

Otter Tail County Human Services 2008

An Introduction to Who We Are and Why We Provide Services

Like most Minnesota counties, Otter Tail County's human service department plays a major role in providing a variety of social service and economic assistance programs to county residents. This agency is one of 18 county departments available to serve the 58,437 residents of the county¹. The focus of human service programs, however, is primarily to help fellow citizens that are most in need – often due to a disability, health and living difficulties related to the aging process, poverty and unemployment, or other problems that make it hard for a person to meet their basic daily living needs.

Many people in need of services often are children or the elderly. In Otter Tail County, our “citizenship” is comprised of 14,238 children under 18, and more than 10,858 individuals who are 65 years or older. It is estimated that 11.1% of county residents live at or below the poverty level. According to the 2009 Federal Poverty Guidelines, a family of four whose annual household income is less than \$22,050 is considered to be below the poverty guidelines. In Otter Tail County, this includes approximately 1,735 children² under 18 and an estimated 1,205 residents who are 65 or older.³

People often ask how many families are receiving “welfare” benefits in Otter Tail County. The number of families receiving help depends on the program. Consider this - in 2008:

- 8,705 county residents received publicly funded health care benefits: 6,569 received Medicaid, 101 received Transition MinnesotaCare benefits⁴, and 2,035 received MinnesotaCare coverage.
- 2,413 recipients received food support (what used to be called food stamps)
- 185 families (253 children) received financial assistance to help pay for child care costs
- 780 adults and adolescents completed chemical dependency assessments, and over 900 people received social services to help them with problems associated with mental health, developmental disabilities or aging.
- 690 child protection reports were received, and 279 vulnerable adult reports were received
- 189 families received what used to be called AFDC – and is now called the Minnesota Financial Investment Program (MFIP), and 39 families participated in the Diversionary Work Program. Most recipients of social services and economic assistance are children, vulnerable adults and persons with disabilities.

Through Otter Tail County Human Services, our county “societally organizes” the publicly funded activities “aimed at maintaining or improving human well-being” on behalf of the residents of Otter Tail County. Although the agency employs 110 staff to deliver 27 different programs, many of the services are provided by area agencies that have contracted with the County to deliver a range of services - mental health, employment, residential, chemical dependency, child care, home health care, family and adoption assistance to name just a few. More than 66% of the agency's social services budget is spent on local agencies to provide the range of services listed above.

Hubert H. Humphrey, former Vice President of the United States and Minnesota's former U. S. Senator, is attributed with a quote that has served as the cornerstone of why our society provides social service programs: “The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, our children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.” It is the intent of all local human service agencies to live up to the mission expressed by this standard.

For more information on the human service programs provided by the county and area agencies, please feel free to contact offices in either Fergus Falls (218-998-8150) or New York Mills (218-385-3945). The agency's website - <http://www.co.otter-tail.mn.us/humanservices/default.php> - also contains extensive information on programs and services available to eligible citizens.

¹ Source document: <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/php/census2000/2000Glance.php>

² Source document: Kids Count Data Book 2008, p. 32 @ http://www.cdf-mn.org/PDF/KidsCount_08/MNKC_08_FINALrev.pdf

³ Source documents include: Minnesota's Land Management Information Center at <http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/datanetweb/php/census2000/2000Glance.php> and the U.S. Census Bureau's State and County Quick Facts @ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/27/27111.html>

⁴ Includes Medical Assistance (Medicaid), General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), Prepaid Medical Assistance (PMAP) & MinnesotaCare.

2009
Otter Tail County Human Services
Expenditures and Revenue Source by Program

Human Service Program Area	TOTAL Expense	State Revenue	Federal Revenue	3rd Party Reimb	Misc Revenue	Fund Balance	Net Levy
Childrens Services							
Agency Provided	1,621,669	248,943	304,139	0	6,460	7,824	1,054,303
Purchased	2,069,725	331,307	279,528	90,000	155,878	8,936	1,204,076
Child Care/MFIP							
Agency Provided	2,500	429	230	0	11	13	1,817
Purchased	475,000	224,952	222,653	6,136	129	156	20,974
Chemical Dependency							
Agency Provided	504,147	92,480	143,471	0	1,621	1,964	264,611
Purchased	794,000	121,650	65,168	60,000	28,157	3,823	515,202
Mental Health							
Agency Provided	656,410	89,978	180,201	0	2,335	2,828	381,068
Purchased	4,068,030	2,417,865	222,227	0	182,575	9,174	1,236,189
Developmental Disabilities							
Agency Provided	651,318	152,554	208,789	0	1,753	2,123	286,099
Purchased	799,421	282,643	57,227	0	3,772	3,358	452,421
Adult Services							
Agency Provided	902,209	199,842	141,344	390,000	1,034	1,252	168,737
Purchased	245,400	29,838	35,484	0	52,774	938	126,366
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES	12,789,829	4,192,481	1,860,461	546,136	436,499	42,389	5,711,863

Economic Assistance programs							
Agency Provided	2,484,460	280,303	951,495		30,000	39,223	1,363,439
Purchase	766,000	281,162	265,000		27,000	6,320	186,518
Child Support							
Agency Provided	1,337,800	122,140	977,352			8,658	49,650
Purchase	106,000		66,000		40,000		0
TOTAL INCOME MAINTENANCE	4,694,260	683,605	2,259,847		97,000	54,201	1,599,607

TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES	17,484,089	4,876,086	4,120,308	546,136	533,499	96,590	7,311,470
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MINNESOTA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICE COST REPORT¹
Otter Tail County Comparison by Year
2001 Through 2008

	Support Program	Health Program	Social Service Program	Human Service Totals	Federal Share	State Share	County Share	Misc. Funds²
2001	5,173,534	37,826,162	22,086,290	\$65,085,986	29,399,493	29,188,895	5,301,797	1,195,801
2002	5,940,283	42,357,832	26,392,844	\$74,690,959	33,269,260	34,457,604	5,481,687	1,482,408
2003	6,106,746	48,516,109	27,437,837	\$82,060,691	37,939,868	37,427,586	5,138,091	1,555,146
2004	6,203,816	50,231,514	27,137,217	\$83,572,547	37,578,207	38,850,222	5,959,045	1,185,074
2005	6,089,186	53,069,467	29,379,614	\$88,538,267	39,982,719	40,836,327	6,230,097	1,489,125
2006	6,700,757	52,651,999	29,106,956	\$88,459,713	39,239,828	40,616,122	6,610,808	1,992,954
2007	7,063,766	56,171,821	29,656,097	\$92,891,685	41,756,673	42,127,292	6,852,442	2,155,278
2008	7,525,292	56,947,779	31,382,208	\$95,855,279 ³	42,873,022	44,120,809	7,250,745	1,610,704
% Change⁴	6.5%	1.4%	5.8%	3.2%	2.7%	4.7%	5.8%	(25.3%)
MINNESOTA'S STATEWIDE 7-YEAR COMPARISON								
2001	669,627,550	3,030,038,176	2,059,317,825	\$5,788,983,551	2,613,822,568	2,468,715,649	588,657,243	117,788,091
2002	769,210,476	3,674,975,430	2,059,317,825	\$6,826,456,461	3,142,927,709	3,016,166,399	548,642,760	118,719,592
2003	799,021,330	3,904,769,384	2,480,765,415	\$7,184,556,129	3,403,709,189	3,165,537,868	500,357,632	114,951,440
2004	801,960,965	4,151,885,129	2,523,670,882	\$7,477,516,977	3,404,726,074	3,381,706,126	576,470,764	114,579,653
2005	783,985,374	4,455,467,509	2,663,949,145	\$7,903,402,028	3,661,017,376	3,513,208,328	614,586,894	114,589,430
2006	827,198,847	4,400,220,229	2,784,521,550	\$8,011,940,626	3,670,086,508	3,573,915,016	636,809,519	131,129,583
2007	859,418,255	4,795,794,337	2,931,902,224	\$8,587,114,817	3,948,269,489	3,831,530,355	675,651,148	131,663,825
2008	937,069,198	5,055,654,386	3,050,990,227	\$9,043,713,860	4,129,922,660	4,135,798,400	652,668,067	125,324,734
% Change⁵	9.0%	5.4%	4.1%	5.3%	4.6%	7.9%	(3.4%)	(4.8%)

Support Programs:

Health Programs:

Social Service Programs:

Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA), Statewide Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), General Assistance (GA), Food Stamps, Child Support Enforcement Medical Assistance (MA), General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) Children's Services Programs, Child Care Program, Chemical Dependency Programs, Mental Health Programs, Developmental Disabilities Program, Adult Services Programs

¹ Source data: Minnesota County Human Service Cost Report 2008 @ <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrver/Legacy/DHS-4179F-ENG>

² Miscellaneous funds may include estate settlements, insurance, client fees, private grants or donations or other sources not included in federal, state or county shares

³ Statewide, the per capita cost for providing all human service programs is \$1,719.00. In Otter Tail County, our per capita cost (population: 56,875) is \$1,685.00. We rank 36th of 87 counties in terms of comparative cost (i.e., per capita costs in 51 counties exceed our costs). Otter Tail County's fund portion of this per capita cost is \$127.00, or 7.5% of the total overall cost. In other words, for every \$100.00 spent on health and human service programs, the county expends \$7.50 of county funds and county residents receive an additional \$92.50 of state & federal funds.

⁴ This figure is the percentage change between CY 2007 and CY 2008. Figures in parenthesis (if any) indicate a negative change, or decrease in costs or funds.

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**Otter Tail County Human Services
Income Maintenance Programs
Caseload Trends by Service Area
July 2007 to July 2009**

	Otter Tail County Human Services Caseload Information					
	Cases	Adults/Caregivers Served	Children Served	Total Monthly Payments	Average Monthly Payment/Case	Average Monthly Payment/Person
MFIP						
July 2007	166	134	289	\$89,552.41	\$539.47	\$211.71
July 2008	171	147	307	\$100,363.78	\$586.92	\$221.07
July 2009	187	172	360	\$130,677.22	\$698.81	\$245.63
DWP						
July 2007	33	46	66	\$12,907.30	\$391.13	\$115.24
July 2008	20	25	38	\$9,370.43	\$468.52	\$148.74
July 2009	50	62	94	\$18,320.01	\$366.40	\$117.44
Food Support						
July 2007	998	1,202	731	\$146,319.68	\$146.61	\$75.70
July 2008	1,056	1,318	777	\$157,109.93	\$148.78	\$74.99
July 2009	1,361	1,733	1,089	\$295,507.25	\$217.13	\$104.72
Health Care Programs						
July 2007	3,909	3,394	2,839	--	--	--
July 2008	4,026	3,524	3,009	--	--	--
July 2009	4,171	3,696	3,089	--	--	\$619.04
General Assistance						
July 2007	113	114	2	\$19,536.52	\$172.89	\$168.42
July 2008	120	119	2	\$19,311.56	\$160.93	\$159.60
July 2009	127	127	1	\$20,481.80	\$161.27	\$160.01
MN Supplemental Assistance						
July 2007	303	303	0	\$25,685.46	\$84.77	\$84.77
July 2008	308	308	0	\$28,277.96	\$91.81	\$91.81
July 2009	301	301	0	\$27,165.32	\$90.25	\$90.25
Group Residential Housing						
July 2007	198	198	0	\$61,891.56	\$312.58	\$312.58
July 2008	221	221	0	\$64,241.25	\$290.68	\$290.68
July 2009	249	249	0	\$78,758.33	\$316.30	\$316.30

Otter Tail County Human Services
Definition of Terms – Service Areas
August 2009

- ❑ MFIP:** Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) was formerly known as Aid to Families of Dependent Children (AFDC). MFIP is Minnesota’s name for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program introduced in 1997. It is a cash grant program for low income families with children. There is a 60 month (five year) life-time limit and the program requires that adults must work to be eligible for benefits.
- ❑ DWP:** Diversionary Work Program (DWP) began in 2004. It is a four (4) month program with specific work requirements and/or development of an employment plan with Rural MN CEP. The goal of DWP is to help parents immediately go to work rather than go on welfare. Parents are expected to sign an employment plan before their family is approved for DWP. After families have an employment plan, they can receive financial assistance to meet their basic needs and get other supports, such as food support and child and health care assistance.
- ❑ Food Support:** Formerly called Food Stamps, as of 10/01/08 is officially called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Food Support is a nutrition assistance program designed to help people with low incomes buy nutritious foods. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Benefits are available by using an EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) debit card.
- ❑ Health Care:** Minnesota’s three publicly funded health care programs include: Medical Assistance (MA – Minnesota’s Medicaid program), General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) and MinnesotaCare. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) administers MinnesotaCare and counties administer MA and GAMC, which is administered by counties. Enrollees' medical bills are funded by federal and state funds. Data included in the table are MA and GAMC statistics only. In Otter Tail County, an additional 2,035 residents are enrolled in the MinnesotaCare program.
- ❑ GA:** General Assistance (GA) is a state-funded program that provides cash benefits to unemployable adults without children. The maximum monthly benefit for a single adult with no other income is \$203 (\$260 for married couple without children). Most recipients are single, unemployable adults without children. These include people who are elderly, ill, injured or otherwise incapacitated.
- ❑ MSA:** Minnesota Supplemental Assistance (MSA) is a state-funded cash supplement for people who receive social security benefits known as RSDI or SSI. Assets cannot exceed \$2,000. Statewide, the average monthly benefit is \$88.
- ❑ GRH:** Group Residential Housing (GRH) is a state-funded supplement to pay for rent and food for people who are aged, blind or adults with disabilities. Statewide, the average monthly benefit is approximately \$467.
- ❑ Child Care:** MFIP/DWP child care assistance helps families receiving cash assistance and “transition-year” participants pay for child care while participating in work activities, job hunting or training activities, and; the Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) program assists low-income working families (not participating in MFIP/DWP) with child care costs. BSF child care assistance helps pay the child care costs of low-income families while they work, look for work or attend educational programs.
- ❑ EAP Program:** The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay home heating costs. Households who are at or below 50 percent of the state median income are eligible. Size of grant is based on household size, income, fuel type and energy usage. Households with the lowest income and highest fuel costs receive the highest grants. Federally funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, funds are available for renters or homeowners