

Budget for One Minnesota



DELIVERING A BUDGET FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan’s Budget for One Minnesota strengthens communities by making investments in local and state government so that residents can count on public safety officials to:

- Provide outstanding customer service.
- Investigate and address violent crimes.
- Help prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters.

Individuals and communities thrive when there is efficient public service, prevention of and protection from crime and violence, and continuity in the face of a crisis. The Governor and Lt. Governor built a public safety budget that enables people to thrive in a safer Minnesota.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER SYSTEMS



Vehicle Services System: Vendor-based solution

The Minnesota Licensing and Registration System (MNLARS) replaced the decades-old legacy computer system in 2017 that previously processed motor vehicle transactions. But the system required additional work to meet the needs of consumers and stakeholders. Governor Walz ordered an independent expert review of MNLARS which recommended moving to packaged software instead. Governor Walz authorized \$52.67 million for a vendor-based solution to support the next phase of motor vehicle transactions.

“Minnesotans don’t care how they get their license plates or tabs, they just want them on time and error-free. My administration will continue to make state government as efficient and accountable as possible,” said Governor Walz.



Driver Services System

The driver services system was developed by a vendor, FAST Enterprises. Governor Walz secured \$3 million to fulfill the FAST contract and maintain system progress.

IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE



Faster response and better service

DPS has heard from Minnesotans that more investment is needed to increase responsiveness, reduce the turnaround time for licenses and titles, and improve scheduling for testing and inspection. The Governor authorized a onetime general fund

appropriation of \$3.472 million in FY19 to increase the capability and capacity of DVS to meet the customer service levels needs of its stakeholders, business partners, and the public.



An ongoing commitment to meet customer expectations

Based on the Governor's recommendations, the Legislature approved increasing vehicle services and driver's license fees to support \$15.3 million in FY20-21 from the special revenue fund to increase the capability and capacity of DVS to respond to the demand from stakeholders, business partners and the public to provide services more efficiently and effectively. The legislation included a \$2.25 transaction fee to support secure, reliable, and stable information systems that are responsible for collecting more than \$1 billion in fees annually and provide Minnesotans with necessary driver and vehicle services.

SUPPORTING DEPUTY REGISTRARS

Reimbursement of loss of business

The rollout of MNLARS in 2017 caused a loss of business for deputy registrars across the state. The Governor proposed funding to address those losses by providing an opportunity for reimbursement. The Governor signed legislation authorizing \$13 million from the general fund in FY19 to reimburse deputy registrars who were adversely affected.

TRACKING AND INVESTIGATING PREDATORY CRIMES



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force

The pervasive issue of women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered has devastated indigenous communities in Minnesota for decades. The National Institute of Justice has found that while representing only 2 percent of the population, 84 percent of Alaskan Native and American Indian women will experience some form of violence in their lifetimes, ranging from sexual to physical violence. The Governor has signed legislation that authorizes \$105,000 in FY20 and \$45,000 in FY21 and directs the Office of Justice Programs to convene a task force, in consultation with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, to advise the commissioner and report to the Legislature on the causes and extent of victimization of indigenous women and girls in Minnesota and the strategies to reduce and end violence against indigenous women.

SUPPORT TO ADDRESS OPIOID CRISIS



Investigating and processing opioid cases

In 2015, 330 deaths in Minnesota were linked to heroin and prescription opioids, rising to 395 in 2016. The number of cases requiring analysis for opioids by the BCA Forensic Science Services labs has grown by 87 percent in the last five years, including heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanyl submissions.

As part of a package of proposals recommended by the Walz-Flanagan Administration to address rising rates of opioid use, the opioid bill signed by the Governor includes \$1.242 million

per year from the Opioid Stewardship Fund. The Public Safety Budget Bill includes an additional \$1.3 million per year from the General Fund to support investigations of heroin and other drug crimes. It also enables the addition of six forensic scientists to reduce the current drug evidence turnaround time at the BCA labs.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT



Provide Disaster Assistance for Communities in Need

The Disaster Assistance Contingency Account was established in 2014 to provide a reliable method for reimbursing communities across Minnesota when a federal or state disaster strikes. The account provides financial relief to local governments and state agencies by reimbursing them for their eligible costs of responding to and recovering from disasters.



Funding to Depleted Disaster Account

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan supported immediate funding to replenish the depleted Disaster Assistance Contingency Account. The Governor signed legislation on April 1, 2019, to provide \$10 million to address the deficiency in the account for FY 2019 and ensure Minnesota communities can be reimbursed for costs associated with natural disasters from the past year and this spring.



Continuity of disaster funding helps ensure community prosperity

The Disaster Assistance Contingency Account must remain at an adequate funding level to address disaster needs across Minnesota in the future. With adequate funding in the account, the state can quickly reimburse communities for the eligible expenses without need for the legislature to appropriate the relief dollars for each specific disaster. The Governor secured an additional \$20 million to ensure funds are available to respond to future disasters.

THE MINNESOTA SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER



Security assessment, emergency planning, and training for Minnesota schools

The Minnesota School Safety Center (SSC) provides facility security assessments, emergency plan reviews, active shooter/violent intruder response procedures, school resource officer (SRO) training, threat assessments, and program information briefings to school officials and local law enforcement. SSC staff are consultants and advisors, not regulators.

Increasing demand from local schools



In response to an increase in school shootings across the country, the SSC expanded and extended its offerings to private, charter, and tribal schools. Staff make four to five presentations/contacts each week. Stakeholders have requested new initiatives including creating formal school safety certificate programs/learning paths,

developing POST-certified SRO training and continuing education programs, or create better products to help schools plan post-incident procedures such as family reunification. The Governor signed legislation that provides \$250,000 for additional technical assistance to Minnesota schools.