



ANSWERS for the Human Services Educational Quiz – February 10, 2011 VERSION

Developed for FUTURES – AN UPDATED COPY OF THIS answer sheet will be mailed to FUTURES members after the February meeting. We hope to get additional details from the group debrief that will make the quiz more effective.

If you are using this quiz to educate and initiate discussion at department head meetings or citizen meetings you may wish to print the resources from the Minnesota Department of Human Services website. We also recommend that you put this information in context with addition of data outlining human services program expenditures from your county.

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-4737-ENG>

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_000068

1. County human service offices may include a variety of programs. Denote which county office is not in human services in any of Minnesota's 87 counties.

- a. Public Health
- b. Medical Examiners
- c. Corrections
- d. Social Services
- e. Income Maintenance
- f. Human Resources**

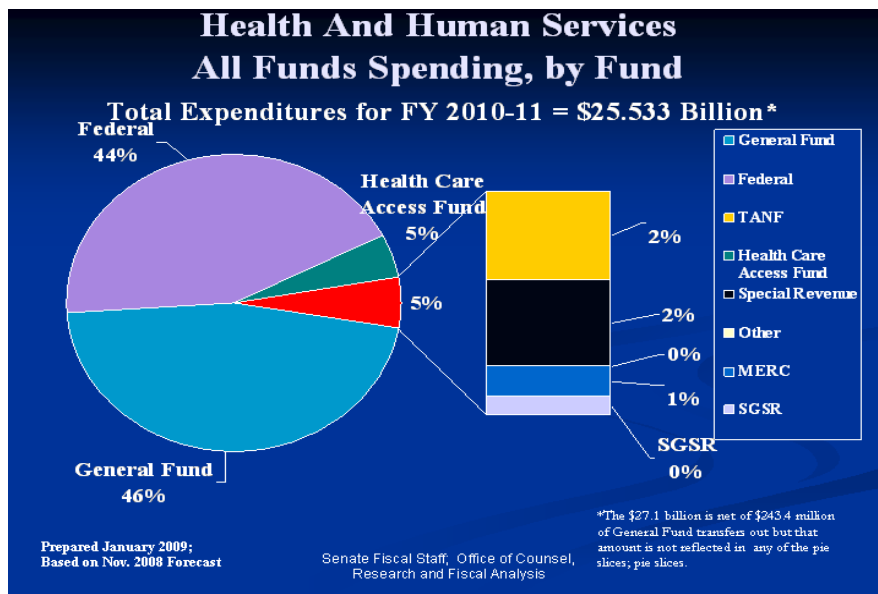
QUESTION 1 ANSWER BACKGROUND: The reason we included this question is to point out that human service data needs to be examined closely before making comparisons between counties because human service offices look different from county to county.

2. How much money is spent on a biennial basis from all funding sources for publicly-funded human services in Minnesota?

- a. \$9.6 billion
- b. \$18.5 billion
- c. \$25.5 billion**

QUESTION 2 ANSWER BACKGROUND: Source: 2009 Senate Fiscal Staff, Research and Fiscal Analysis -

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2009/other/091169/budgetforum.senate.mn/>



3. How much money do counties spend/authorize for human services programs on an annual basis?
- \$4.3 billion
 - \$6.1 billion
 - \$8 billion
 - \$9.9 billion**

