

Vulnerable Children and Adults Act (VCA)

Service Plan



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Type of Service plan

Individual county plan Multi-county plan

County name: Isanti	County names:
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Contact Information

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Title:	Director
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Part A: Needs and Priorities

State the type of needs that the county will be addressing for vulnerable children and adults who experience dependency, abuse or neglect using VCA funds?

Vulnerable children

- Improve the timeliness of face-to-face contact with children in response to reports of child maltreatment.
- Ensure risk and safety issues are adequately assessed and addressed, including addressing issues related to the availability and accessibility of needed services.
- Reduce the rate of foster care re-entry.
- Improve timely adoption of children.
- Improve data entry for physical exams for children in foster care
- Transportation. Clients who do not have their own transportation, who are not employed, or who are receiving financial assistance have difficulty getting to and from places that are necessary for them to address reasons child protection is involved. The county has limited funds available to provide transportation for clients whether that be from the local transportation system, providing gas cards to clients, workers driving clients to appointments and/or visits with their children.
- Consistent and timely services provided to clients.
- Improve in-home skills/therapy services. This service helps prevent placement of children into foster care and for children who have been placed, it assists in having children return home sooner. This is needed for clients who do not have health insurance or whose health insurance doesn't cover in-home services.
- Chemical dependency services for clients who do not have health insurance.

Vulnerable adults

- Need: Emergency Adult Protective Services after hours and weekends
- Need: Common Entry Point reports completed and submitted to DHS timely
- Need: Emergency Adult Foster Care
- Need: Shelter for adults without children
- Need: Guardianship Services

Part B: Strengths and Resources

A county has many strengths and resources to address the diverse social services needs of vulnerable children and adults. Briefly state what strengths and/or resources will be engaged (continued or implemented) to address the needs stated in Part A above?

Vulnerable children

- Provide services to prevent children placed into foster care.
- Continue to screen reports within 24 hours.
- Continue to maintain monthly visits with children and parents.
- Continue to use trial home visits for children in foster care.
- Continue to establish appropriate permanency goals in a timely manner and achieve permanency for children in foster care.

- Continue to search for relatives that will care for children who enter foster care and place children with relatives.
- Continue to meet federal Child and Family Service Review indicator standards for recurrence of maltreatment.
- Continue to meet federal Child and Family Service Review indicator standards for reunification.
- Continue to meet federal Child and Family Service Review indicator standards for placement stability for children in foster care for eight days but less than 12 months
- Continue to initiate visits between parents and children soon after entry into foster care and frequently.
- Continue to identify and engage fathers in case planning and specifically for non-resident fathers, to consider them as options to placing children in foster care.
- Continue to provide in-home skills and therapy to families.
- Resources provided in Isanti County are the following: Heartland Express Transportation System; New Pathways, a homeless shelter program; emergency heating and weatherization program; early childhood development services; public health services; family based services; out-patient therapy; in-patient hospitalization; chemical dependency treatment – inpatient and outpatient; support groups; a local medical center; coordination between child protection, law enforcement, and county attorney agencies; trained and licensed foster parents; and foster homes designated for emergency placement of children. Also, a small percentage of Family Assessment funds are used for basic needs and for professional services to assist families in alleviating presenting problems.

Vulnerable adults

- Contract with an outside social services agency to provide emergency Adult Protection Services and act as the Common Entry Point during hours the county agency is not open
- Explore the development of a shelter that will accept adults without children
- Provide ongoing guardianship services to vulnerable adults without another suitable option available
- Provide emergency foster care placement to those in need of immediate protection outside of their current living arrangement

Part C: Measures and Performances

Access the link below to review the county’s CY 2010 performance on VCA measures.

[CY 2010 Performance Summary on VCA Federal and State Measures](#)

Use the county’s performance summary to complete the table and questions below. In the table, enter the county’s performance on each of the measures and enter a “✓” if the standard was met, or an “✗” if the standard was not met in CY 2010. In the last two columns, set practical performance targets the county will work towards achieving in 2012 and 2013.

Federal and State Measures

Measures (abbreviated)	Standard (STD)	2010 State/County Performance			Anticipated Targets	
		State	County	STD Met? (✓ or ✗)	2012	2013
1. No repeat maltreatment w/in six mths.	≥ 94.6 %	✓ 95.1%	100%		94.6%	94.6%
2. Re-entered foster care w/in 12 mths.	≤ 9.9 %	✗ 24.4%	17.2%	x	15%	13%
3. Reunified w/in 12 mths.	≥ 75.2 %	✓ 84.5%	85.7%		75.2%	75.2%
4. Adopted w/in 24 mths	≥ 36.6 %	✓ 48.2%	0%	x	36.6%	36.6%
5. Two or fewer pl. settings w/in 12 mths.	≥ 86.0 %	✓ 86.8%	91.9%		86%	86%
6. Health examination w/in 12 mths.	≥ 63.5%	✗ 56.4%	45.8%	x	56.4%	56.4%

≥ = Greater than or equal to; ≤ = Less than or equal to; ✓ = Standard met; ✗ = Standard not met

For each measure for which the county did not meet the standard, identify the measure below and discuss what plans are in place to improve performance on the respective measure. Include what issues/barriers/challenges are hindering the county from meeting the standard, and what may need to be changed or be done differently to achieve the stated targets (add more boxes, if needed).

