

Northstr Care for Children

A First Look

An Overview of Northstar Care
and Preliminary Information
about Implementation

June 18 and 24, 2013

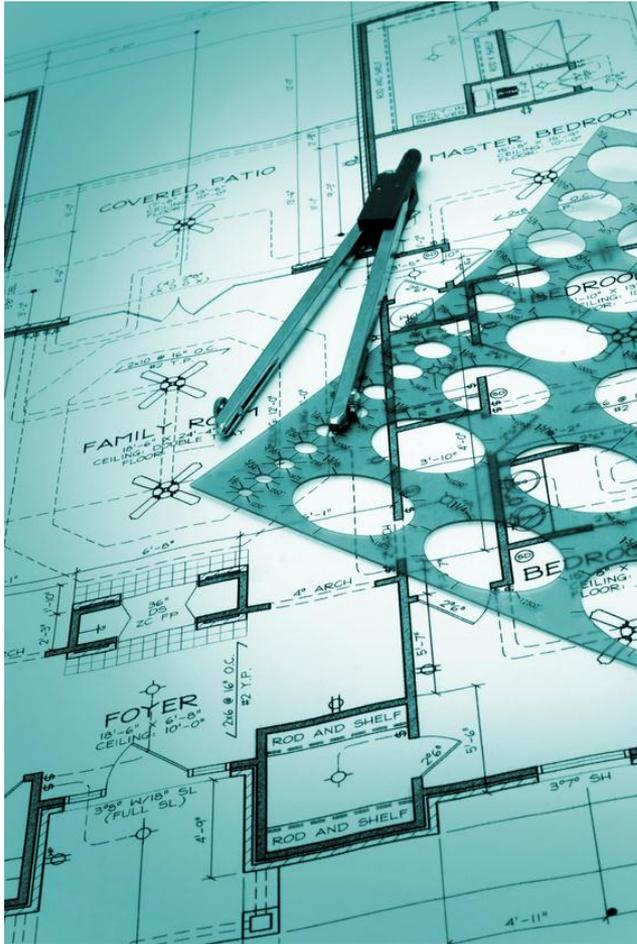
Northst★r Care for Children

- Foster Care
- Guardianship Assistance
- Adoption Assistance

Northst★r Care for Children

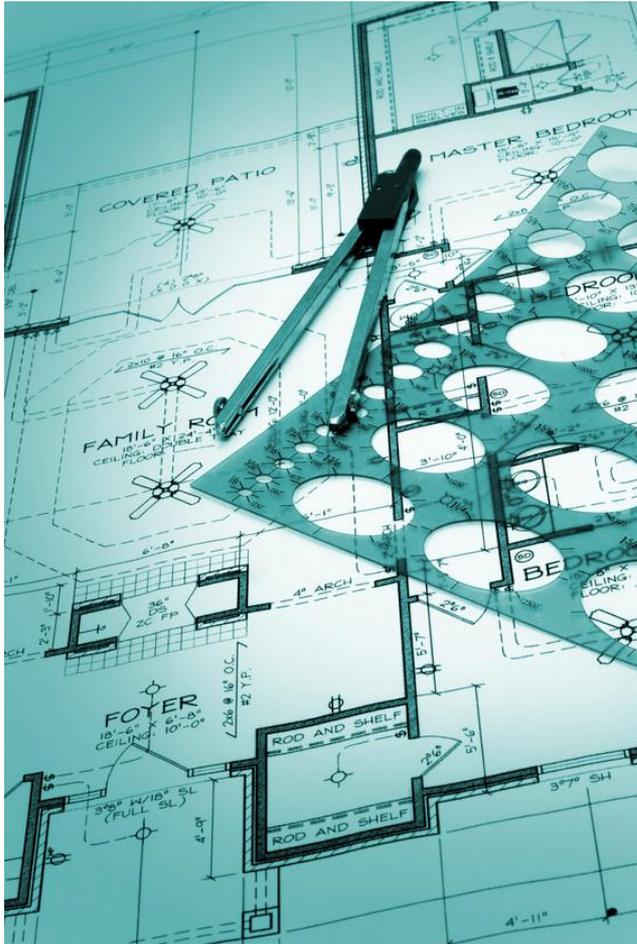


Northstar★ Care for Children



- Northstar is new and has many features.
- Efforts have been made to provide information quickly and ensure accuracy –
- However, it is likely that as we receive questions and comments from counties, tribes and others, our understanding will evolve.

Northstar★ Care for Children



- Feedback may change or render some aspects of the information presented today as obsolete.
- The overall picture will remain.

Thank you for taking this into account.

Northstar★ Care for Children

- If you aren't able to get your questions answered now, please send them in.
- We will also post the answers to many questions on the DHS website under:

Northstar Care for Children FAQ

- Send questions to:

northstar.care@state.mn.us

Northst★r Care for Children

Northstar★ Care for Children



Northst★r Care for Children

**There are three parts to
today's presentation...**

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

**There are three parts to
today's presentation...**

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

Why Northstar Care for Children?

- Minnesota has made great progress over the past twenty years in making it less likely that a child will have to be removed from the home in order to stay safe.
- We have also made progress in making it more likely that children who are removed can later be safely reunified with their families.



Why Northstar Care for Children?

- However, there are some children who can't safely go back to their former homes.
- Many of them grow up without a permanent family, and their life outlook is troubling – poor outcomes in health, education, employment, crime (as perpetrator or victim), and more.



Why Northstar Care for Children?

- Minnesota's foster parents, who care physically and emotionally for children who cannot remain with their original parents, are the ***backbone*** of our child welfare services.
- But foster care is meant to be a ***temporary*** safe place for children, not a long-term situation for vulnerable children to grow up in.
- There are currently 355 foster children ready for adoption, and at any one time, about 3000 children have been in foster care longer than one year.
- Over 450 children age out of foster care each year without a permanent family, and over one-third of them will become homeless.

Why Northstar Care for Children?



- Yet when Minnesota foster parents want to become a child's permanent family through adoption or transfer of legal custody, the benefits go way down.
- Generally to **half or less**.

Why Northstar Care for Children?



- The rate discrepancy has been a serious barrier, leaving many children growing up without a permanent family.
- Particularly American Indian children, African American children, sibling groups, and older children.
- Children of color, for instance, make up 39% of the children who remain in foster care for one year or longer.

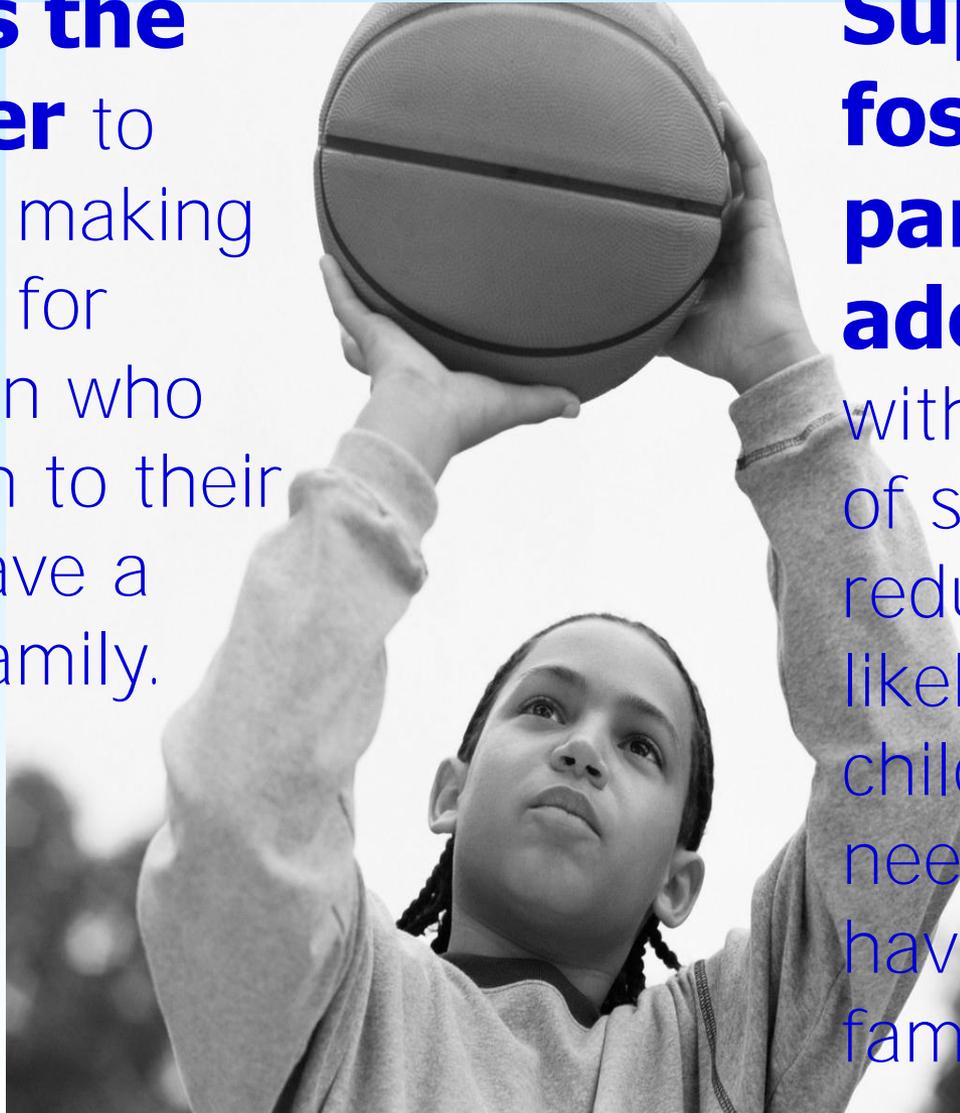
Why Northstar Care for Children?

Northstar Care is designed to tackle this...



Why Northstar Care for Children?

Eliminates the rate barrier to permanency, making it more likely for foster children who cannot return to their parents to have a permanent family.



Supports foster parents adopting without the loss of support – reducing the likelihood that children need need to move to have a permanent family.

Northstar★ Care for Children

- DHS has put 3 different proposals before the legislature – in 2009, 2011, and 2013.
- Each was called Northstar Care for Children and had uniform assessments and benefits at its center.
- Each was an improvement on the previous version, based on feedback from counties, tribes, caregivers, and other stakeholders.



Northstar★ Care for Children



- The Northstar Care actually enacted by the Legislature was ***even better***, adding the “extraordinary levels” and more state funding.
- Let’s look at the provisions that actually passed.

Northst★r Care for Children



- By the way, there's a lot to Northstar Care for Children.
- Don't worry if you don't absorb everything the first time you hear about it.
- Take your time.
- We won't be implementing it until 2015.

Northst★r Care for Children

Northstar★ Care for Children



Northst★r Care for Children

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

- 1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children**
- 2. Definitions and Framework**
- 3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA**
- 4. Single Uniform Assessment Process**
- 5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older**
- 6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes**
- 7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing**

Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

- 1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children**
2. Definitions and Framework
3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA
4. Single Uniform Assessment Process
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older
6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes
7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children

- Northstar Care for Children is for children who enter one of its components in 2015 or after.
- The Pre-Northstar Care programs are retained for the children already in them and are slowly phased out as children exit.



1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children

- Foster parents, adoptive parents and relative custodians with placements prior to implementation (January 1, 2015) would not experience any changes in the assessment process or benefits available to them as long as the child remains with the same caregiver and does not change legal status, unless the child is specifically transitioned to Northstar Care for Children.
- All children enrolled in the Adoption Assistance or Relative Custody Assistance programs prior to January 1, 2015 continue on those programs with no changes in their benefit set, rate structure, or agreement, unless the child is specifically transitioned to Northstar Care for Children.

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children

The *benefits available* (but not the specific rate) to any child residing in family foster home settings prior to January 1, 2015, do not change unless an individual child:

- Moves to a different family foster home or other placement setting;
- Has permanent legal and physical custody transferred to a relative caregiver;
- Is adopted;
- Re-enters foster care after reunification or a court-ordered trial home visit; or
- Is specifically transitioned to Northstar Care for Children.