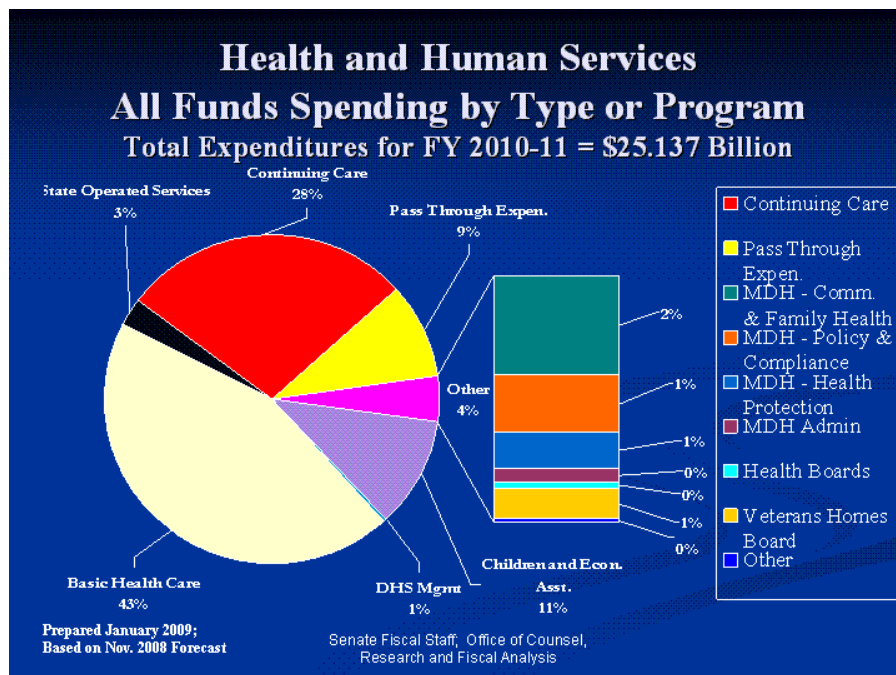
QUESTION 3 ANSWER BACKGROUND: [source: 2009 County Cost Report]

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-4179G-ENG>

4. In which human services program are total state expenditures the largest?
- Basic Health Care**
 - DHS Management
 - Continuing Care
 - Chemical/Mental Health
 - Children and Economic Assistance

QUESTION 4 A

ANSWER BACKGROUND: [sources: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/doc/budget/profiles/human-svcs.pdf> and following chart from Senate Fiscal Staff].



About 43% of spending across all funds in human services is in the area of basic health care. Looking just at General Fund expenditures, about 86% of DHS's General Fund Budget is spent on health care and long-term care programs and related services.

5. What percentage of funding for human services programs in Minnesota comes from county tax dollars or other miscellaneous county revenue (e.g. fees, etc.)?
- a. 41%
 - b. 28%
 - c. 16%
 - d. 7%

QUESTION 5 ANSWER BACKGROUND: [Source: 2009 SEAGR Report]

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&dDocName=Financial_Reporting&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased

6. How has the amount of county tax dollars (and other misc. county revenue) used to pay for human services programs changed over the last 10 years?
- a. Increased by 30%
 - b. Decreased by 6%
 - c. Decreased by 15%
 - d. Stayed about the same

QUESTION 6 ANSWER BACKGROUND: [Source: 2009 County Cost report] For comparison, the county, state and federal proportions of spending for human services programs has remained relatively the same over the last 10 years. In 1999: 45% (federal), 43% (state), 10% (county). In 2008: 46% (federal), 46% (state), 7% (county). In 2009, the numbers were impacted by federal ARRA funds: 49% (federal), 43% (state), 7% (county).

7. Human services spending accounted for what percentage of total county expenditures in 2008?
- a. 15% - 25%
 - b. 25% - 35%
 - c. 35% - 45%
 - d. 45% - 65%

QUESTION 7 ANSWER BACKGROUND: [source: 2008 State Auditor's Report entitled "County Finances"] While the State Auditor's Report indicates the actual percentage to be 27.2%. this is likely a low estimate for most counties as Hennepin County's human services spending likely has a significant impact on the statewide average. In most counties, average human services spending actually accounts for 30% - 40% of the county's total expenditures.

8. What is the average monthly cash benefit for a family of three on MFIP, MN Family Investment Program?
- a. \$437
 - b. \$532
 - c. \$621
 - d. \$697

QUESTION 8 ANSWER BACKGROUND:

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-4737-ENG> (Second Paragraph)

Source: Minnesota Statute: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256J.24>

Subd. 5. MFIP transitional standard.

