

MINN PLANNING

Minnesota Milestones

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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Winter/Spring 1992

Choosing Our Future, a draft vision document was distributed to thousands of citizens for review and comment. Next, the vision was revised based on citizen input.

Phase II: Measuring Progress

Spring 1992

During this time, goals and measurements were developed to achieve the vision. Minnesota Planning staff developed 27 broad goals and 103 indicators of progress. *Minnesota Milestones: Public Review Draft* was published.

Summer 1992

Minnesota Planning took *Minnesota Milestones: Public Review Draft* back to the public for comment. Almost 500 people attended one of 15 meetings across the state to comment on the public review draft. Presentations were made to numerous civic and community groups around the state. Experts were asked to review and comment on specific indicators. Surveys were included in the draft report to encourage public response and more than 8,000 report copies were distributed for comment.

Phase III: Moving Forward

Fall/Winter 1992

Final revisions were made and *Minnesota Milestones: A Report Card for the Future* was published in December 1992. State agencies began incorporating *Minnesota Milestones* in their budget requests.

1993

Efforts began to develop strategies to achieve the state's goals in *Minnesota Milestones*.



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What is Minnesota Milestones?

Minnesota Milestones is a citizen-based, 30-year plan for the state characterized by concrete and measurable goals. It is a way for Minnesotans to hold their leaders accountable. A report card serves as the summary and the report contains 20 broad goals and 79 specific milestones to measure progress.

Minnesota Milestones is the result of a citizen-based planning process. More than 10,000 Minnesotans participated in the process by:

- attending one of 45 meetings across the state
- filling out mail-in surveys
- reviewing draft documents (more than 9,000 copies were distributed)
- writing letters

The report contains a vision for Minnesota, with goals and milestones to measure progress. It is based on the ideas from *Reinventing Government*:

- what gets measured tends to get done
- if you don't measure results, you can't tell success from failure
- if you can't recognize success, you can't reward it
- if you can't recognize failure you can't learn from it

The plan's 20 goals include:

- Sustaining above average economic growth in Minnesota.
- Maintaining economically viable small cities, rural and urban areas.
- Emphasizing advanced education so Minnesota will become a global economic leader.

We will measure progress toward these goals by periodically measuring 79 milestones such as:

- Minnesota per capita gross state product
- County per capita income
- College graduation rates

How effective is Minnesota Milestones and how is the legislature using it?

The 30-year plan has had an immediate impact on state agency budgets. State agencies have used the goals and indicators set forth in *Minnesota Milestones* in preparing their budget recommendations. *Minnesota Milestones* established the people's priorities and effectively implanted those priorities in state agency budgets. Through its 79 indicators, *Minnesota Milestones* provides a concrete way for citizens to measure results and hold government accountable.

The legislature embraced the notion of performance budgeting and passed a law last year requiring every state agency to prepare performance budgets with strategic plans and measurable results.

National acclaim

Since the publication of *Minnesota Milestones* in December 1992, Minnesota Planning, state agencies, the Legislature, the private sector and others have been developing strategic plans to achieve the state’s long-range goals. *Minnesota Milestones* does not include strategies because strategies change depending on what works, what doesn’t and who is in charge. But the people’s vision and long-range goals should remain unchanged into the future.

Some examples of strategies developed to achieve the goals in *Minnesota Milestones* are:

- **State of Diversity:** An action plan to combat racism in Minnesota.
- **Action for Children:** Long-range strategies to improve the lives of Minnesota children and their families.
- **Economic Blueprint:** Goals to ensure a good standard of living for all citizens.
- **Sustainable Development:** Developing new ways to protect the environment and develop the economy.
- **Affordable Housing:** Linking housing, transportation and jobs so that all Minnesotans have access to safe, clean and affordable housing.
- **Minnesota Children’s Initiative:** A major effort conducted in conjunction with the Pew Charitable Trusts to improve outcomes for the state’s children.
- **Family Services Collaboratives:** An \$8 million family services collaborative grant program to help communities make major service delivery reforms for families and children.
- **Community Report Cards:** Developing an on-line children’s report card for every community in the state. Within seconds, a customized report card for cities, counties or school districts will appear on the computer screen. Any Minnesotan will be able to view data from a variety of databases such as health, education demographics and crime, and compare performance with other localities, regions and the state.

Minnesota has received numerous inquiries regarding replication of the process from, among others:

- White House
- U.S. General Accounting Office
- National Governor’s Association
- National Association of State Budget Officers
- State Council of Governments
- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Texas
- Maine
- Vermont
- Florida
- Idaho

Chronology of Minnesota Milestones

National and local media have given *Minnesota Milestones* favorable ratings:

Very good long-range planning... ambitious Minnesota Milestones project targets goals and measures progress.
– Financial World, May 11, 1993

Allowing citizens to set the agenda and following through with solid goals is an admirable way of doing business.
– City and State newspaper, Sept. 1, 1992

Minnesota Milestones can help define goals and thereby help shape how Minnesotans conceive their future. And that can improve the state.
– Minneapolis Star Tribune Aug. 18, 1992

[Minnesota Milestones] will enable Minnesotans to identify the state’s problems and their solutions to devise a system to ensure that politicians make progress toward meeting those goals.
– St. Paul Pioneer Press Aug. 8, 1992

Winter 1991

Shortly after taking office, Governor Arne H. Carlson received a copy of *Oregon Benchmarks* and decided to begin a similar effort in Minnesota. *Oregon Benchmarks* identified 162 specific indicators that the people of Oregon could use to hold their leaders accountable for results. Minnesota Planning was asked to take the lead and named the effort *Minnesota Milestones*. A chronology of the milestones process is presented below.