Northstar★ Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children
- 2. Definitions and Framework**
3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA
4. Single Uniform Assessment Process
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older
6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes
7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

2. Definitions and Framework

Northstar Care for Children Act

2013 Regular Session Law – Chapter 108

Minnesota Statutes, sections 256N.001 to 256N.28

- **Public Policy**, section 256N.01
- **Definitions and Framework**, sections 256N.02-256N.03
- **Eligibility**, sections 256N.21- 256N.23
- **Assessments**, section 256N.24
- **Agreements**, section 256N.25
- **Benefits and Payments**, section 256N.26
- **Federal, State and Local Shares**, section 256N.27
- **Administration and Appeals**, section 256N.28

Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children
2. Definitions and Framework
- 3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA**
4. Single Uniform Assessment Process
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older
6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes
7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA

- The differences between the new Guardianship Assistance and the current RCA are driven primarily by federal Title IV-E requirements.
- Guardianship Assistance is a recent option available through the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.



Title IV-E

3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA

Key differences in eligibility between GAP and RCA:

- Guardianship Assistance **eliminates** these RCA provisions:
 - Means-testing to determine the child's benefit level.
 - MFIP Child-Only Grant required under the current Relative Custody Assistance.
- But **adds** these Title IV-E requirements not part of RCA:
 - The child must reside in foster care *in that prospective relative custodian's home* for six consecutive months unless the court authorizes an exemption.
 - The responsible agency must determine that reunification and adoption are not appropriate permanency options.
 - Verification of the child's citizenship/immigration status.
 - Completion of background studies for prospective relative custodians (usually already done as part of foster care).

3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA

- Guardianship Assistance requires a written agreement among the caregivers, the financially responsible agency, and DHS.
- Very similar to current Adoption Assistance Agreements.



3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA



- Guardianship Assistance agreements must be signed ***prior to*** the transfer of permanent legal and physical custody.
- Northstar Care includes provisions for termination and extension of the established agreements.

3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA

- The Guardianship Assistance component of Northstar Care adds an “at-risk” category of children (Level A).
- This mirrors the existing at-risk category in Adoption Assistance (which will now also be Level A in Northstar Care).
- Only a minimal monthly payment is available for children in this category until the potential disability actually manifests.

Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children
2. Definitions and Framework
3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA
- 4. Single Uniform Assessment Process**
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older
6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes
7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

4. Single Uniform Assessment Process

- A uniform assessment process is a key part of Northstar Care for Children.
- DHS establishes the assessment tool and process used to determine each child's benefit level for Northstar Care.
- For Guardianship and Adoptions, some children are determined to be “at-risk” (Level A), where there is no disability yet manifest.
- Other children are assessed at the basic level (Level B) or at one of 15 supplemental difficulty of care levels (Levels C-Q).



4. Single Uniform Assessment Process

Extraordinary Levels:

- The 2013 Legislature added the top five supplemental difficulty-of-care levels (M-Q), known as the "extraordinary levels."
- These are available with state approval ***for the highest needs children to prevent unnecessary residential placements.***
- A gap must be identified that cannot be met by another program, such as an MA Waiver.
- The children must have extraordinary needs and require parenting involving extraordinary care and intense supervision so that the child can be safely cared for in the home and community, preventing a residential placement.
- These levels are available in foster care, guardianship assistance, and adoption assistance.

4. Single Uniform Assessment Process

Child Care Allowance:

- The assessment process is to include consideration of child care needs for children age 12 and under.
- The child care allowance is more for children through age 6 and less for ages 7-12.
- The caregivers must be employed or attending educational or vocational training programs.
- The caregivers cannot also be on the one of the Child Care Assistance Programs.
- The child care allowance applies to foster care, Guardianship Assistance, and Adoption Assistance.
- This replaces the child care reimbursement process currently in AA, but not available elsewhere.

4. Single Uniform Assessment Process



- There are specialized assessment questions for youth age 18 to 21 in extended care supervised independent living settings with no caregiver.
- For all three components, reassessments occur under similar circumstances as currently.

Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children
2. Definitions and Framework
3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA
4. Single Uniform Assessment Process
- 5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older**
6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes
7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

- The differences in current benefits available for children through foster care, Relative Custody Assistance, and Adoption Assistance create a rate barrier to permanent families.
- They are also very complicated.
- Northstar Care for Children creates *simpler* benefit sets.
- It also makes them *uniform* for children entering Guardianship Assistance or Adoption Assistance over the age of 5.

5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

Basic Monthly Rates in Current Programs				
		FC	RCA	AA
Basic Rate: Ages 0-5		\$659	\$247	\$247
Basic Rate: Ages 6-11		\$659	\$277	\$277
Basic Rate: Ages 12-14		\$759	\$307	\$307
Basic Rate: Ages 15-17		\$786	\$337	\$337
Basic Rate: Ages 18		\$786	None	\$337
Basic Rate: Ages 19-20		\$786	None	\$337
Basic Rate: Ages 21		None	None	\$337

Foster Care Supplemental Rates					RCA	AA
\$6.69	\$341.09	\$675.49	\$1,009.89	\$1,344.29	Monthly	Monthly
\$13.38	\$347.78	\$682.18	\$1,016.58	\$1,350.98		
\$20.06	\$354.46	\$688.86	\$1,023.26	\$1,357.66	Supplemental	Supplemental
\$26.75	\$361.15	\$695.55	\$1,029.95	\$1,364.35		
\$33.44	\$367.84	\$702.24	\$1,036.64	\$1,371.04	Rates	Rates
\$40.13	\$374.53	\$708.93	\$1,043.33	\$1,377.73		
\$46.82	\$381.22	\$715.62	\$1,050.02	\$1,384.42	\$150	\$150
\$53.50	\$387.90	\$722.30	\$1,056.70	\$1,391.10		
\$60.19	\$394.59	\$728.99	\$1,063.39	\$1,397.79	\$275	\$275
\$66.88	\$401.28	\$735.68	\$1,070.08	\$1,404.48		
\$73.57	\$407.97	\$742.37	\$1,076.77	\$1,411.17	\$400	\$400
\$80.26	\$414.66	\$749.06	\$1,083.46	\$1,417.86		
\$86.94	\$421.34	\$755.74	\$1,090.14	\$1,424.54	\$500	\$500
\$93.63	\$428.03	\$762.43	\$1,096.83	\$1,431.23		
\$100.32	\$434.72	\$769.12	\$1,103.52	\$1,437.92	Offset by:	Plus:
\$107.01	\$441.41	\$775.81	\$1,110.21	\$1,444.61		
\$113.70	\$448.10	\$782.50	\$1,116.90	\$1,451.30	MIFP Child Only Grant	Child Care Reimbursement
\$120.38	\$454.78	\$789.18	\$1,123.58	\$1,457.98		
\$127.07	\$461.47	\$795.87	\$1,130.27	\$1,464.67	Respite Reimbursement	
\$133.76	\$468.16	\$802.56	\$1,136.96	\$1,471.36		
\$140.45	\$474.85	\$809.25	\$1,143.65	\$1,478.05	Other Reimbursement	
\$147.14	\$481.54	\$815.94	\$1,150.34	\$1,484.74		
\$153.82	\$488.22	\$822.62	\$1,157.02	\$1,491.42		
\$160.51	\$494.91	\$829.31	\$1,163.71	\$1,498.11		
\$167.20	\$501.60	\$836.00	\$1,170.40	\$1,504.80		
\$173.89	\$508.29	\$842.69	\$1,177.09			
\$180.58	\$514.98	\$849.38	\$1,183.78			
\$187.26	\$521.66	\$856.06	\$1,190.46			
\$193.95	\$528.35	\$862.75	\$1,197.15			
\$200.64	\$535.04	\$869.44	\$1,203.84			
\$207.33	\$541.73	\$876.13	\$1,210.53			
\$214.02	\$548.42	\$882.82	\$1,217.22			
\$220.70	\$555.10	\$889.50	\$1,223.90			
\$227.39	\$561.79	\$896.19	\$1,230.59			
\$234.08	\$568.48	\$902.88	\$1,237.28			
\$240.77	\$575.17	\$909.57	\$1,243.97			
\$247.46	\$581.86	\$916.26	\$1,250.66			
\$254.14	\$588.54	\$922.94	\$1,257.34			
\$260.83	\$595.23	\$929.63	\$1,264.03			
\$267.52	\$601.92	\$936.32	\$1,270.72			
\$274.21	\$608.61	\$943.01	\$1,277.41			
\$280.90	\$615.30	\$949.70	\$1,284.10			
\$287.58	\$621.98	\$956.38	\$1,290.78			
\$294.27	\$628.67	\$963.07	\$1,297.47			
\$300.96	\$635.36	\$969.76	\$1,304.16			
\$307.65	\$642.05	\$976.45	\$1,310.85			
\$314.34	\$648.74	\$983.14	\$1,317.54			
\$321.02	\$655.42	\$989.82	\$1,324.22			
\$327.71	\$662.11	\$996.51	\$1,330.91			
\$334.40	\$668.80	\$1,003.20	\$1,337.60			

Northstar Care replaces the confusing and inconsistent array on the left with the simpler, consistent array on the right.

Northstar Monthly Basic Rates		
	All Foster Care and entering permanency 6+	Entering Permanency 0-5
Basic: Ages 0-5	\$565	\$283
Basic: Ages 6-12	\$670	\$335
Basic: Ages 13-20	\$790	\$395

Monthly Supplemental Rates

Northstar Care uses 15 simple levels to replace the complex array to the left.	\$100	\$50
	\$200	\$100
	\$300	\$150
	\$400	\$200
	\$500	\$250
	\$600	\$300
	\$700	\$350
	\$800	\$400
	\$900	\$450
	\$1,000	\$500
Extraordinary Levels	\$1,100	\$550
	\$1,200	\$600
	\$1,300	\$650
	\$1,400	\$700
	\$1,500	\$750

5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

- The “at-risk” children (Level A) in Guardianship Assistance and Adoption Assistance get a minimal payment of \$1/month.
- That maintains their Title IV-E eligibility so that higher benefits are available if their potential disability manifests later.

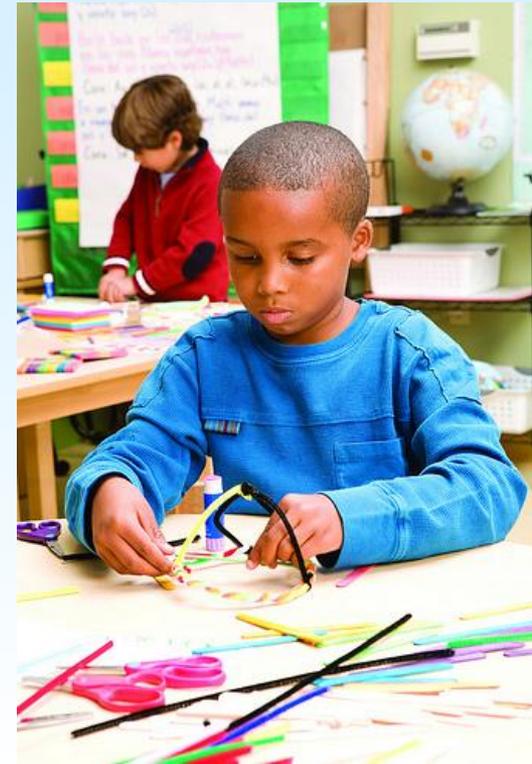


5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

- Children assessed as “Basic Only” (Level B) get a basic monthly payment based on their age.
- We expect this to be about 15% of children (excluding the “at-risk” Level A children).

Northstar Monthly Basic Rates

	All Foster Care and entering permanency 6+	Entering Permanency 0-5
Basic: Ages 0-5	\$565	\$283
Basic: Ages 6-12	\$670	\$335
Basic: Ages 13-20	\$790	\$395



5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

- Most children (other than “at-risk”) will *also* get a supplemental difficulty of care payment in addition to the basic monthly payment.
- These are based on the uniform assessment, and are one of 10 regular levels plus 5 “extraordinary levels” for a total of 15 levels.

