costs, additional tribes delivering social services, and any other relevant information that should be considered in developing a new distribution formula. The commissioner shall report to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over child protection issues by December 15, 2016.

Prohibition on supplanting existing funds

Funds received must be used to address staffing for child protection or expand child protection services. Funds must not be used to supplant (to take the place of another) current county expenditures for these purposes.

Payments based on performance

Payment shall be made to each county on a calendar year based on the following:

1. 80 percent of the allocation will be paid to counties on or before July 10th of each year
2. 10 percent of the allocation will be withheld until the commissioner determines if the county has met the performance outcome threshold of 90 percent based on face-to-face contact with alleged child victims. In order to receive the performance allocation, the county child protection workers must have a timely face-to-face contact with at least 90 percent of all alleged child victims of screened-in maltreatment reports. The standard requires that each initial face-to-face contact occur consistent with timelines defined in section 626.556, subdivision 10, paragraph (i).

The commissioner shall make threshold determinations in January of each year and payments to counties meeting the performance outcome threshold shall occur in February of each year. Any withheld funds from this appropriation for counties that do not meet this requirement shall be reallocated by the commissioner to those counties meeting the requirement.

3. 10 percent of the allocation shall be withheld until the commissioner determines that the county has met the performance outcome threshold of 90 percent based on face-to-face visits by the case manager. In order to receive the performance allocation, the total number of visits made by caseworkers on a monthly basis to children in foster care and children receiving child protection services while residing in their home must be at least 90 percent of the total number of such visits that would occur if every child were visited once per month. The commissioner shall make such determinations in January of each year and payments to counties meeting the performance outcome threshold shall occur in February of each year. Any withheld funds from this appropriation for counties that do not meet this requirement shall be reallocated by the commissioner to those counties meeting the requirement. For 2015, the commissioner shall only apply the standard for monthly foster care visits.
4. (c) The commissioner shall work with stakeholders and the Human Services Performance Council undersection 402A.16 to develop recommendations for specific outcome measures that counties should meet in order to receive funds withheld under paragraph (b), and include in those recommendations a determination as to whether the performance measures under paragraph (b) should be modified or phased out. The commissioner shall report the recommendations to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over child protection issues by January 1, 2018.

Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines

Sec. 93. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 626.556, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 7a. **Guidance for screening reports.** (a) Child protection staff, supervisors, and others involved in child protection screening shall follow the guidance provided in the child maltreatment screening guidelines issued by the commissioner of human services and, when notified by the commissioner, shall immediately implement updated procedures and protocols.

(b) Any modifications to the screening guidelines must be preapproved by the commissioner of human services and must not be less protective of children than is mandated by statute. The county agency must consult with the county attorney before proposing modifications to the commissioner. The guidelines may provide additional protections for children but must not limit reports that are screened in or provide additional limits on consideration of reports that were screened out in making screening determinations.

No later than October 1, 2015, the commissioner of human services shall update the child maltreatment screening guidelines to require agencies to consider prior reports that were not screened in when determining whether a new report will or will not be screened in. The updated guidelines must emphasize that intervention and prevention efforts are to focus on child safety and the ongoing risk of child abuse or neglect, and that the health and safety of children are of paramount concern. The commissioner shall work with a diverse group of community representatives who are experts on limiting cultural and ethnic bias when developing the updated guidelines. The guidelines must be developed with special sensitivity to reducing system bias with regard to screening and assessment tools.

(b) No later than November 1, 2015, the commissioner shall publish and distribute the updated guidelines and ensure that all agency staff have received training on the updated guidelines.

(c) Agency staff must implement the guidelines by January 1, 2016.

Sec. 123. COMMISSIONER'S DUTY TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO CHILD PROTECTION SUPERVISORS.

The commissioner shall establish requirements for competency-based initial training, support, and continuing education for child protection supervisors. This includes developing a set of competencies specific to child protection supervisor knowledge, skills, and attitudes based on the Minnesota Child Welfare Practice Model. Competency-based training of supervisors must advance continuous emphasis and improvement in skills that promote the use of the client's culture as a resource and the ability to integrate the client's traditions, customs, values, and faith into service delivery.

Child Protection Grant

Talking Points for Fiscal Supervisors

- DHS encourages county to spend the grant timely. The calendar year allocation is intended for service in that calendar year.
- If not all Calendar Year 2015 funds are spent in 2015, they must be spent for expanding child protection staff and service in 2016. These funds should be dedicated to child protection activities and not revert back to the county general fund as excess balance or reduce the county general fund investment in 2016.
- It is recommended that counties track, at least on a budget basis, the planned expenditures for the grant. At the end of CY 2015, please the amount of the grant which was utilized. Used portions should be dedicated to child protection purpose in 2016. Be sure that these funds to do negatively impact the amount of county fund in child protection service in 2016.
- It is likely that you will need to do some estimates in determining how your grant is being used. Please keep a file on the grant and the assumptions for how you estimated the grant expenditures.
- If you are doing activity which earn other revenue (such as CW-TCM) you should only county the net amount for child protection grant spending.
- The grant spending must be for new positions and services to fulfill the non-supplantation requirement of the grant.
- The department will review SEAGR spending in the children's program (1xxx's BRASS Codes spending at the end of CY 2015 and CY 2016 to monitor progress on spending the child protection grant funds.
- Additionally, the department will look at other available information such as Merit system data and performance indicator to monitor county progress.
- If the regular SEAGR allocation of expenditures is not adequately reflecting some position start-up or recruitment costs, counties are able to direct these costs in SEAGR using the Direct Allocation SEAGR adjustment.