The MFIP transitional standard is based on the number of persons in the assistance unit eligible for both food and cash assistance unless the restrictions in subdivision 6 on the birth of a child apply. The following table represents the transitional standards including a breakdown of the cash and food portions effective October 1, 2009.

Number of Eligible People	Transitional Standard	Cash Portion	Food Portion
1	\$428:	\$250	\$178
2	\$764:	\$437	\$327
3	\$1,005:	\$532	\$473
4	\$1,222:	\$621	\$601
5	\$1,399:	\$697	\$702
6	\$1,608:	\$773	\$835
7	\$1,754:	\$850	\$904
8	\$1,940:	\$916	\$1,024
9	\$2,125:	\$980	\$1,145
10	\$2,304:	\$1,035	\$1,269
over 10	add \$178:	\$53	\$125

9. If you are on MFIP, you must look for work or get training to prepare you for work. Most people may receive this benefit for how many months?

- 5 months
- 10 months
- 34 months
- 60 months**

QUESTION 9 ANSWER BACKGROUND:

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-3498-ENG>

10. In 2009 how many families received child care assistance and how many children were affected in the state of Minnesota?

- a. 17,700 families received child care assistance for 31,400 children
- b. 10,034 families received child care assistance for 18,200 children
- c. 9,345 families received child care assistance for 14,566 children

QUESTION 10 ANSWER BACKGROUND: Source: Statistics taken from the State of Minnesota Human Services Department Agency Profile Report. Page1 Background - 10/12/2010

11. In some counties the cost of providing correctional services to children is included in the human services budget?

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

12. If you are an undocumented worker (without immigration papers) in Minnesota with children, or are disabled, what assistance can you receive?

- a. No services whatsoever
- b. You MAY get free medical help (emergency medical assistance) if you are elderly, disabled, under 18 or pregnant.
- c. You are able to receive both medical assistance and cash assistance (MFIP)

QUESTION 12 ANSWER BACKGROUND:

[http://www.projusticemn.org/civillaw/mfip_manual/item.1339-L ImmigrationRelated Issues and Considerations#1](http://www.projusticemn.org/civillaw/mfip_manual/item.1339-L%20ImmigrationRelated%20Issues%20and%20Considerations#1)

13. If you are a lawful, permanent adult resident of the U.S. with no income and some level of disability, you MAY be eligible for General Assistance cash assistance. How much money will you receive every month if eligible?

- a. \$203 a month
- b. \$425 a month
- c. \$680 a month
- d. \$800 a month

QUESTION 13 ANSWER BACKGROUND:

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_002558

14. Where are we seeing the largest growth in spending in Human Services?

- a. Health Care
- b. Long Term Care
- c. General Assistance
- d. Services to single moms without kids

QUESTION 14 ANSWER BACKGROUND: [Source: 2009 Budget Trends Study Commission]

Excerpt from Budget Trends Study Commission:

“Growing at an average annual rate of 8.5 percent, state payments for direct health care services are the fastest growing segment of the state’s budget and consume a greater share of available resources each year. State health care programs face many of the same cost pressures that exist in the private health care market, including medical inflation and increased utilization of services spurred in large part by the development of new medical technologies, services, and pharmaceuticals to treat illnesses. In addition, because eligibility criteria for state health care programs are specified in statute, the state accommodates higher enrollment whenever the number of persons eligible for care increase (for example, when the economy weakens).”

15. What do you believe to be the biggest misconception about human services funding among citizens in your county?

- a. Misconception about the amount of money people receive on assistance.
- b. Misconception about the number of people on assistance in your county.
- c. Citizens do not understand where their local or state tax dollar is spent in human services

There is no correct answer. Question 15 and 16 were included to encourage discussion.

16. If county commissioners wanted to make changes locally in funding human services what is within their power to change?

- a. It is too complicated and I don’t think we have a lot of options for change in the current system because we would not be able to comply with the mandates
- b. I think we could have fewer employees and longer waiting lists for services
- c. I believe public outcry would be strong if we reduced county tax dollars in human services because local families would feel the pain.
- d. Other: Discuss in the debrief