Northstar Care Monthly Supplemental DOC Levels

C	\$100	\$50
D	\$200	\$100
E	\$300	\$150
F	\$400	\$200
G	\$500	\$250
H	\$600	\$300
I	\$700	\$350
J	\$800	\$400
K	\$900	\$450
L	\$1,000	\$500
M	\$1,100	\$550
N	\$1,200	\$600
O	\$1,300	\$650
P	\$1,400	\$700
Q	\$1,500	\$750

Extraordinary Levels



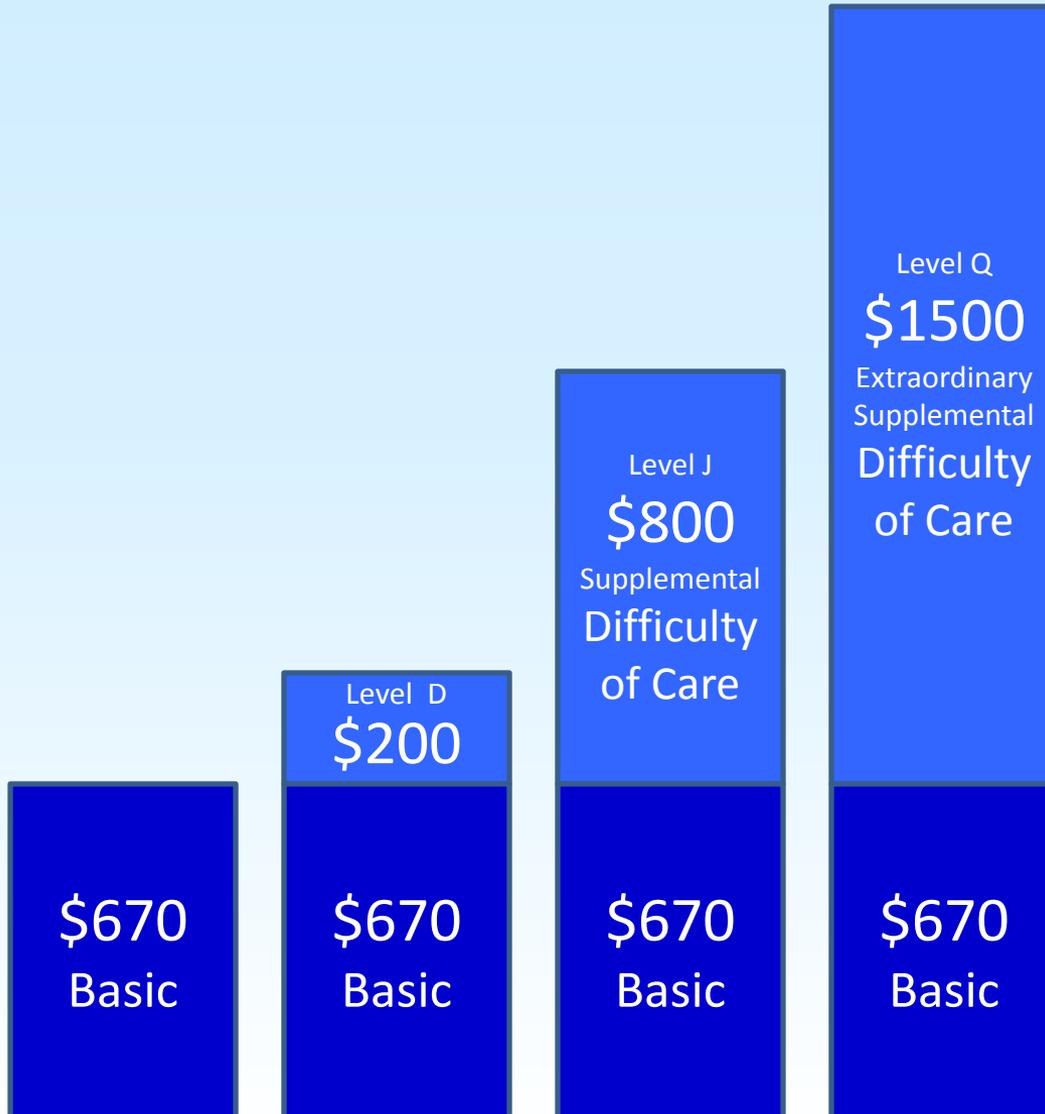
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

\$670

\$870

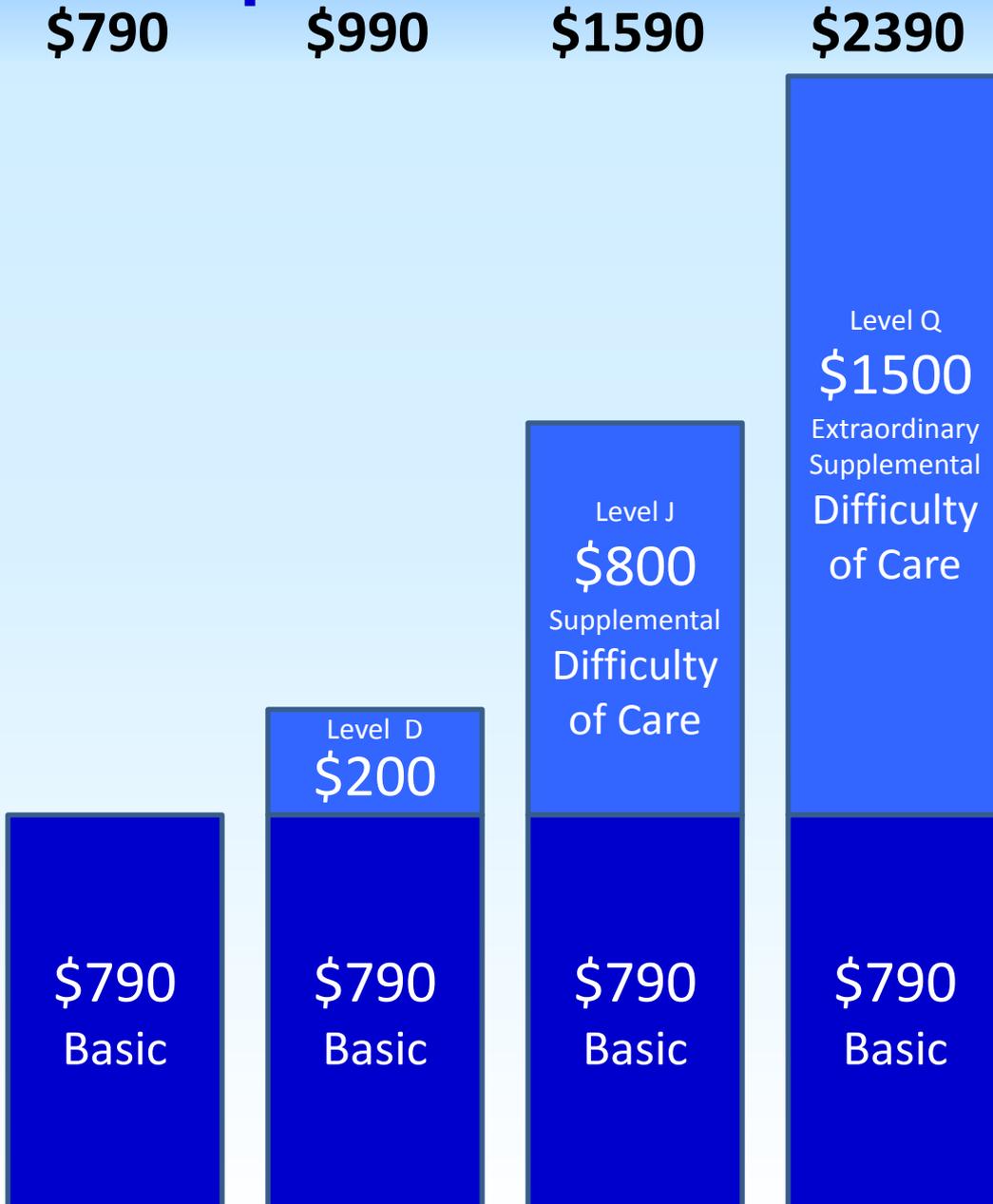
\$1470

\$2170



- Adding them together yields the total monthly payment.
- Here are some examples for **6-12 year olds.**

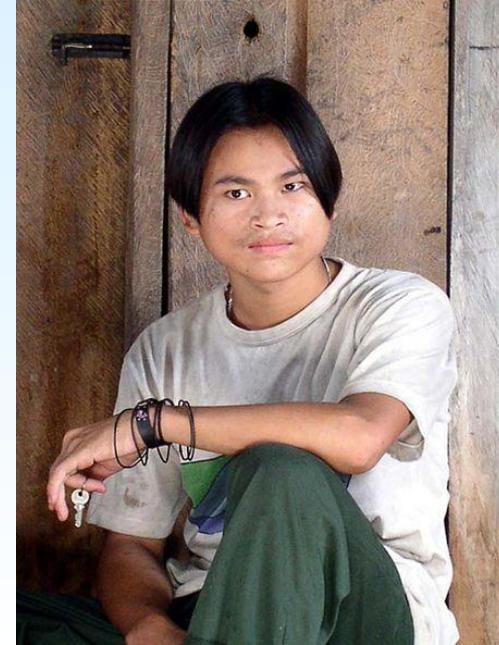
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older



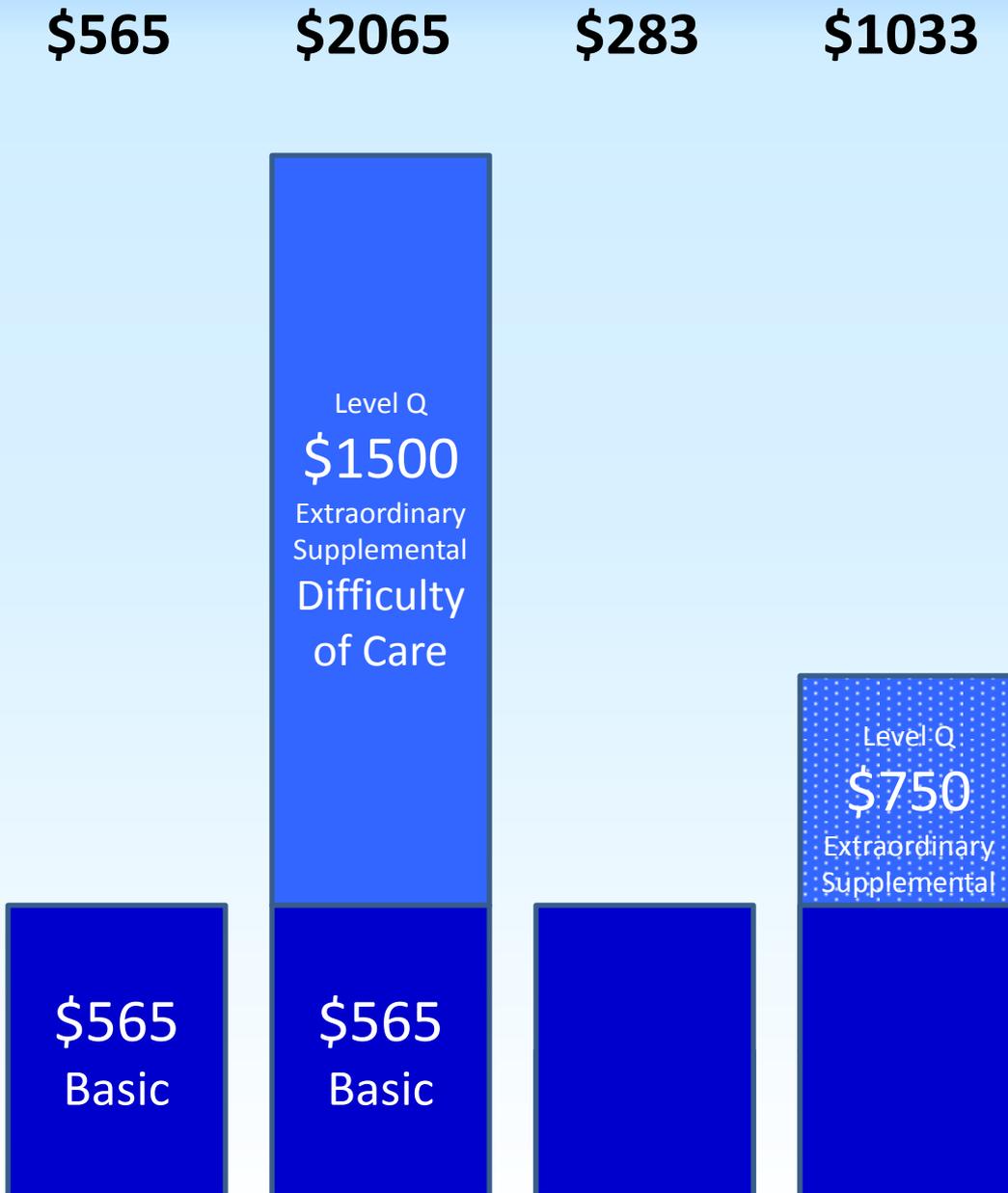
Here are the same examples, but for children **13 and older**, who have a higher Basic payment but the same additional Supplemental Difficulty of Care.

