



Reform 2020

Reform 2020 is a bipartisan initiative to reform Medical Assistance (MA) — Minnesota’s Medicaid program — to better meet the challenges of rising health care costs and a growing aging population while still providing Minnesotans the services they need to lead fulfilling lives.

Reform 2020 seeks to achieve these goals by modifying existing services, providing new services to targeted groups, and asking the federal government for a waiver to try new ways to deliver and pay for health care services that ensure people receive the right services, at the right time, in the right way. Reform 2020 efforts will result in more effective and efficient service delivery and will modify the service delivery system to focus on person-centered outcomes.

Several initiatives are in process to build the foundation for reform. These include the universal assessment for long-term services and supports (MnCHOICES), new rate-setting methodologies, and updated provider standards for home and community-based services.

Reform 2020 aims to get better outcomes for individuals by providing the right services at the right time. Strategies for achieving this include making it easier for people to understand and access services and support, redesigning and improving services and increasing service coordination and integration. By successfully implementing these reforms we will better ensure the future sustainability our nation-leading long-term care system.

Reform 2020 legislative initiatives:

Alternative Care and Essential Community Supports Federal Financial Participation: Effective upon federal approval, provides savings to the General Fund from the generation of federal financial participation (FFP) for the Alternative Care and Essential Community Supports programs. Savings generated will be re-invested in other Reform 2020 initiatives.

Enhance vulnerable adult protection: Simplifies and makes the common entry point more accessible to receive reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults through a single statewide toll-free number. Creates a public outreach campaign to raise awareness of vulnerable adult abuse and how to report suspected maltreatment.

Home and Community-Based Services Critical Access Study and Service Development:

Implements a one-time critical access study to define and identify home and community-based service critical access needs for older adults and people with disabilities across the state. Assesses local capacity and availability of home and community-based services in critical access areas and provides ongoing support for the biennial gaps analysis survey of the home and community-based services system. This will lead to recommendations for incentives to develop home and community-based services in critical access areas. Provides additional support for nonmedical, in-home and community-based services that help older adults to remain in the community.

Community First Services and Supports: Effective upon federal approval, reforms the Personal Care Assistance program to a new service called Community First Services and Supports (CFSS). CFSS will be more accessible, flexible, and will facilitate transition out of institutional care, prevent or delay future admissions and support people to live in their communities.

First Contact – simplification, access and transitions support: Streamlines access to services and supports to help older adults, people with disabilities and their family members navigate long-term care options. Streamlines the pre-admission process and simplifies funding for the MnCHOICES assessment. Expands to new populations the Return to Community model of ongoing support. Creates a home and community-based services report card to provide information to consumers on long-term services and supports.

Work: Empower and Encourage Independence: Upon federal approval, provides coordinated navigation, employment supports and benefits planning services as a wrap-around to Medical Assistance services for targeted populations. Certain employed individuals will be provided coordinated services to help them remain employed and avoid destabilization. These efforts should help to reduce applications for disability benefits.

Housing Stability Services Demonstration: Upon federal approval, increases access to necessary and appropriate levels of health and other community living supports for individuals on Medicaid who are homeless and have high medical costs. Under a Medicaid waiver, these adults would receive coordination of services across multiple systems, tenancy supports and community living assistance.

Individual Community Living Support added to Alternative Care and Elderly Waiver: Adds Individual Community Living Support as a service to the Alternative Care program and the Elderly Waiver. This service will give seniors living in their own home a coordinated package of services from a single provider of their choice as an alternative to assisted living and other services that depend on the individual living in a certain place.

Crisis diversion and discharge planning to reduce avoidable costs: Uses triage and discharge hospital specialists to eliminate and reduce unnecessary admissions and hospital stays and prevent or reduce unnecessary use of more restrictive settings. An initial focus will be on people receiving home and community-based services who have certain co-occurring conditions and have been admitted to a hospital at least twice in the previous year.

Improve access to home and community-based services for those age 65 and older with ventilator dependency: Allows ventilator-dependent individuals age 65 and older access to an enhanced budget to live in the community without the current requirement that they stay in a nursing facility for 30 days first.

Transition out of Anoka: Provides services and supports to help people with multiple and complex needs, including serious mental illness and co-morbidities, transition out of Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center after it has been determined they no longer need the level of care that facility provides.

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