

Creating an Equity Blueprint for Child Support



September 28, 2023



In 2021, ACF launched its Equity in Action initiative to build a more just and equitable human services system that treats everyone with fairness. OCSS has been committed to doing our part, and you can read about [our efforts](#) to advance equity for all at the federal level. We're also promoting this important work at the state and tribal level.

This month, ACF awarded \$3.9 million to Minnesota's Department of Human Services to implement the Advancing Equity in Child Support demonstration. Minnesota will examine child support policies and services to assess disproportional access, improve child support services, and share recommendations to promote equitable access to services. Michigan and California are joining Minnesota as the grant co-leads. Several other states and tribes are involved in the grant as participating sites, including Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, and White Earth Nation.

Data collection and partners

Minnesota will conduct a literature review, an environmental scan, and an equity assessment of existing state and tribal child support policies and services. To do this, they'll collaborate with several organizations and experts that specialize in data, equity analysis, community building, and technology. Minnesota will also provide technical assistance and create an Equity in Action Toolkit for participating sites to conduct their own equity assessments.

Minnesota will collect additional race and ethnic data to assess how parents of color experience its program. They will gather qualitative data about experiences from parents in the child support program as well as others who might benefit from child support services, including:

- Members of religious minorities
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons who live in rural areas
- Persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality

We're excited about this demonstration grant and creating a blueprint for an equitable child support program that improves outcomes for children and families. Keep an eye out in the *Child Support Report* for periodic updates about the grant's progress. For past success stories or news on upcoming grants, visit the [OCSS Grants page](#).



Tanguler Gray, Commissioner

This blog gives the commissioner a forum to communicate directly with child support professionals and other partners about relevant topics. The Commissioner's Voice is reprinted from the [September 2023 Child Support Report newsletter](#).

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