5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

- Northstar Care for Children provides for uniform benefits when a child moves among the components when the child is 6 or older.
- Minnesota has not had as much difficulty moving children 5 and younger to permanent families.
- One of the compromises in Northstar Care was to ***not*** have uniform rates for children moving to permanency who are 5 or younger.

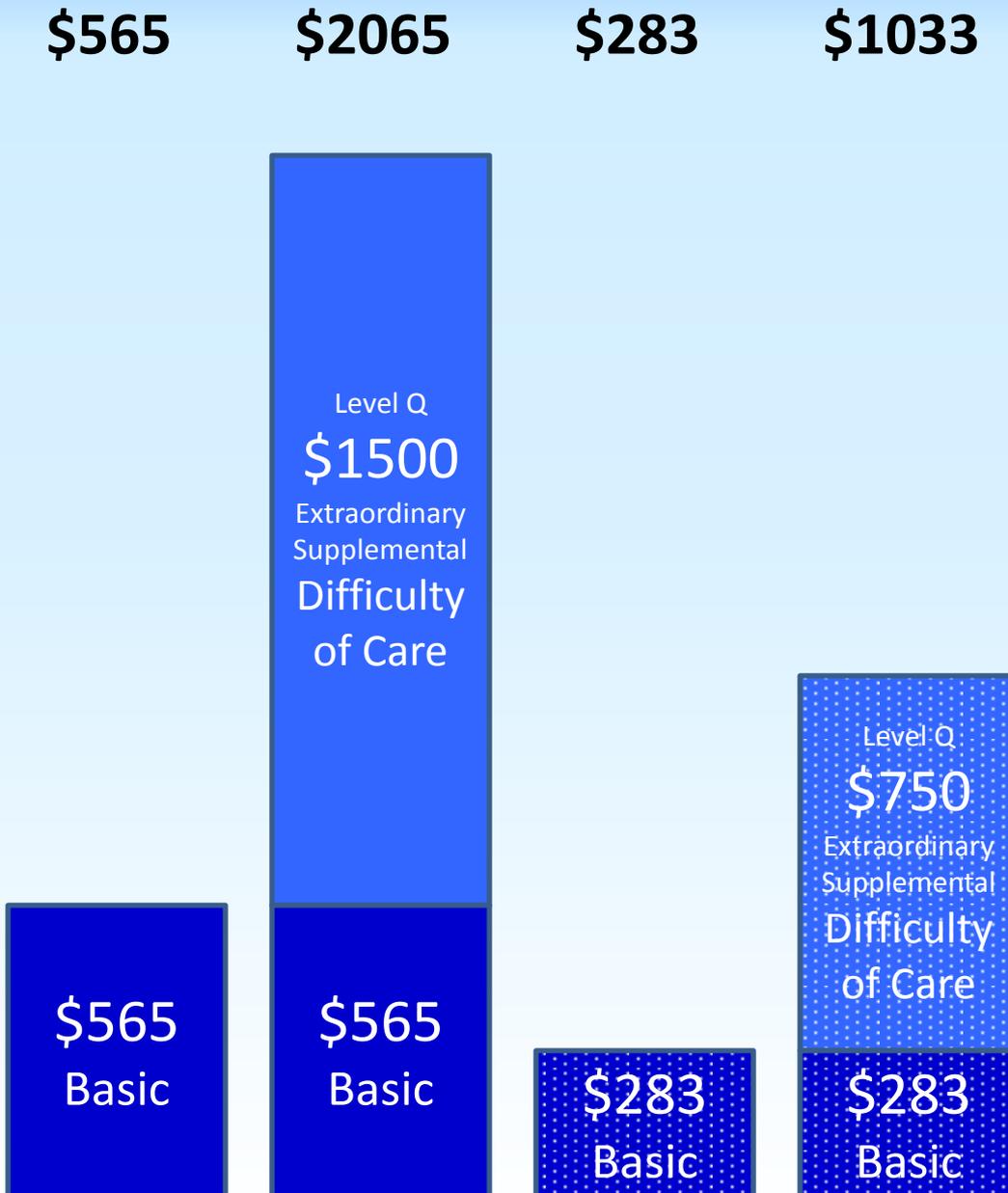


5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older



- Northstar Care monthly benefits for children 5 and younger who move to permanency are **half** the foster care rates.

5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older



- Northstar Care monthly benefits for children 5 and younger who move to permanency are **half** the foster care rates.
- That's not ideal, but still **higher** than current rates for RCA and AA.

5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

- An emergency foster care rate for initial placement may be used for up to 30 days, to be replaced by one based on an assessment done within those first 30 days.
- The emergency foster care rate consists of the appropriate basic rate for that child's age plus Level D difficulty of care supplemental rate.
- For children in the Adoption Assistance component of Northstar Care, there can be a reimbursement claimed for home and vehicle modifications necessary to accommodate a child's special needs.
- That reimbursement is limited to once every 5 years.

5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older

- Rates for all children in Northstar Care are adjusted annually based on USDA figures, the same way that foster care rates currently are.
- There are a number of provisions regarding child income, but they all follow the two principles of trying whenever practical to treat income similarly in the three components while aiming to minimize changes in payments to the caregiver.

Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children
2. Definitions and Framework
3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA
4. Single Uniform Assessment Process
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older
- 6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes**
7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes

- Northstar Care includes additional state appropriations plus additional federal Title IV-E funds.
- But it is designed to be basically fiscally neutral for counties and tribes in the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative.

The Feds pay more

The State pays more

The County pays about the same

The Tribe pays about the same

6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes

- The *non-federal share* for children in all three components is shared by the state and counties and child welfare initiative tribes.
- This is in contrast to the existing arrangement where counties and tribes pay for foster care and the state pays for Relative Custody Assistance and Adoption Assistance .
- Current arrangements with tribes include many other provisions which are expected to continue under Northstar Care.

6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes

- The state share and local share will be calculated based on historical data (some still in the future) of what the various parties have paid in calendar years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.
- These shares will include the legacy (pre-Northstar Care) programs, to avoid all problems with programs phasing in or phasing out.
- To avoid cost shifting from the state to counties and tribes, these shares are further adjusted based on trends during those years (we expect the state share to continue to grow and the local share to continue to decline).

6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes

- To avoid cost shifting among counties and tribes, the local share is adjusted based on historic relative shares.
- To avoid these relative shares becoming stagnant relics of past behavior, DHS will adjust these shares over time based on relative changes in utilization – use of Foster Care, Guardianship Assistance, and Adoption Assistance (counties and tribes that use more than they did in the past should go up, those that use less should go down).
- The commissioner is to ensure that these adjustments are not unduly influenced by one-time events, anomalies, small changes that appear large compared to a narrow historic base (such as one family moving into or out of a smaller county), or the results of the transfer of responsibilities to tribal social service agencies under the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative.

ZACHARY COUNTY 2015



Let's look at an example, using the imaginary Zachary County.

ZACHARY COUNTY 2015

In 2015 without Northstar...

Zachary County would spend \$2,845 on Foster Care Basic and DOC.

For Zachary County kids, DHS would spend \$470 for RCA plus \$2,485 for AA.

\$2,845 Foster Care	\$470 RCA	\$2,485 Adoption Assistance
\$5,800 Total Status Quo Programs (without Northstar)		

Let's compare this to Zachary County
under Northstar Care...

ZACHARY COUNTY 2015

In 2015 without Northstar...

Zachary County would spend \$2,845 on Foster Care Basic and DOC.
For Zachary County kids, DHS would spend \$470 for RCA plus \$2,485 for AA.

\$2,845 Foster Care	\$470 RCA	\$2,485 Adoption Assistance
\$5,800 Total Status Quo Programs (without Northstar)		

In 2015 under the first year of Northstar Care...

Under Northstar Care, equalized rates are phased in, and in the first year children get \$400 more, or \$6,200 instead of \$5,800 total (new funding grows each year).

\$6,200 Total under Northstar Care

Let's see how this works without costing Zachary County more...

Who Pays without Northstar?

In 2015 without Northstar...

Of the \$2,845 Zachary County would have spent on Foster Care, \$555 of it would be **Federal Title IV-E**, and the other 2,290 with **County Funds**.

\$2,845 Foster Care	
\$555 Title IV-E	\$2,290 County Funds

Of the \$470 DHS spent on RCA, we will consider all of it **State Funds**.

\$470 RCA
\$470 State

(A purist could correctly object that \$120 of it was TANF – but that’s a minor point. We’ll say it’s all State.)

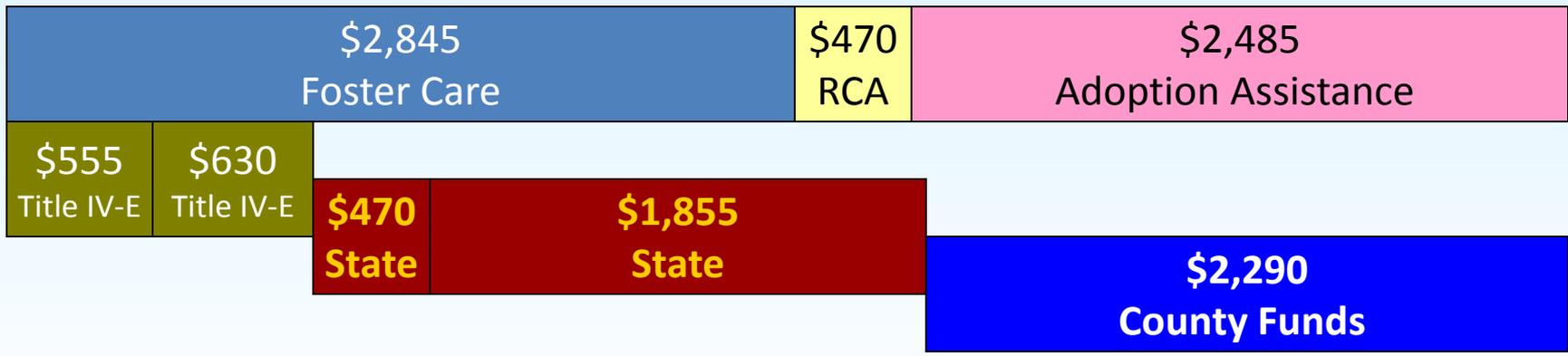
Of the \$2,485 in AA, \$630 of it was paid for through **Federal Title IV-E**, and the rest with **State Funds**.

\$2,485 Adoption Assistance	
\$630 Title IV-E	\$1,855 State

WHO PAID WHAT?

Summarizing 2015 without Northstar

Federal Title IV-E	\$1,185
State Funds	\$2,325
County Funds	\$2,290
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,800



ZACHARY COUNTY 2015

In 2015 under the first year of Northstar Care...

In the first year, with the phase-in to Northstar Care just beginning, most of the children remain under the old programs at their previous rates.

\$4,525 continues to be spent in the status quo programs.

Zachary County spends \$635 on Foster Care Basic and DOC under Northstar.

For Zachary County kids, DHS spends \$245 in Adoption Assistance, \$75 for the new Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) that replaced RCA, and \$720 on transitions (an amount that goes down as the phase-in proceeds).

<p>\$4,525 Legacy Programs (not involved in phase-in of Northstar)</p>	<p>\$635 N'star FC</p>	<p>\$75 GAP</p>	<p>\$245 AA</p>	<p>\$720 N'star Trans</p>
--	----------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-------------------------------

<p>\$6,200 Total under Northstar Care</p>

Federal, State, Local Shares:

Northstar Care for Children

WHO PAID WHAT?

In 2015 under the first year of Northstar Care...

\$4,525 Legacy Programs (not involved in phase-in of Northstar)
--

\$950 Title IV-E	\$1,885 State	\$1,690 County
---------------------	------------------	-------------------

The \$4,525 on the “legacy” programs is paid partly by **Federal Title IV-E** and the rest is split between a **State Share** of about 53% and a **County Share** of about 47%.

