



Preschool Development Grant

Amanda Varley | Grant Manager

Vision

By focusing on children facing racial, geographic, and economic inequities, all children in Minnesota will be born healthy and able to thrive within their families and communities.

Grant Activities



Explore Technology to coordinate edibility and services.



Fund Help Me Connect, a system to connect families and those working with families and direct referral to programs and services.



Pilot local, cross-agency hubs in the state as a prevention strategy and in testing Help Me Connect.



Invest in community solutions of community-identified challenges, prioritizing people of color and American Indians.

System are Complicated for Families

“Create the system to work for individuals, families, and communities; **not making the individuals, families, and communities bend to the system.**”

Participant from Leech Lake Tribal Nation

We could, “help tailor the best supports that best meet the family. **A family would apply for support once and then the system connects the family to what they need, putting the burden on the system not the low-income family.**” *Nonprofit service provider*

“Disjointed systems and communications lead to families’ distrust of all our systems. **Our systems don’t communicate between each other or support data sharing.**” *Hennepin County Staff*

“So many have paved the way trying to **figure out systems and it’s still really complicated and exhausting to find the routes** – everyone has to keep repaving.” *Parent and Educator, Detroit Lakes*

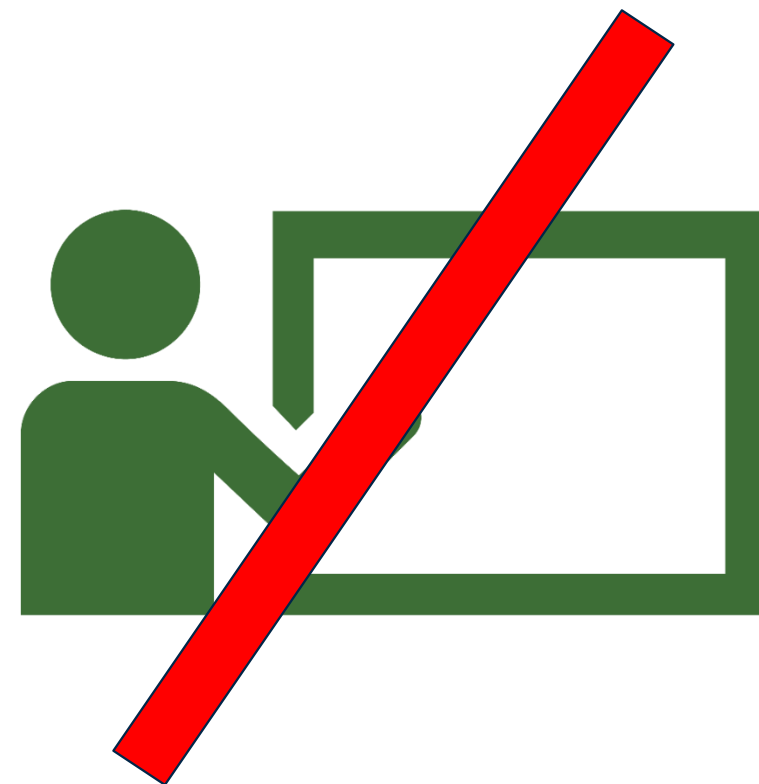
Joint Powers Agreement

Allows participating state agencies to share the names, identifying information and contact information of families in order to connect families with services for which they may be eligible, and to communicate with families on how to apply for and access those services.



What the Agreement Does Not Do

- Information may only be shared between these three agencies and not to local or federal agencies.
- Cannot be used for:
 - Detecting fraud in the receipt of services;
 - Criminal prosecutions;
 - Investigate possible abuse or neglect; or
 - Classifying people by immigration status.



Technology Next Steps

Common Application Expansion

Expansion of the [MNBenefits.org](https://mnbenefits.org) integrated application to include more programs and renewals.

Help Me Connect Referral Form

Build a referral form for providers to directly connect families to services they seek on [Help Me Connect](#).

Categorical Eligibility

A series of connections between data systems to confirm a family is eligible for one program based on participation in another.

What does this mean for families?

Apply for multiple programs using one application in under 20 minutes.

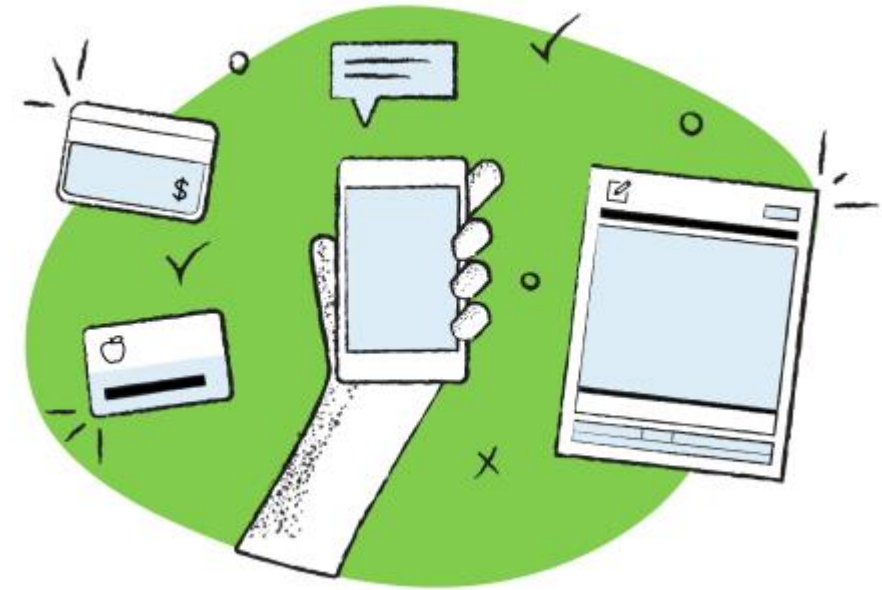
Pregnant and parenting families with young children birth to 8 years of age are directly connected with services in their local communities.

