



Minnesota's Whole Family Approach

In order to better coordinate and resource the systems that service children, youth, and families, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families is taking a Whole Family Approach to our work. A Whole Family Approach is an approach to practice, program and policy decision making that recognizes and addresses the needs of children and the adults in their lives simultaneously. This approach recognizes that families come in all different shapes and sizes and that families define themselves. These categories answer the question: "What do people need to thrive?"

Early Care and Education

'Care' and 'Education' cannot be separated.

- Supported for kindergarten
- Financial supports/family affordability
- Parent and family education
- Screening and early intervention
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Child care partnerships
- PreK
- Home visiting
- Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (FFN)

K-12 and Youth Services

- Out of school time
- Youth voice, engagement, and opportunities
- Special education
- 3rd grade reading skills
- Parent engagement
- Graduation and postsecondary prep
- Youth justice

Postsecondary & Employment Pathways

- Community college
- Training and credentials
- Workforce partnerships
- Employer partnerships

Social Capital

- Cultural and spiritual identity
- Community and cultural wealth
- Peer and family networks
- Cohort strategies

Economic Assets

- Food security
- Asset building
- Housing and public supports
- Financial capability
- Transportation

Health, including Mental Health

- Mental, physical, and behavioral health
- Coverage and access to care
- Adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress

Adapted from Ascend at the Aspen Institute. The Two-Generation Approach.