Of the \$1,675 spent for the children now with equalized benefits under Northstar Care, the **Federal Title IV-E** share is expected to be \$1,345, the **State Share** is \$2,565 (about 53% of the non-federal) and the **County Share** is \$2,290 (about 47%).

\$635 N'star FC	\$75 GAP	\$245 AA	\$720 N'star Trans
--------------------	-------------	-------------	-----------------------

\$395 Title IV-E	\$680 State	\$600 County
---------------------	----------------	-----------------

Federal, State, Local Shares: Northstar Care for Children

WHO PAID WHAT?

Summarizing without Northstar

Compare to Northstar

Federal Title IV-E	\$1,185
State Funds	\$2,325
County Funds	\$2,290
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,800

\$1,345	←	The Feds pay more
\$2,565	←	The State pays more
\$2,290	←	The County pays the same
\$6,200		

\$4,525 Legacy Programs (not involved in phase-in of Northstar)	\$635 N'star FC	\$75 GAP	\$245 AA	\$720 N'star Trans
--	--------------------	-------------	-------------	-----------------------

\$950 Title IV-E	\$395 Title IV-E	\$1,885 State	\$680 State	\$1,690 County	\$600 County
---------------------	---------------------	------------------	----------------	-------------------	-----------------

6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes



- That's a county example.
- An example with a tribe in the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative would have several additional points.
- But the basic idea would be the same.
- Spend about the same amount but get more for that money.



6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes

- All of this boils down to a county or tribe paying approximately the same for Northstar Care as they would have paid for children in foster care under the existing programs.
- And that's not counting any other savings they may accrue by not having them in foster care.



Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children
2. Definitions and Framework
3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA
4. Single Uniform Assessment Process
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older
6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes
- 7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing**

Northst★r Care for Children

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

1. Retains Current Programs for Current Children
2. Definitions and Framework
3. Guardianship Assistance replaces RCA
4. Single Uniform Assessment Process
5. Simpler Uniform Benefits for Age 6 and Older
6. Fiscal Partnership of State, Counties & Tribes
- 7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing**

7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

- Given how comprehensive Northstar Care for Children is, it's not surprising that there are a series of administrative provisions.
- DHS will specify the procedures, requirements, and deadlines necessary to administer Northstar Care.
- We are very interested in your thoughts of how these should work as we move to implement this.

7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Foster Care:

- Administration of the foster care component of Northstar Care mirrors the current process.
- The financially responsible agency (county or tribe) administers and makes payments within the policy guidance from the state.



7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Adoption Assistance:

- Administration of the Adoption Assistance component of Northstar Care is similar to the current process – the state administers and makes payments while the financially responsible agency initiates and assists as requested.
- However, because the same assessment process is used throughout, the local agency has a greater role than currently in determining the level of benefits.

7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Guardianship Assistance:

- The new Guardianship Assistance component of Northstar Care represents a change from the current Relative Custody Assistance program.
- Under Northstar Care, the Guardianship Assistance and Adoption Assistance components are both administered in the same manner – the state administers and makes payments while the financially responsible agency (county or tribe) initiates and assists as requested.
- As with AA, though, because the same assessment process is used throughout, the local agency has a greater role than it has had with current AA in determining the level of benefits.

7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Transitions:

- In general, a child in one of the pre-Northstar Care programs is “grandfathered” into that program.
- If the child doesn’t change placements or legal status, they stay in their current program.
- However, the commissioner may decide to transition children from the pre-Northstar Care Relative Custody Assistance or Adoption Assistance programs to Northstar Care for Children, provided this does not reduce the payment to the child’s caregiver.

7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Transitions continued:

To the extent that DHS exercises this authority, the following priorities must inform the decision:

1. Financial and budgetary constraints
2. Complying with federal regulations
3. Converting pre-Northstar Care Relative Custody Assistance to the Guardianship Assistance component of Northstar Care (which earns federal Title IV-E revenue)
4. Improving permanency for a child
5. Maintaining permanency for a child
6. Accessing additional federal funds
7. Administrative simplification.

7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Transitions illustrated:

This means that our two-door model is slightly altered...



7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Transitions illustrated:

This means that our two-door model is slightly altered... with a third door into Northstar Care.



7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Why Transitions:

The ability to transition children from the current programs to Northstar Care is important for a number of reasons:

- It provides additional tools for creating and maintaining permanency for children.
- It earns additional federal revenue.



7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

Balancing Spending:

- DHS authority over transitions also permits the Department to balance the spending among the three components (foster care, guardianship assistance, and adoption assistance).
- They each have different fiscal characteristics, such as turnover and rates of earning federal funds.
- Balancing these three components will keep Northstar Care fiscally sound while accomplishing key policy goals such as moving more children into permanent families.
- It will also permit us to phase out the current programs somewhat more quickly than would otherwise be possible.

7. Administration, Transitions, & Balancing

- That's an overview of the legal provisions of Northstar Care.
- It's time to move on to some preliminary information on how it might actually work in practice.



Northst★r Care for Children

Northstar★ Care for Children



Northst★r Care for Children

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

- 1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly**
- 2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS**
- 3. Guardianship Assistance will be New**
- 4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes**
- 5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms**
- 6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique**
- 7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment**
- 8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe**
- 9. Financial Operations**
- 10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care**

Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

- 1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly**
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly

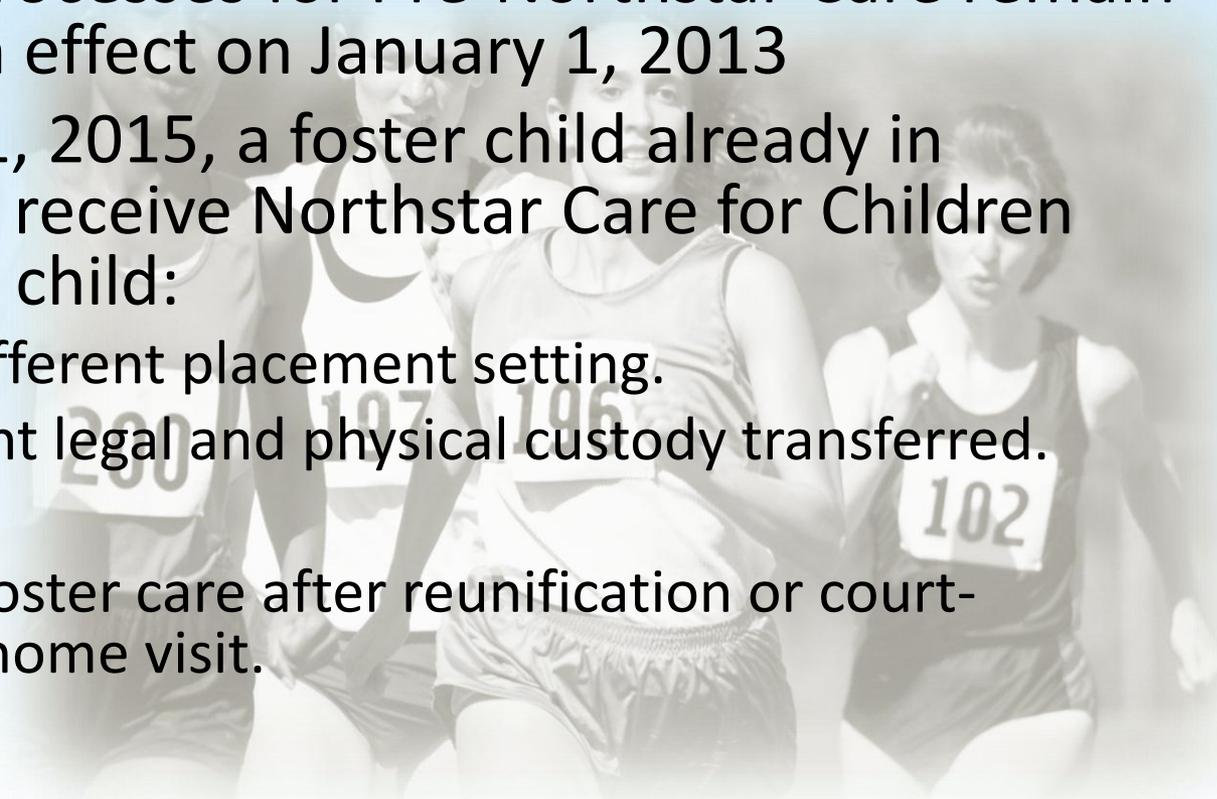
Pre-Northstar Care for Children

- Children receiving foster care, Adoption Assistance or RCA benefits on December 31, 2014, will **not** experience any change.
- This includes:
 - Foster children who do not change legal status and who remain with the same caregiver.
 - Children receiving RCA (MFIP child only grant).
 - Adopted children with executed Adoption Agreements.

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly

How will Pre-Northstar Care fade slowly?

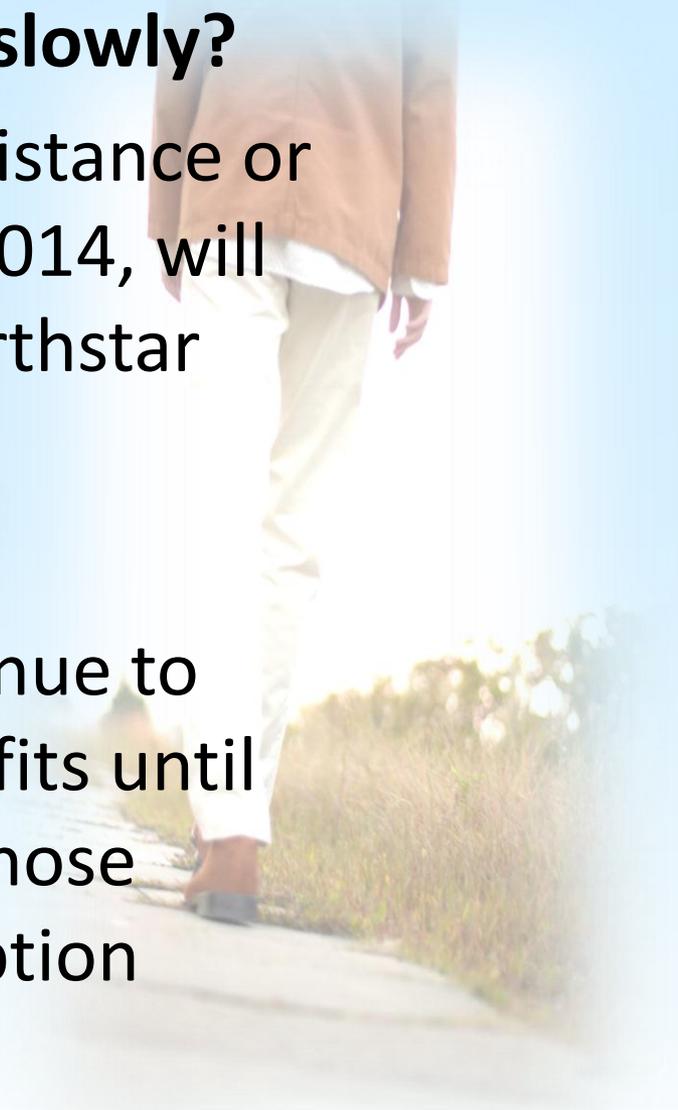
- In general, foster children in placement on December 31, 2014, will likely fade out of the Pre-Northstar program at a *quicker* pace.
- Benefits and processes for Pre-Northstar Care remain the same as in effect on January 1, 2013
- As of January 1, 2015, a foster child already in placement will receive Northstar Care for Children benefits if that child:
 - Moves to a different placement setting.
 - Has permanent legal and physical custody transferred.
 - Is adopted.
 - Or re-enters foster care after reunification or court-ordered trial home visit.



1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly

How will Pre-Northstar Care fade slowly?

- Children receiving Adoption Assistance or RCA benefits on December 31, 2014, will probably fade out of the Pre-Northstar program at a *slower* pace.
- Most of these children will continue to receive Pre-Northstar Care benefits until they turn age 18 (or age 21 for those youth eligible for extended Adoption Assistance benefits).



1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly

Benefits and processes for Pre-Northstar Care remain the same as in effect on January 1, 2013.

