

Child care (birth – 12 only). What are your needs for child care so you can work outside the home or participate in a training or education program?

Young parents. If a youth is also a parent, what are their parenting needs for their child?

For youth ages 18 -21 living in a supervised independent living setting, the MAPCY measures their needs in the following areas:

Transportation to preserve connections. What transportation does a youth need to visit relatives and kin?

Transportation to work or school. What transportation does a youth need to get to work or school?

Communication. What communication, such as a cell phone or internet, does a youth need to maintain connections with school, work, friends and relatives?

Young parents. If a youth is also a parent, what are their parenting needs for their child?

Child care for young parents. If a youth is also a parent, what are their child care needs so they can work outside the home or attend a training or education program?

The MAPCY assessment provides a more complete and objective picture. It shows what is happening to meet the child or youth's unique needs.

Can I see a blank assessment tool?

Yes. Call the Child Safety and Permanency office at the Minnesota Department of Human Services at 651-431-4485 and ask for a copy.

ADA2 (12-12)

This information is available in accessible formats for individuals with disabilities by calling 651-431-4670 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.



Northstar Care for Children
Supporting safe, permanent families
for children

What is the MAPCY assessment?

Information for
foster families about
the Minnesota Assessment
of Parenting Children
and Youth.

Children and Family Services

MAPCY, or the Minnesota Assessment of Parenting for Children and Youth, is the tool used to determine monthly payment amounts for children placed in the care of foster parents or with relatives who are getting a foster care license. Minnesota county and tribal social service agencies use it when working with foster, kinship and adoptive families.

The MAPCY looks at:

- What the child or youth needs
- What you are doing to meet those needs.

Understanding both is key to helping children and youth in your care.

Here are answers to some of the common questions about the MAPCY assessment process.

How is MAPCY related to payment amounts?

The payment structure is the same for all eligible children, whether in foster care, kinship assistance or adoption assistance.

- A basic payment is available to most children. It provides for a child's food, clothing, shelter and daily supervision. The amount is set by a child's age. It gets larger as the child gets older.
- An extra payment is available to many children. The MAPCY assessment sets this supplemental payment amount by measuring the extra needs of a child and the effort required to meet them.
- Payments range from Level B, or basic only (no supplement), up to very, very high (Level Q).

Payments for foster care, kinship assistance, and adoption assistance are all part of a program called Northstar Care for Children. Your county or tribal worker can tell you more about this.

Who uses MAPCY?

County or tribal workers complete the MAPCY soon after a placement in any of these settings:

- Licensed foster care
- With relatives who are becoming licensed foster parents
- When relatives have accepted a transfer of physical and legal custody
- With families adopting a child who has been under the guardianship of the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services
- Corporate foster care
- Supervised independent living.

What is the process?

After placement, your county or tribal agency worker will begin the process by talking with you and the child or youth. The focus is on what the child or youth needs and how to meet those needs. When the MAPCY is completed, it will have a rating. The rating determines whether the child or youth is eligible to receive a supplemental benefit payment. If so, the rating determines the payment level.

Once the MAPCY is completed, you will receive a written notice and a copy of the MAPCY Rating Report. If you do not agree with MAPCY rating, the notice and report will tell you how to appeal the MAPCY assessment and request a reassessment.

When does it happen again?

A reassessment occurs six months after the first MAPCY, then annually after that. If you feel the needs of the child or youth have changed and/or the parenting you are doing for the child or youth has changed, contact your county or tribal agency worker to request a reassessment.

What gets measured?

For a child or youth living with a caregiver, the MAPCY measures the following areas:

Placement experience. How many placements has a child or youth been in and how will you provide a stable family for the child or youth?

Dynamics in a caregiver's home. How will you give individual attention to each child or youth? How will you make sure they interact in a safe and healthy way?

Supervision, guidance and structure. How will you supervise the child or youth in the home and community?

Mental health, physical health and development. What are a child or youth's physical, mental and developmental needs? What parenting is need that is not usual for a child or youth that age?

Preserving connections. How will you help the child or youth keep their connections to their family that they do not live with?

Developing identity. How will you help the child or youth develop and keep their identity and culture?

Education. How will you support a child or youth's learning at school? How will you help them participate in activities?