

Ensure M Savings

2018 Statistics

Missouri Department of Social Services					
CY 2018					
Youth Committed to DYS	885	Youth Entering CD Custody	6,964	Youth Deceased*	861
At time of commit receiving:		At time of entry receiving:		At time of death receiving:	
Food Stamps	434	Food Stamps	4,600	Food Stamps	246
Temporary Asst	28	Temporary Asst	738	Temporary Asst	31
Child Care	3	Child Care	468	Child Care	14
MO HealthNet	511	MO HealthNet	3,862	MO HealthNet	100

If the computer system used by the Family Support Division (FAMIS), were able to interface with the computer system used by Children’s Division to track children taken into custody and child fatalities (FACES) and the computer system used by The Division of Youth Services to track incoming youth, FAMIS could automatically update the children’s member roles and remove them from their active cases. The Family Support Division would then be flagged to take action to update death information (if necessary) and remove the appropriate persons from households, thus ensuring Missouri households are receiving only the benefits they are eligible for. This takes the burden off of the families who are dealing with this often traumatic change to their lives, to remember to report the change. In turn, this will reduce the amount of overpayments issued, claims written, and extra work on multiple departments to attempt to recoup overpaid the funds.

The average payments/person for each program:

Food Stamps = \$122/month

Temporary Assistance = \$96/month

Childcare = There was no average payment that could be determined

Medicaid = \$216/month (This is the capitation payment only and it varies greatly based on age)

The eligibility period for the Food Stamp program is one year, with a mid-certification review sent to the Head of Household at the six-month mark. This is the client’s opportunity to report changes to their household composition, resources, or income. With the Temporary Assistance and Medicaid programs, clients only have 10 days to report these changes to the agency.

The potential savings, based on average payments, that could come from having the various Department of Social Services computer systems be able to interface and benefit cases automatically adjusted are as follows:

- Food stamps – \$3,864,960/six months
- Temporary Assistance – \$883,002/year
- Medicaid - \$13,926,816/year

**It should be noted, in cases of CD or DYS taking custody of a child/youth, the State opens its own Medicaid case for the child/youth...however, if that is the only child in the household, the parent is more than likely no longer eligible for Medicaid benefits and the State would be saving that capitation payment, as well as any other payments made on their behalf.

***In CY 2018, the MO Healthnet Unit and I have determined there were Medicaid capitation payments made for 27 children who were reported as deceased in the FACES system, used by Children’s Division and the Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline. **The amount of those payments, made after the child was reported deceased, was \$94,536.40.**

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Using interfaced systems to combat Public Assistance Benefit Fraud

By having interfaced computer systems within the Department of Social Services, we can proactively take action to prevent fraud by adjusting active benefit cases. If one Division records information in their system about the placement/death of a child, but it doesn't inform the Family Support Division to take action on their benefit cases, we will continue providing the improper amount of benefits to households and will have to continue attempts to collect money from these households. Once this information is recorded by one division, it is considered, "Known to the agency," and the cases can be adjusted.

An example of what could've been stopped if the CD system could send the information about children being taken into custody to the FSD system:

- **04/2012** – Children's Division takes custody of two children and placed them in foster care.
 - **05/2013 – 08/2013** – Children temporarily placed back with mom
 - **09/2013** – Mom fraudulently applied for Medicaid for self and 2 children
 - **10/2013** – Mom fraudulently applied for/received Food Stamps for self and 2 children
 - **12/2013** – Mom has a third child and fraudulently applied for Medicaid for self and 3 children
 - **05/2014** – All children placed with foster parents (who eventually adopted children)
 - **09/2014** – Mom completed FS mid-certification and claimed all three children lived with her
 - **04/2015** – Mom fraudulently applied for/received FS for self and 3 children
 - **01/2016** – Mom fraudulently applied for/received FS for self and 3 children
 - **08/2016** – Mom fraudulently applied for and received FS for self and 3 children
 - **03/2017** – Mom fraudulently applied for and received FS and TA for self and 3 children
 - **10/2017** – Mom completed FS mid-certification and claimed her 3 children lived with her.
 - **05/2018** – Mom fraudulently applied for and received FS for self and all three children
 - **09/2018** - Mom completed FS mid-certification and claimed all three children lived with her.
 - **11/2018** – Mom fraudulently applied for TA for self and 3 children. (Benefits were NOT issued)
- ** FAMIS comment from this application stated the client admitted her children had been in CD custody since 2012 and the agency should have known. (It should be noted, the children did show in Alternative Care on the MXIX (MO Healthnet Division Title XIX cross reference eligibility) screen since 2012, with an occasional break.
- ** This case has not yet been submitted for the loss calculation, but the client has received approximately **\$40,000** since 2013 in FS and TA benefits. The Medicaid loss is unknown at this time.

In Fiscal Year 2018, there were **1202 Food Stamp claims established and 351 Temporary Assistance claims established**. These numbers are a combination of client error and agency error. The amount of overpayments and the amounts recouped are as follows:

- Food Stamps - \$2,236,103.09 overpaid and \$256,563.50 recouped (**11.47% recouped**)
- Temporary Assistance - \$240,818.14 overpaid and \$7155.25 recouped (**2.97% recouped**)

**If we, as a Department, can do our part to proactively stop these overpayments, the amount of claims written and the amount lost per year would significantly decrease.

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What gives the State authority to take action on changes in household compositions?

From the Electronic code of Federal Regulations –

Title 7 → Subtitle B → Chapter II → Subchapter C → Part 273 → Subpart E → §273.12

§273.12 Reporting requirements, states in part – “(c) State agency action on changes. The State agency shall take prompt action on all changes to determine if the change affects the household's eligibility or allotment.”

From the Department of Social Services Food Stamp Manual –

1140.005.00 Changes Not Required To Be Reported By Eligibility Unit

An EU may report changes that are not required to be reported or changes may become known to the agency by other means. In conjunction with the simplified reporting option, Missouri has selected to act on all changes reported or known to the agency. Sources that are considered **known to the agency**:

- Verified actions taken by other programs: Temporary Assistance, Child Care, Non-MAGI, and MAGI
- Information reported by the original source
- Information considered as [Verified upon Receipt](#)
- Verified actions taken by other divisions including, but not limited to: Children’s Division, Division of Youth Services, Child Support, etc...