- **First Example:** An adoptive parent requests a reassessment of the supplemental level for a youth receiving Pre-Northstar Adoption Assistance benefits.
 - The reassessment is completed using the current legacy AA tool.
 - Any change in benefits is based on the legacy AA provisions.

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly

- **Second Example:** A 6-month review of the difficulty of care for a foster child in Pre-Northstar Care:
 - The agency uses the current DOC tool (DHS 2834).
 - If the reassessment determines a different level of benefit, the DOC points translate into rates consistent with the 2013 rates in **DHS Bulletin 12-32-15** (November 26, 2012).

Difficulty of Care Assessment Schedule

Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0650 to 9560.0656 established a statewide Difficulty of Care payment rate, and requires that each child in foster care be assessed using a department approval schedule.

Payments in addition to the basic maintenance standard shall be made for children in substitute care with mental, physical or emotional handicaps who require additional supervision or assistance in behavior management, activities of daily living, management of medical problems, or interaction with the natural parents and the community.

Instructions: Each child shall be assessed for difficulty of care needs in level A to F. Within the highest appropriate level and the respective point range, a single point value shall be assigned based on the age of the child, the number of conditions requiring special care, and the degree of difficulty of caring for each condition. Each behavior or condition on which this assessment is based must be described.

Children who require residential treatment shall be assigned to Level G; but no point value shall be assigned.

Child's name _____ Case No. _____ Birthdate _____

LEVEL A 1-35 Points	LEVEL B 36-70 Points	LEVEL C 71-105 Points
Child requires a moderate amount of additional supervision or assistance including that required by: <i>(Check all behaviors or conditions that apply.)</i>	Child requires a significant amount of additional supervision or assistance including that required by: <i>(Check all behaviors or conditions that apply.)</i>	Child requires an extensive amount of additional supervision or assistance including that required by: <i>(Check all behaviors or conditions that apply.)</i>
Behavioral <input type="checkbox"/> Dependency, passivity, or lack of responsiveness and ability to relate to others <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal seeking of affection or attention <input type="checkbox"/> Problems with separation from the natural parents or attachment to the foster parents <input type="checkbox"/> Psychosomatic complaints <input type="checkbox"/> Night terrors	Behavioral <input type="checkbox"/> Need for a structured behavioral program <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty with peers <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of verbal responsiveness <input type="checkbox"/> Fear of or hostility to adults or authority figures <input type="checkbox"/> Infrequent running away overnight <input type="checkbox"/> Lying or stealing <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical abuse	Behavioral <input type="checkbox"/> Unsocialized, or withdrawn behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Self-destructive or self-defeating behavior with suicidal expressions and gestures <input type="checkbox"/> Attention deficit disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Frequent running away <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual or physical abuse inflicted upon the child

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly

Transitions:

- As previously stated, the commissioner of human services may decide to transition some children from the pre-Northstar Program to Northstar Care for Children.
- Such a decision needs to be made consistent with the priorities specified in the Northstar Care for Children Act.



Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
- 2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS**
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS

- The legislature provided funds to have Northstar Care for Children programmed into SSIS.
- We plan for the assessment tool, the benefits calculations, and so on to be built into SSIS.
- More information will be available in the future as we get closer to implementation.



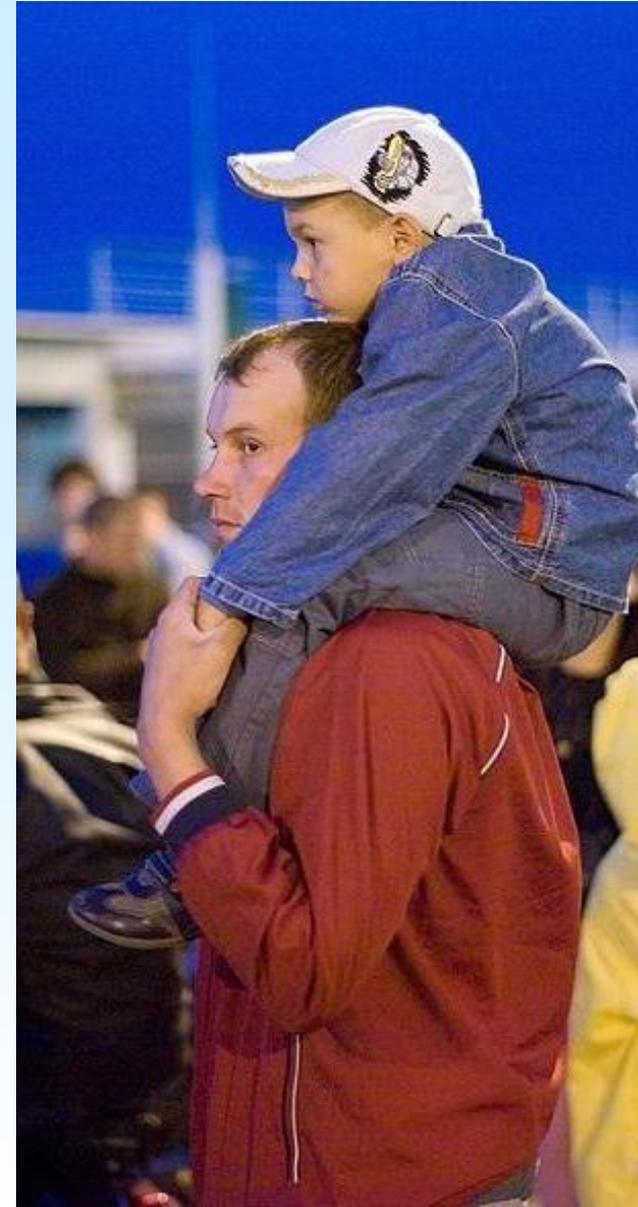
Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
- 3. Guardianship Assistance will be New**
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

3. Guardianship Assistance will be New

- Minnesota has relied on Relative Custody Assistance (RCA) to support relatives who take on custody of a child leaving foster care through a transfer of legal custody.
- Starting in 2015, RCA will be replaced with Guardianship Assistance, which is a recent option under federal Title IV-E.



3. Guardianship Assistance will be New



- Unlike RCA, there will be no means testing for Guardianship Assistance.
- Guardianship Assistance will be administered in a manner similar to the new Adoption Assistance.

3. Guardianship Assistance will be New

- Eligibility for Guardianship Assistance will be determined by DHS, but the level of benefits will be determined by the financially responsible agency using the MAPCY.
- Some foster children may not be eligible for Guardianship Assistance.
- For Guardianship Assistance, a child needs to be in foster care with that prospective relative custodian for at least six months prior to finalizing the transfer of legal custody.

3. Guardianship Assistance will be New

- An agreement needs to be signed before the transfer of legal custody occurs.
- Since the child will be with that relative in foster care, and the same MAPCY can be used, there is every reason to assume that the benefits will remain the same when custody is transferred.



3. Guardianship Assistance will be New

- Title IV-E eligibility for Guardianship Assistance is determined by whether or not the child was eligible in foster care.
- Unlike RCA, where counties issue payments, Guardianship Assistance payments will be made by the state.



Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
- 4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes**
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes

On or after January 1, 2015 (not Pre-Northstar)

Includes:

- Child in family foster care
- Child in corporate foster homes (“CADI homes”)
- Child in foster home licensed by a private foster care agency (child-placing agency)
- Child transferred to relative custodian
- Child adopted by adoptive parents
- Youth (18 up to age 21) in extended foster care
- Youth (18 up to age 21) in extended GAP and AA

4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes

Excludes:

- Children in residential facilities
- Children in group homes
- Children in residential shelter programs
- Children in residential treatment
- Children in residential correctional programs

These facilities are listed on the Quarterly Title IV-E Bulletin or licensed as a Residential settings, Minnesota Rules, parts 2960.0020 to 2960.0710

4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes

Excludes:

- Foster care – Northstar Care for Children doesn't change the **initial clothing allowance**.
 - It works the same as it does now.
 - Available during the first 60 days.
 - The county or tribe pays (with a federal share if the child involved is Title IV-E).
 - No change.



Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
- 5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms**
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms

- Definitions are the foundations of our work.
- Northstar Care modifies practice with three concepts and terms:
 - Benefits
 - Caregivers
 - Parenting



5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms

Benefits – A child eligible for Northstar Care is entitled to specified benefits, based primarily on assessments. Although paid to the caregiver, these benefits must be considered benefits to the child. [Minn. Stat. section 256N.20]



5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms

Caregivers = Foster parents, relative custodian or adoptive parents.

Minn. Stat. section 256N.02, subd. 6



Caregiver is the term used to describe the people parenting the child.

Northstar care does not use the term “provider.”

5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms

Parenting

Northstar Care focuses on the child's needs and strengths, and parenting duties.



This focus is consistent with Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms

Parenting

Northstar Care definition of Supplemental Difficulty of Care Payment:

- Must support activities consistent with the **care a parent provides a child with special needs.**
- Not the equivalent of a purchased service.
- Must consider the capacity and intensity of the activities associated with **parenting duties** provided in the home to **nurture the child, preserve the child's connections and support the child's functioning** in the home and community.

Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
- 6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique**
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique

- Northstar Care for Children creates a uniform **assessment** process and unifies **benefits** across its three components:
 - Foster Care
 - Guardianship Assistance
 - Adoption Assistance
- However, **eligibility** for each component remains unique.
- Federal Title IV-E is inconsistent here, and we can't make them uniform.

6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique

- In other words, just because a child is in foster care does not mean that he or she is automatically eligible for Guardianship Assistance or Adoption Assistance.
- However, for the children who *are* eligible, the benefits will now be unified:
 - Uniform for children age 6 and older who are moving between components.
 - Coordinated but not uniform for children who move between components age 5 and younger.

6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique

Foster Care:

- We don't usually think in terms of "eligibility" for foster care.
- But obviously some children aren't "eligible" for foster care or the benefits that go with it.
- What defines foster care – placement authority and care responsibility, authority to place the child, voluntary placement agreement or a court order, a family setting, and so on – determines eligibility at the same time.
- The legally responsible agency (county or tribe) determines eligibility for foster care based on the legal framework.
- Using the MAPCY, the financially responsible agency determines the benefit level.

6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique

Guardianship Assistance:

- Currently, the determination of eligibility and determination of benefits for Relative Custody Assistance are both done by the financially responsible county.
- Currently, some children in foster care aren't eligible for Relative Care Assistance, generally due to the means testing requirements.
- Not all children in foster care will be eligible for Guardianship Assistance either, although with different exclusions than for RCA.
- For example, the child needs to have been with that relative for at least six months prior to transfer or custody, and the agency must have determined that adoption is not appropriate.
- The responsible agency will initiate, provide documentation, and assist, but DHS will determine eligibility for Guardianship Assistance.
- However, under Northstar Care the MAPCY completed by the financially responsible agency will determine the benefit level.

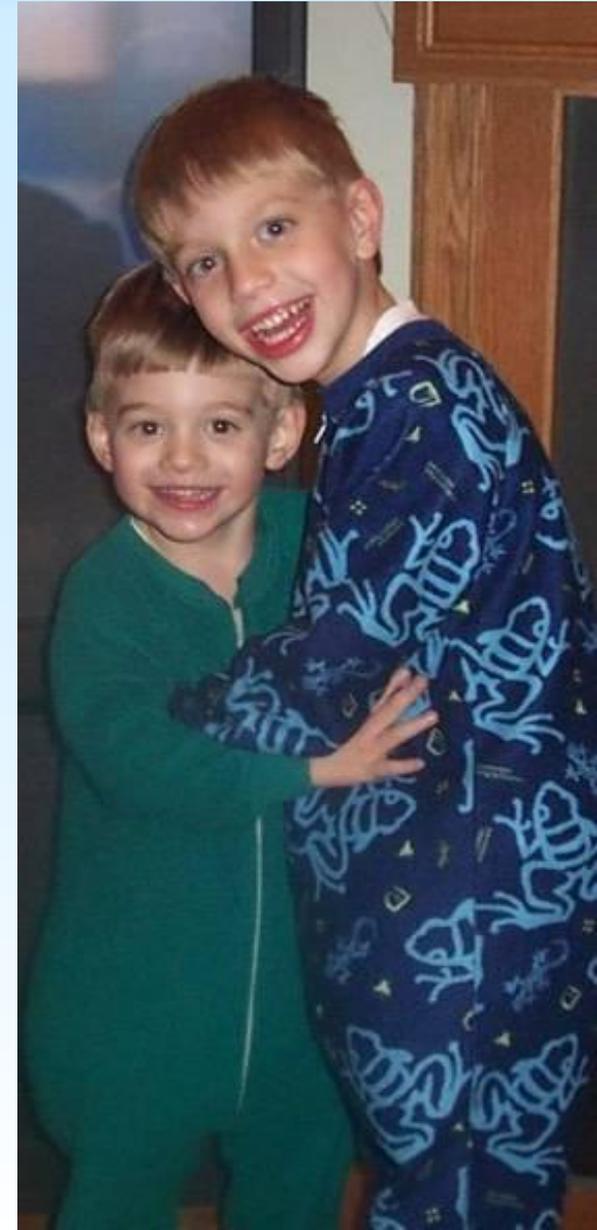
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique

Adoption Assistance:

- Currently, the determination of eligibility for Adoption Assistance is done simultaneously within the same process as determining the level (if any) of benefits.
- Currently, some children in foster care aren't eligible for Adoption Assistance, and that will continue.
- Adoption Assistance will still require a special needs determination.
- The local agency will initiate, provide documentation, and assist, but DHS determines eligibility.
- However, unlike the current AA process, under Northstar Care the MAPCY completed by the financially responsible agency will determine the benefit level.

6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique

- Federal Title IV-E prevents us from making eligibility uniform – each component has its own unique requirements.
- But given that limitation, we have made eligibility as consistent as possible.
- And once a child is eligible, the benefits they receive are unified within Northstar Care for Children – uniform for most, coordinated for all.



Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
- 7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment**
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment

- Having a single uniform assessment process is central to the success of Northstar Care for Children.
- DHS has been working for nearly five years on the assessment tool with counties, tribes, caregivers, youth, and other experts.
- We call the tool the **MAPCY** – the **M**innesota **A**ssessment of **P**arenting for **C**hildren and **Y**outh.



7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment

- DHS has conducted two tests of the MAPCY.
- We plan a full field test this fall, and are actively looking for counties and tribes to volunteer.
- Upon validation, the MAPCY will be programmed into SSIS.



7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment

- The MAPCY is the vehicle through which much of Northstar Care actually happens.
- Accordingly, we will spend some time today providing an overview of the MAPCY:
 - Principles
 - Domains
 - Rating
 - Scoring and Payments



7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment



- All three current processes are primarily focused on how “**sick**” the young person is.
- We want to shift the focus to how the caregiver can meet their needs.
- Some of those needs are handled by the caregiver, but some by others.

MAPCY Principles

1. The same assessment tool would be used for foster care, relative care, and adoptions.



MAPCY Principles

2. The MAPCY is about parenting, not services. Parenting is what parents do – whether foster parents, relative custodians, or adoptive parents. The MAPCY measures the parenting involved in raising young people.



MAPCY Principles

3. There is a basic level of care. **All** young people who go through the child welfare system have special needs, and therefore the **basic** rate reflects their **basic** special needs.
4. The MAPCY assesses the extra **care, attention** and **impact on the family** required to parent the children who have supplemental needs beyond these basic special needs.

MAPCY Principles

5. Assesses the young person's well-being.
6. Acknowledges the needs and the common experiences of all young people who receive child welfare services.



MAPCY Principles

7. Considers developmental tasks.
8. Recognizes the young person's improvements and supports the extra care and attention provided to sustain them.



MAPCY Principles

9. Developing identity is a key to well-being and a major developmental task of all young people. Cultural connections and other connections are necessary for young people to develop their identity, the MAPCY values the caregivers' efforts in this arena.



MAPCY Principles

10. Finally, the MAPCY must support all permanency options, including reunification – our goal is a family for **every** child and youth.



MAPCY Domains

- A. Placement Experience**
- B. Dynamics in the Caregiver's Home**
- C. Supervision, Guidance, and Structure**
- D. Mental Health, Physical Health, & Development**
- E. Preserving Connections**
- F. Developing Identity**
- G. Education**
- H. Child Care (ages 0-12)**



Rating the MAPCY

Two things to rate:

- What are the **child's needs**?
- What **parenting** is the caregiver(s) doing to meet those needs?
- Those are the questions addressed by the MAPCY, and the rater selects from multiple choice answers.



Rating the MAPCY

Child's Needs:



- For seven of the domains (not Child Care), the rater selects from the **child's needs** scale of **a**, **b**, **c**, or **d**.
- “**a**” identifies a strength, and it progresses to “**d**” defining the greatest need.

Rating the MAPCY

Child's Needs:



In each case:

- “**a**” will describe a few young people
- “**b**” will describe many young people
- “**c**” will describe some young people
- “**d**” will describe very few young people

Rating the MAPCY

Parenting Indicators:

- The MAPCY looks at what the parents are doing (foster parents, relative custodians, or adoptive parents).
- Each domain except child care has Parenting Indicators, and the rater selects one or more.
- Each indicator points to one of four levels of parenting.



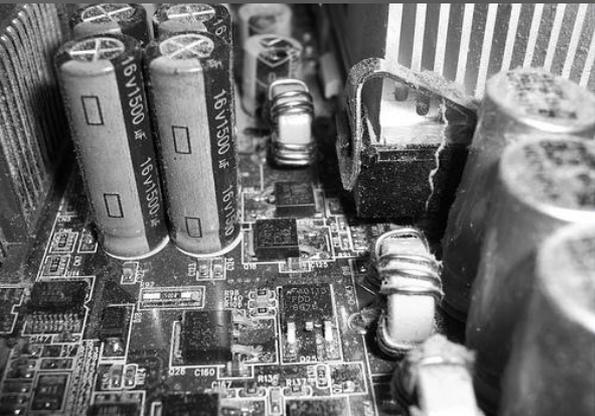
Rating the MAPCY

Parenting Indicators:

- However, the rater doesn't pick the level, but instead selects the **indicators**.
- The computer derives the parenting level (basic, significant, extensive, or exceptional) based on the selected indicators.



Scoring the MAPCY



- The computer does most of the work for scoring.
- The following is a brief discussion of some of how scoring will work.
- Don't sweat the details, try to pick up the gist.

Scoring the MAPCY

Building the ladder:

- Scoring depends on building the ladder for the caregiver.
- For the Caregiver(s) to receive the ***highest regular rating***, they would need to demonstrate care:
 - in basic,
 - in significant,
 - in extensive, and ***also***
 - in exceptional.



Scoring the MAPCY



- We want to measure the caregiver's parental care and attention.
- If they are doing intense work but not the basic, the computer drops the parenting down one level.
- They need to be doing a “**ladder**” with a step at each rung to get to the next higher level.

Scoring the MAPCY

Basic parenting at I combined with a child's need a is scored at 1 point.

Basic parenting at I.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Child's need a is a strength.

Scoring the MAPCY

At the opposite end, the most demanding parenting at **IV** combined with the most serious child's need of **d** is scored at the full 8 points for this domain.

Most demanding parenting at **IV**.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic I	Sig II	Extens III	Except IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Most serious child's need at **d**.

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY

In between combinations of child's needs and parenting level move up the scale.

Placement Experience

Child's Needs			Parenting Level			
			Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
			I	II	III	IV
a			1	1	2	3
b			1	2	3	5
c			2	3	5	7
d			3	5	6	8

Scoring the MAPCY



- The MAPCY also includes five possible ways of gaining “bonus points.”
- These capture interactions between domains or other situations that aren’t readily captured by the usual scoring process.

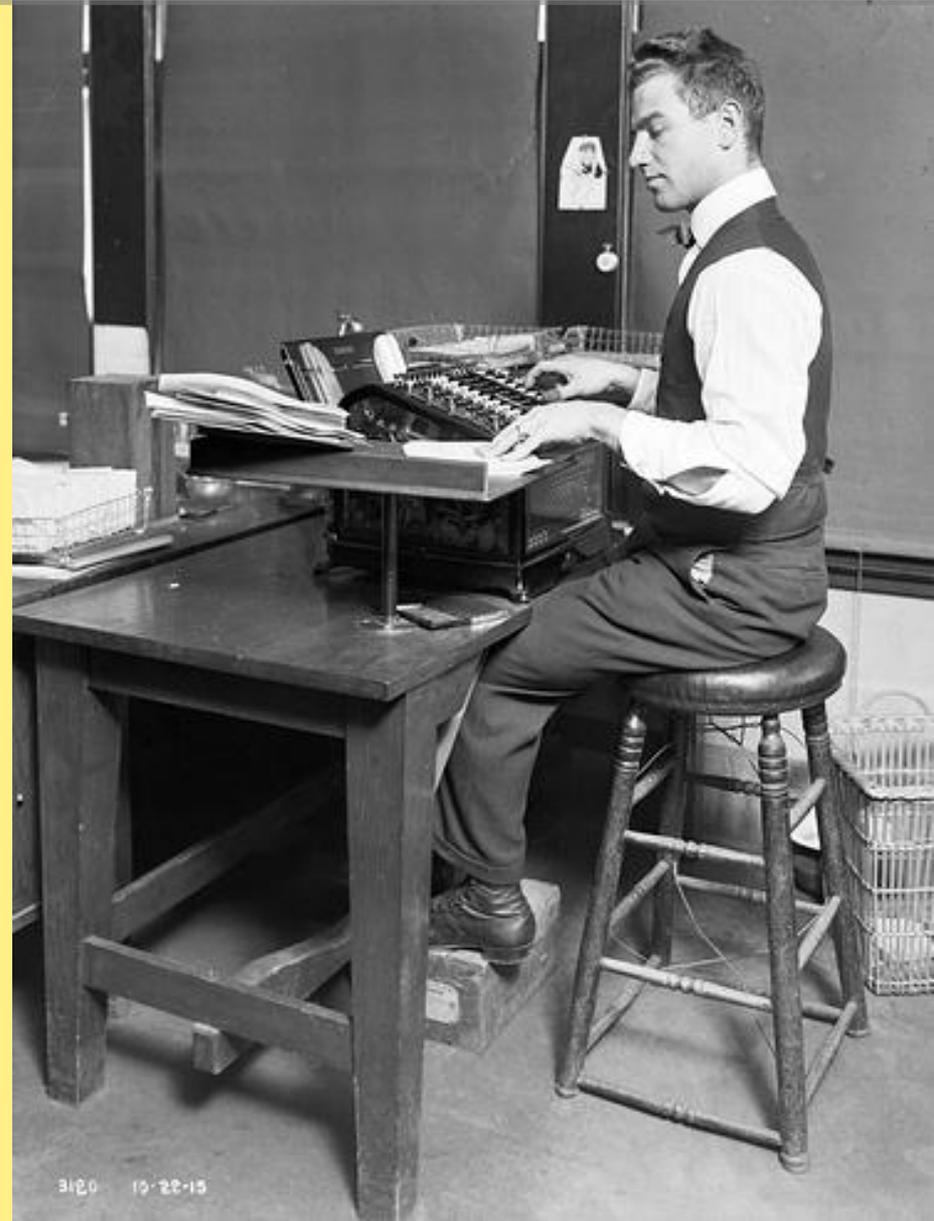
Scoring the MAPCY



- The “bonus rounds” are designed to capture extra care, attention, and impact for the caregiver.
- The bonus rounds use the same child’s needs and parenting indicators as the usual scoring.
- The rater enters these items and the computer does the scoring of the “bonus rounds.”

Scoring the MAPCY

- The computer then adds up all the domains, including any bonus round points, to get the final score.
- The final score is then translated into a benefit (monthly payment) level.



Scoring the MAPCY

A review of scoring:

1. Parenting Level based on indicators using the ladder.
2. Child's Needs are combined with the Parenting Level.
3. Five "bonus rounds" are scored by the computer.
4. Points translate to the benefit level.

We're happy to tell you more, but that's a good overview of scoring.