<p>Measure # 2: Re-entry of children into foster care within 12 months of discharge</p>	<p>Two of the children who re-entered foster care re-entered due to safety reasons. One had been placed out of the home for mental health reasons. After returning home, he was neglected by a parent who had a mental illness and was chemically dependent. The other child alleged physical abuse by her caretaker. All children placed in foster care for safety reasons are reviewed by a judge who determines whether placement out of the home is in the best interests of the child.</p> <p>Three of the five children that re-entered foster care within 12 months of discharge were children receiving child mental health services. Because their needs were too great to handle at home, they were placed into foster care. All children placed into foster care for treatment for more than 30 days are reviewed for placement through the Isanti County Juvenile Treatment Screening Team. Members of the Team include representatives from Isanti County Child Mental Health, Isanti County Child Protection, Isanti County Probation and a mental health professional from the local mental health center, Riverwood Centers. Children reviewed have a Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII) completed by the mental health worker which aids in the determination of appropriate placement settings to meet the child's mental health needs. All children placed out of their home are approved and considered medically necessary by the Treatment Screening Team.</p> <p>Isanti County reunites children with their parents and provides services to help the parents and child cope during the transition home and connects the child and family to community resources. Unfortunately, this is not enough to either keep a child safe or meet the mental health needs of a child.</p> <p>Isanti County will continue to have children who re-enter foster care for safety reasons to be reviewed by a judge to determine whether placement is in the child's best interest. For children re-entering for treatment purposes, the CASY tool will continue to be utilized and provided to the Juvenile Treatment Screening Team who will review and determine whether or not the placement is medically necessary. Also, education of members of the Treatment Screening Team will be done.</p>
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	In reviewing the historical data of Isanti County's re-entry rate, this measure has fluctuated widely. For example, in 2009, Isanti County's re-entry rate was 8.9% which met the federal standard. The percentages chosen for the 2012-2013 VCA are higher than the federal standard; however, they are lower than the 2010 figure with the goal of working toward the acceptable standard, 9.9%.
Measure # 4: Adoptions are finalized within 24 months of entering foster care.	Isanti County had two children who were free for adoption where their adoption should have been completed within 24 months of entering foster care. Two obstacles occurred with this. The first was an appeal by a parent that took months to complete and the other was the foster parents were slow in completing their paper work. Isanti County Family Services has no control over the appeal process of termination of parental rights. Efforts will be increased to improve the paperwork necessary to complete adoptions in a timely manner.
Measure #6: Health examinations will be completed within 12 months	This is a data entry issue. The examinations are being done; however, they are not documented in the Social Service Information System (SSIS). With the current update of SSIS, it will be more difficult to not enter the health examination data. Increased education of its importance and monitoring of the data input will occur.

Part D: Budget

Access the link below to review the county's CY 2012 allocation. Use the county's allocation to complete the budget table below.

[Vulnerable Children and Adults Act CY 2012 Allocation](#)

Fill in the proportion (percent) of the county's VCA allocation that will be budgeted for vulnerable children and adult services for CY 2012 and beyond. Because VCA funds are directed at vulnerable children and adults, only two budget line items are listed. Subsequently, the department will apply these proportions to the most currently available allocation data. If the county changes these proportions at any time, the department should be informed by sending an email to: paul.ramcharit@state.mn.us.

VCA budget	CY 2012 and beyond
Children services	90%
Adult services	10%
Total	100%

Part E: Certification and Assurances

Federal Certifications

The federal Office of Community Services (OCS) requires the following certifications for the use of federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds (CFDA # 93.667, federal award number 0901MNSOSR, 1001MNSOSR, 0601MNSOS2). Follow the links for a complete description of each certification. Checking these boxes certifies that the county complies with these requirements for the use of SSBG funds administered through the service plan and county sub-contracting process.

- Drug Free Workplace
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/drug_free.html
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/tobacoo.html>

Lobbying

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/lobbying.html>

Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/procedures/debarment.html>

Public Input

Prior to submission, did the county facilitate a process for soliciting public input for at least 30 days on the contents of the agreement?

Yes No Was public input received/used? Yes No Was Not Received.

Assurances

It is understood and agreed by the county board that funds granted pursuant to this service plan will be expended for the purposes outlined in Minn.Stat.§256M; that the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services has the authority to review and monitor compliance with the service plan, and that documentation of compliance will be available for audit; and that the county shall make reasonable efforts to comply with all VCA requirements including documenting annual public input processes.

Service Plan Certification

Checking this box certifies that this service plan has been prepared as required and approved by the county board(s) under the provisions of [Minn. Stat. §256M](#). In the box below, state the name of the chair of the county board of commissioners or authorized designee, their mailing address and the name of the county.

Name (chair or designee)	Mailing address	County
Larry Sutherland	Isanti County Government Center, 555 18 th Ave. SW, Cambridge, MN 55008	Isanti

Date of Certification: