

# FFY26 Advance Planning Document Summary

This document will include a summary of the federal fiscal year 2026 advance planning document (APD) for METS Development and the efforts that were approved to be included in this year's annual updates. Project name links will open their full project playbook documents.

## Planning/Implementation APDs

### METS Development ([Implementation Update IAPDU-12](#))

This document requested funding for the implementation of new functionality to enhance the METS system to determine eligibility for MAGI MA, CHIP, and MinnesotaCare. This is an eligibility and enrollment component of the MES. The programs that benefit from METS are Medicaid, CHIP, MinnesotaCare, and MNsure. There are three different cost allocation groups in this APD, depending on which programs the work benefits.

#### *Notable Changes from Last Year*

- Continuous Eligibility for Children and Improving Insurance Access and Affordability: TEFRA efforts deployed functionality and closed in FFY25.
- An as-needed update added the MNEIAM Modernization: METS and MN Paid Family and Medical Leave: METS Impacts efforts.
- This annual update includes two new efforts.

### [Expansion of Medical Assistance for Former Foster Care Basis of Eligibility](#)

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) established MA eligibility for former foster care youth who were in foster care and enrolled in Medicaid (called Medical Assistance in Minnesota) at age 18 or older, without regard to income, until age 26. Medicaid eligibility for former foster care youth (MA-FFY) was then expanded by the 2018 Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act. Sec 1002 of the SUPPORT Act provided two changes to the eligibility criteria for MA-FFY:

- Requires states to provide MA-FFY to youth who were in foster care and enrolled in Medicaid at age 18 or older (also known as aging out) in any state (including the District of Columbia (D.C.) and United States Territories).
- Eliminates the requirement that a youth must first be determined not eligible for another mandatory basis of eligibility to be eligible for MA-FFY. Other mandatory bases include the child, parent, relative caretaker, pregnant woman, certified blind, certified disabled, transitional medical assistance, and transition year medical assistance bases, but not the adult basis.

#### *APD Outcome(s)*

- Former foster care youth will maintain eligibility for Medicaid until age 26.

### MN Enterprise Identity Access Management (MNEIAM): METS

MNIT Enterprise (our statewide IT partner) is upgrading MNEIAM, which is a general login application used by many applications throughout Minnesota state government to authenticate the general public and those that provide services to Minnesotans. This change to move from MNEIAM to LoginMN will impact the system and functionality used by our applicants, enrollees, and state, county, and tribal workers that use the system.

#### *APD Outcome(s)*

- Minnesotans have a common login experience across all Minnesota systems, limiting duplicate logons
- Increased efficiencies for identity and access management and lower operating costs

### MN Paid Family Leave: METS Impacts

Paid Family and Medical Leave is a new state program launching for Minnesotans in 2026. This benefit is considered wage-replacement earnings, taxable by state, and likely taxable at federal level and therefore counted as income under the MAGI methodology.

- For Medicaid and MinnesotaCare, our Basic Health Program (BHP), eligibility determinations will need to include these payments as taxable income. Medicaid and MinnesotaCare applicants and enrollees may attest to receiving the new income payment.
- METS will need a new income type to identify the payments and to track for verification.

#### *APD Outcome(s)*

- Applicants and enrollees are eligible for the appropriate program based on their income.

### Permit Future Pregnancies

Currently, METS allows workers to record only one pregnancy event per member in a case. When a member reports a second or subsequent pregnancy, workers must implement complicated workarounds to ensure accurate eligibility determinations and appropriate coverage for all members involved. Addressing subsequent pregnancies in METS is crucial not only to ensuring accurate eligibility, but also to alleviating strain on processing agency resources.

This effort will introduce new METS functionality to allow workers to update or add subsequent pregnancies rather than closing a case and re-entering the household as a new application. This enhancement will integrate the capability to include an auto newborn to the case whenever a subsequent pregnancy is reported and the child is born, ensuring accurate eligibility determinations and consistent outcomes for all family members, regardless of the timing of updates in METS. By transitioning the existing close-and-reentry process to a change in circumstance, worker time will change from taking over an hour to requiring only 5–10 minutes.

#### *APD Outcome(s)*

- Reported pregnancies can be entered into the system as a change in circumstance, regardless of how many pregnancies have been experienced by the enrollee.

## **METS Financial Verifications**

Recent federal guidance clarified financial eligibility verification requirements for MAGI-based beneficiaries. Based on audit and case reviews it is not always clear how electronic verifications are initiated and applied in METS.

The scope of this initiative will be to review the MA and MinnesotaCare financial verification system processes with METS at application, renewal and changes in circumstances and implement the changes needed to align with the state's verification plan and federal requirements.

### *APD Outcome(s)*

- Income is appropriately verified in alignment with state and federal guidelines.

## **Operational APDs**

### **Medicaid Eligibility Determination System (MEDS) (Operational OAPDU-15)**

This is the document to federal funding for the operational components of the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS) and eligibility and enrollment components of the Integrated Service Delivery Systems (ISDS). This is also the vehicle to report annually the outcome and metric data for systems that receive 75% enhanced match for operations. The E&E components include intake, acceptance, eligibility determination, outputs, ongoing case maintenance activities, customer service, maintenance and routine updates, and the Verify Current Income (VCI) hub. This OAPD includes county and tribal costs related to eligibility and enrollment.

### *Notable Changes from Last Year*

- *It is now required to provide the Operational Report Workbook for outcome and metric data, for this OAPD that is for METS.*
- *We must provide a copy of our Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan with all OAPD Submissions.*
- *on Plan with all OAPD Submissions.*