Exceptional
Extensive
Significant
Basic



Placement Experience

	Child's Needs	Parenting Level			
		Basic	Sig	Extens	Except
		I	II	III	IV
a		1	1	2	3
b		1	2	3	5
c		2	3	5	7
d		3	5	6	8



7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment

- The legislature added the five “extraordinary levels” late in the session.
- We need to adjust the MAPCY to accommodate that provision.
- **We hope your agency will volunteer for the field test in the fall of 2013!**
- Time to move on from the assessment process to other points of how we expect that Northstar Care will work.



Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

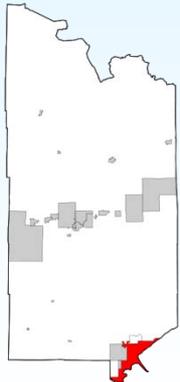
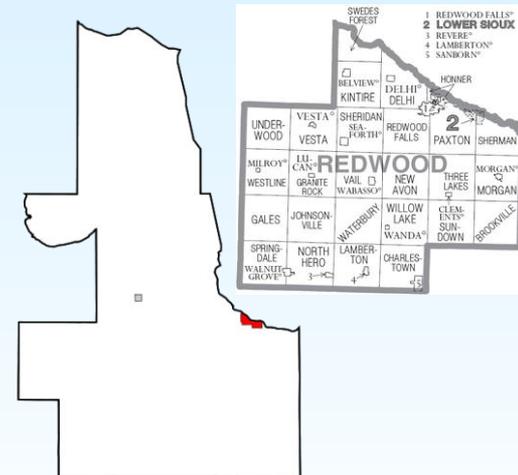
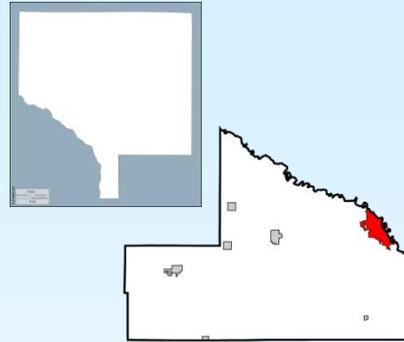
1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
- 8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe**
9. Financial Operations
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- Northstar Care for Children will ripple through the relationship of DHS with counties.
- It will also impact the relationship of DHS with the tribes participating in the American Indian Child Welfare Initiative.

8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- The effects primarily involve operations, but there are other effects as well.
- Many of these changes in relationships may be clear from what we've already covered.



8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- The new Guardianship Assistance component will have payments issued by DHS rather than by counties as with RCA.
- Guardianship Assistance will also involve a stronger role for the tribes than RCA, which has been exclusively administered by counties.



8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe



- As described earlier, Northstar Care for Children will separate more clearly the determining of eligibility from the determination of benefits.
- This may lead to a clearer division of roles between DHS and local agencies (counties or tribes).

8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- Over the past 25 years, DHS has not provided consistent direction on how to use the current DOC assessment.
- In the resulting vacuum, counties and tribes have used the foster care DOC assessment in a variety of ways.
- Some of these have been quite creative, some not very helpful, some simply odd, and many of them inconsistent from agency to agency.



8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe



- There will be more oversight by DHS on the use of the MAPCY than there has been on the use of the current DOC assessment.
- We want to achieve greater consistency of practice across raters and across the state.
- We will need to working together closely with counties and tribes on this.

8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- This will involve state policy guidance, training, quality assurance, and leading groups of state, county, and tribal staff (and likely others as well) to review and improve assessment practice.
- Actually completing the MAPCY will be done by the financially responsible agency.
- And of course, the new extraordinary levels will require state approval, even in foster care.



8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- The use a uniform assessment tool and process (the MAPCY) across all three components will have some more subtle implications.
- Currently, benefits for a child in foster care are based on the DOC assessment, but if moving to AA, benefits are based on a different assessment process.
- This can result in frustration as DHS applies the AA assessment tool.

8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe



- Instead, under Northstar Care, the same agency will be applying the same MAPCY to determine benefits in both situations.
- Counties and tribes (and caregivers) may feel there is less “second guessing” involved.

8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- And of course there will now be a share of foster care to be paid by the state, and a share of guardianship assistance and adoption assistance to be paid by counties and tribes.
- Child welfare will be more of a “shared enterprise” where we must work together or everyone loses.



8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe



- Designed to be fiscally neutral for counties and tribes, Northstar Care will likely increase the attention of the legislature on keeping down foster care costs.
- This may make it easier for the legislature to understand the value of preventive services and post-permanency supports.

8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe

- Northstar Care for Children will ripple through many things as we move toward and past implementation.
- There are doubtless many other shifts that will occur in the relationship of the state with each county, and somewhat different shifts in the relationship of the state with each tribe.

Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
- 9. Financial Operations**
10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

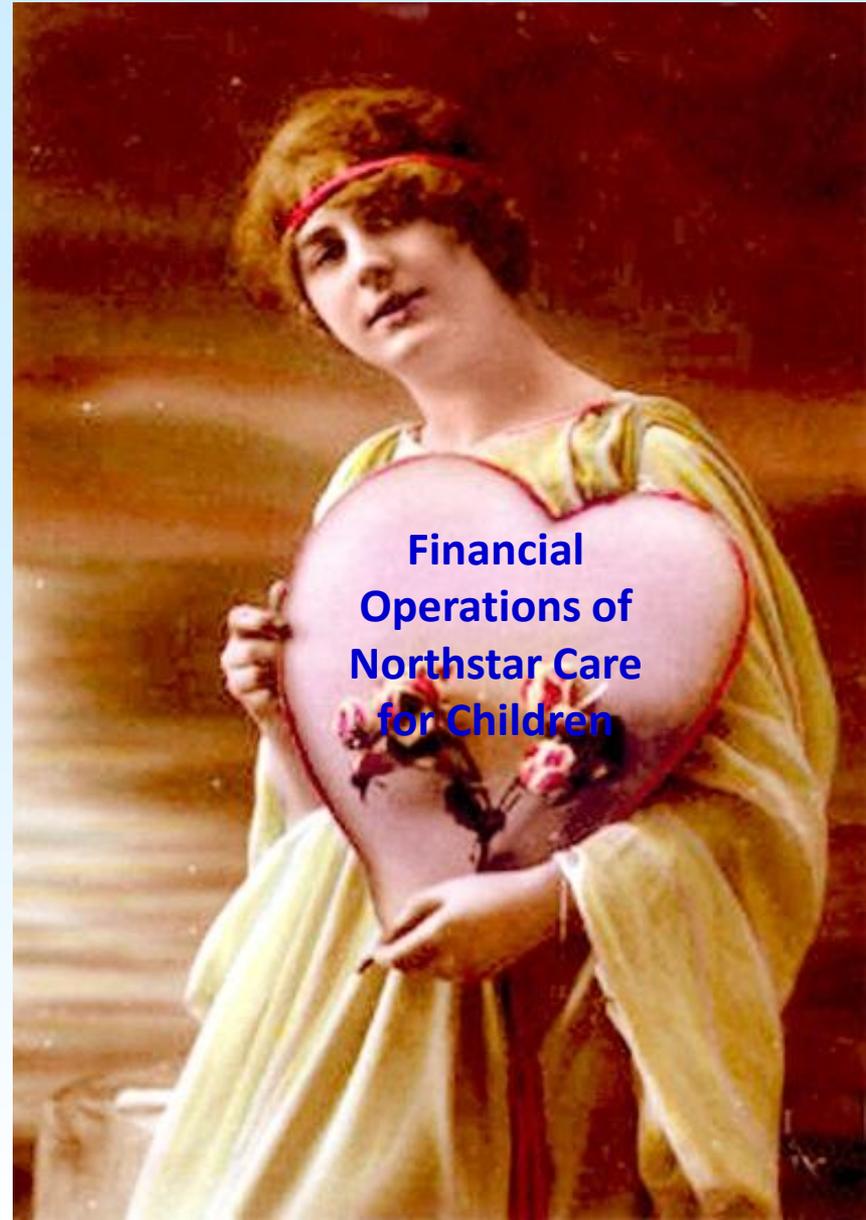
9. Financial Operations

- Some don't care much about the financial operations.



9. Financial Operations

- Some don't care much about the financial operations.
- Others care about little else about Northstar Care for Children.



9. Financial Operations

- This is a high level overview.
- It probably won't satisfy either one.
- There will be much more work on this and more information as we get closer to implementation.



9. Financial Operations

From one point of view, Northstar Care financial operations are quite *familiar*.

- Someone pays the bills. Others get payments.
- Payments are currently issued for foster care, Relative Custody Assistance, and Adoption Assistance.
- Reports get submitted.
- Federal Title IV-E funds currently get claimed.
- All of these continue.

9. Financial Operations

From another point of view, Northstar Care financial operations are *different*.

- DHS issues payments for Guardianship Assistance.
- Payments will be based on the uniform assessment (MAPCY) and a unified set of benefits.
- There will be new claims of federal Title IV-E funds for Guardianship Assistance.
- There are new state shares in foster care and county/tribal shares in Guardianship Assistance and Adoption Assistance.

9. Financial Operations



Northstar Care will be built into SSIS, including the MAPCY and the calculations of payments to caregivers.

9. Financial Operations

- With a state share in foster care, DHS will need data about all eligible foster care expenses.
- DHS already knows about all the Title IV-E children through the quarterly Title IV-E Report.
- There will probably be a new report covering the **non-Title IV-E children** in foster care.
- It could be less complex but perhaps similar to the current Title IV-E Report (or perhaps a new part of that report).

9. Financial Operations

- The state share in foster care and the county or tribal share in Guardianship Assistance and Adoption Assistance (and legacy programs) are after netting off any federal Title IV-E revenue.
- So first DHS will claim Title IV-E, and only then look at who owes what shares (including the legacy ones and the new Northstar Care components).
- And there will be all of the calculations and adjustments to make in order to avoid cost shifting so that the shares are roughly fiscally neutral for counties and tribes.

9. Financial Operations

- DHS Financial Operations Division will likely perform an over-all **reconciliation** process.
- How much each agency spent, how much DHS spent, net off any federal revenue, and how much each one's share was.
- This will yield an amount that DHS owes the agency or vice versa.



9. Financial Operations

- That's the end of our high level overview.
- We'll go on to good practice that Northstar Care supports.
- Wake up or go back to sleep if one of them applies.



Northstar★ Care for Children

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

1. Maintain Old Programs – They Fade Slowly
2. Northstar Care to be Built into SSIS
3. Guardianship Assistance will be New
4. What Northstar Care Includes and Excludes
5. Northstar Care Practice Concepts and Terms
6. Benefits Unified but Eligibility Unique
7. Minnesota's Uniform Assessment
8. Relationship of State with County, with Tribe
9. Financial Operations
- 10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care**

10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

Northstar Care for Children supports child permanency with the focus on well-being and parenting.

- Safety, permanency and well-being are the focus for all children receiving child welfare services.
- Northstar Care begins at foster care placement in family settings.

10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

Northstar Care for Children supports child permanency with the focus on well-being and parenting.

- Children enter family foster care for varied reasons.
- Northstar Care for Children assesses each child's needs and strengths and the parenting by the caregiver to meet those needs.
- This focus supports children living in a family setting to achieve and maintain permanency.

10. Good Practice Supported by Northstar Care

Northstar Care for Children supports child permanency with the focus on well-being and parenting.

- **Reunification** – By identifying the child's needs & strength, and parenting activities needed to support the child in the foster home, this information can be used to plan lasting reunification.
- **Transfer of custody and adoption** – Same processes and assessments are used to determine foster care placement and permanency benefits.

Northst★r Care for Children

Northstar★ Care for Children



Northst★r Care for Children

There were three parts to today's presentation...

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

**There were three parts to
today's presentation...**

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

Part D – Your Questions!

Now for the best part...

Northst★r Care for Children

Part A – Review of Why Northstar Care

Part B – Overview of Northstar Care

Part C – Preliminary How It Works

Part D – Your Questions!

Now for the best part...

Northstar★ Care for Children

- If you aren't able to get your questions answered now, please send them in.
- We will also post the answers to many questions on the DHS website under:

Northstar Care for Children FAQ

- Send questions to:

northstar.care@state.mn.us

Northst★r Care for Children

- Foster Care
- Guardianship Assistance
- Adoption Assistance

Northst★r Care for Children

Northstar★ Care for Children



Northst★r Care for Children

The End

Northst★r Care for Children

The End

Northst★r Care for Children