

HENNEPIN COUNTY MINNESOTA



Here. To support people in their communities.

Long-Term Services and Supports

Hennepin County **Human Services**

Annual Report • October 2019



Long-Term Services and Supports

People who are aging and people with disabilities make meaningful contributions to their families, workplaces and communities. Too often, environments are not structured to allow full participation and opportunity. When people who are aging or living with disabilities need support to live independently in their communities, they turn to Hennepin County's Long-Term Services and Supports. Our staff's work includes:



Meeting with people and assessing their needs

Using the MnCHOICES system we assess their strengths, abilities, and needs



Offering services

Determining eligibility for formal services. People make choices based on need, eligibility, cost-effectiveness, and preferences



Making connections

Connecting thousands of people to services that can help them remain in their homes or communities

Hennepin County demographics

170,000

people aged 65 or older

121,000

people living with a disability (hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care or independent living)

53,000

people living with a cognitive disability

27,000

people who need help with self-care, including eating, dressing, bathing and more

Sources: U.S. Census and Minnesotans with Disabilities: Demographics and Economic Characteristics

Our accomplishments

Long-Term Services and Supports administers programs on behalf of the state or federal government to help older people or people living with disabilities to remain in their homes or communities versus entering institutionalized care. Our work includes:

Assessing

Using a strengths-based approach, we ask about people's current supports and their need for additional assistance.

- 6,837 initial MnCHOICES assessments

Connecting

We determine who is eligible for mandated programs, which include:

- Waivers
- Family Support Grant (FSG)
- Developmental Disabilities Case Management
- Alternative care
- Personal Care Assistance (PCA)
- Semi-Independent Living Skills (SILS)
- Consumer Support Grant (CSG)

Monitoring

County and contracted case managers develop a coordinated plan for supports and services, making sure people get what they need when they need it, monitoring the plan and authorizing services.

- 9,238 annual MnCHOICES assessments
- \$750 million in federal disability waiver programs distributed to Hennepin County residents
- 1,966 people received case management from county managers; 11,796 from contracted case managers

Empowering

We empower people to make informed choices about the services they access, and we act as public guardians for a number of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Caring

Hennepin County's adult foster care licensing program provides residential care for people who need supportive housing and services because of physical, emotional, developmental or mental health challenges.

- 600 total licensed sites

In focus

No more waiver waitlist

In the past few years, we eliminated the waitlist for the Developmental Disabilities Waiver. Historically, the waitlist has hovered around 1,000 people, and the team approved 50 new waivers a year. In 2017, we approved more than 300 waivers. In 2018, we approved almost 470 waivers.

Better employment opportunities

Many people with disabilities want to be part of the general workforce but don't have a path or the resources to accomplish this goal. Low earnings mean that Minnesotans with disabilities are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as those who do not have a disability, according to the Minnesota State Demographer. Hennepin County is working with the state, other counties, partners, and employers to help them find competitive, integrated employment. In 2018, 32% of the people receiving services from one of the disability waivers in Hennepin also had earned income. This is a change of 5.2% from the previous year. Of the 3,343 working, 1,031 earned \$600 or more per month. This is slow progress and will require continued intensive, collaborative work.

Dignity for all people

We have been involved in a multi-year, multi-partner effort to strengthen our person-centered approach to people we support. This approach is aimed at a system-wide change process and involves multiple service areas in Human Services and Public Health. It is tied to state requirements to ensure people with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated setting possible.

Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

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Hennepin County

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- Jennifer DeCubellis, Health and Human Services, deputy county administrator

Human Services

- Jodi Wentland, assistant county administrator
- Michael Herzing, director
- Louella Kaufer, senior department administrator, Long-Term Services and Supports and Adult Protection