Ability to opt into a program or service with less paperwork based on participating in another program.

Expansion of MNBenefits

Build on DHS' integrated benefits application to add renewal functionality as well as programs from MDH and MDE. Beginning the research phase with:

- WIC
- Early Learning Scholarships



Help Me Connect Referral Form

help me **CONNECT**

A navigator connecting pregnant and parenting families with young children (birth – 8 years old) with services in their local communities that empower families to be healthy and safe.



[About](#) [Help](#) [My Account](#)

I am looking for services and resources about ...

Click on the topics below to find what you are looking for. Services and programs listed may be available on a sliding fee, covered by health insurance or free to families.




Healthy Development and Screening




Developmental and Behavior Concerns




Disability Services and Resources




Early Learning and Child Care




Family Well-Being and Mental Health




Tribal and American Indian Families




Caregiving and Community Support




Dental Care




Basic Needs

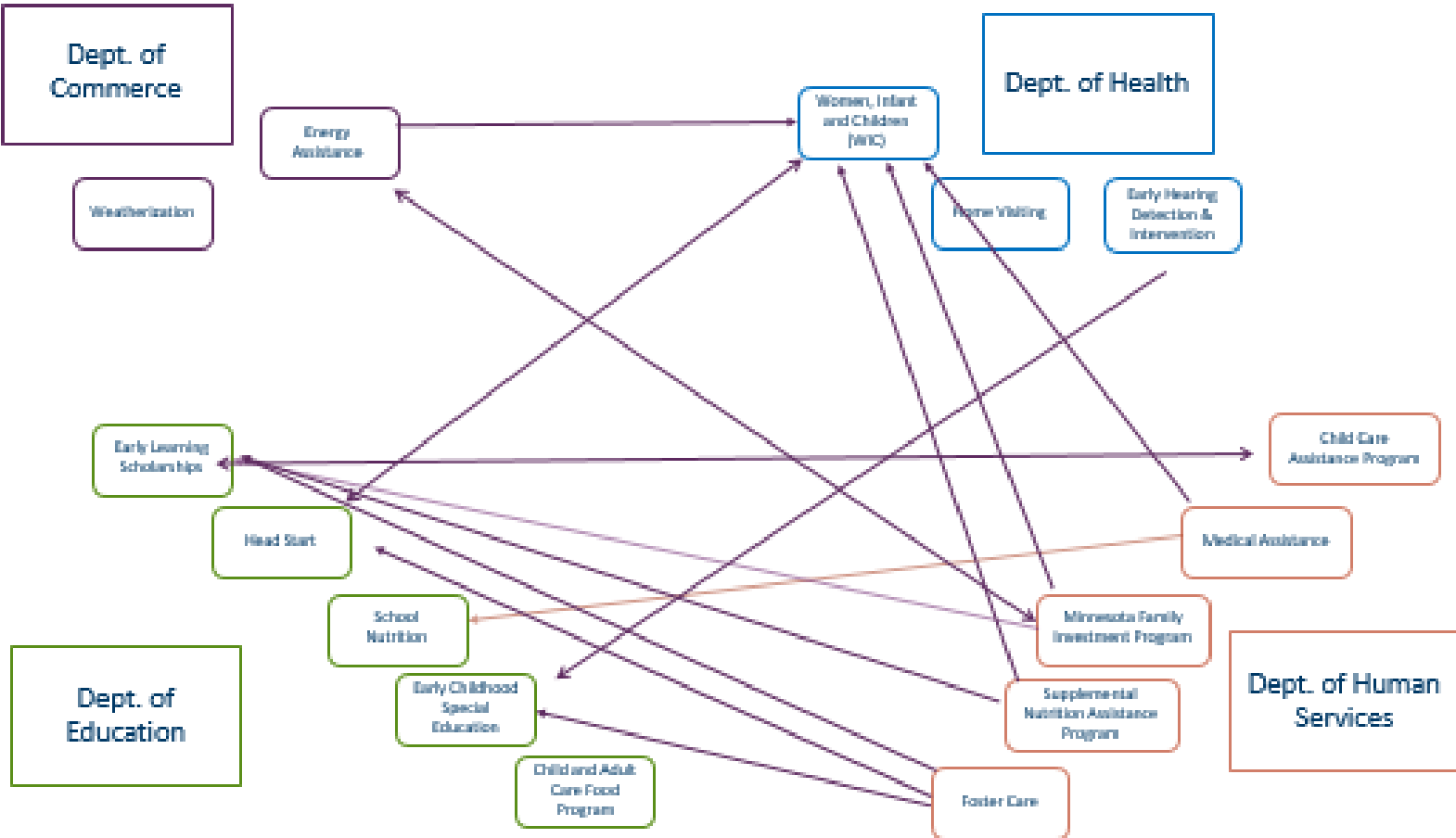



Legal Services

Categorical Eligibility

Categorical eligibility means that an individual or family is determined eligible to participate in a program or service without consideration of income or resources, based on enrollment in another program or service.

**Graphic for demonstration only, example not vetted.*



Thank
You

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