



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Parent Support Outreach Program

Minnesota's Parent Support Outreach Program is a voluntary support program for families who are not in need of traditional child welfare services. Families can refer themselves, or be referred by their communities, for services assisting pregnant women, children, and families who are at risk of child abuse and neglect.

In 2014, the Parent Support Outreach Program served more than 3,000 families, including more than 6,500 children. This was the first full year of operation in all 87 counties and the White Earth and Leech Lake reservations.

Eligibility

Participation in the Parent Support Outreach Program is voluntary. To be eligible, families must:

- Have at least one child, age 10 or younger.
- Be exposed to two or more child maltreatment risk factors, including, but not limited to:
 - Poverty
 - Domestic violence
 - Alcohol and drug problems
 - Mental health concerns
 - Past history of child protection involvement
 - Homelessness.

Benefits

Local child welfare agencies are working with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to help families who may be having an especially difficult time receiving the extra support they need. Short-term help available to families includes:

- Housing services
- Transportation assistance
- Parent education classes
- Child development information
- Child care resources.

The overarching goals of the Parent Support Outreach Program and all voluntary child welfare services are to maintain or achieve safety for children, enhance the well-being of children and families, and support families so that they can meet the needs of their children by themselves and through support systems. Parent Support Outreach Program workers conduct comprehensive assessments of families' needs and strengths, and together, make decisions about what services or community resources are the best choices for success.

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