

# **Adoption Assistance**

---

**Melissa Sherlock, DHS**  
**CJI 2013 Fall Conference**  
**November 1, 2013**



# **Adoption Assistance Fast Facts**

- **Over 7,000 children receive a monthly AA benefit**
- **1000's of children each year receive additional benefits to cover child care, respite care, special costs, and non-recurring costs**
- **Over 500 requests per year to extend AA to support education, up to 21**

# Purpose

- **Families face special challenges raising adopted children with special needs**
- **Reduce financial barrier to adoption of special needs children who would otherwise remain in foster care**

# Benefits

- **Medical Assistance and non-recurring expense**
- **Monthly basic maintenance, supplemental and special needs**
- **May be extended to age 21**

# **Establishing Eligibility**

- **Counties and American Indian Initiative Tribes**
- **Child placing agency, parents and DHS enter into AA agreement**
- **Agreement must be completed before final adoption**

# **Eligibility Criteria**

- **Child demographics**
- **Special needs determination**
- **Title IV-E /state funded**

# **What you need to know**

- **Adoption Assistance is a benefit that helps achieve permanency**
- **DHS can offer assistance to counties, tribes and courts**
- **Northstar Care for Children changes Adoption Assistance**

# Contact Information

- **Edward McBrayer**
  - [Edward.I.Mcbrayer@state.mn.us](mailto:Edward.I.Mcbrayer@state.mn.us)
- **Tammy VanMoer**
  - [tamera.vanmoer@state.mn.us](mailto:tamera.vanmoer@state.mn.us)