Phase I: Finding the Vision

Summer/Fall 1991

Public participation in determining the future of Minnesota was an important part of the *Minnesota Milestones* project. Over the summer and fall of 1991 Minnesota Planning conducted an intensive outreach campaign to involve Minnesotans in the milestones process. Community meetings were held across the state, thousands of invitations were mailed, and an aggressive medial effort was waged to bring citizens to the meetings. More than 1,600 Minnesotans attended one of 30 community meetings held in 15 locations around the state. In small groups, citizens discussed their dreams and hopes for the future of Minnesota.

December 1991/January 1992

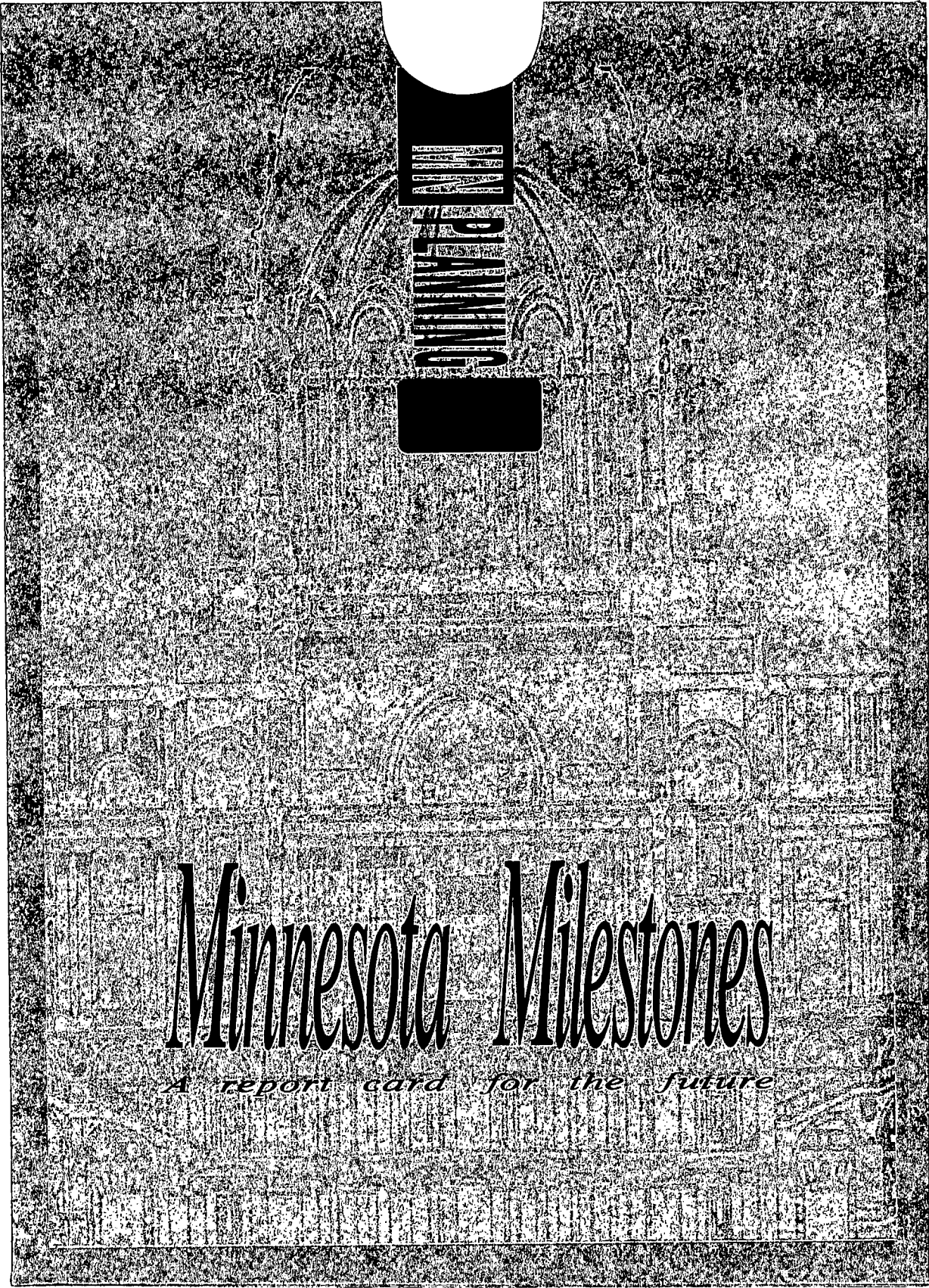
Minnesota Planning staff members sifted through over 40,000 ideas expressed at the public meetings. From those ideas came a vision statement outlining what Minnesotans want their state to be like 20 or 30 years from now. A preliminary vision statement was drafted.

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MINNESOTA
PLANNING

Minnesota Milestones

A report card for the future

Minnesota Milestones

1993 Progress Report



Dear Reader:

Please complete this survey and help us improve our publications.

1. How useful is **Minnesota Milestones: 1993 Progress Report**?

☐ very useful ☐ somewhat ☐ not very ☐ not useful at all

2. How would you rate the quality of the contents?

☐ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ poor

3. How will you use this report?

☐ planning ☐ evaluating activities ☐ public relations

☐ background information ☐ other: _____

4. With what type of organization are you affiliated?

☐ legislature ☐ academic ☐ media ☐ local government

☐ state agency ☐ library ☐ nonprofit ☐ federal government

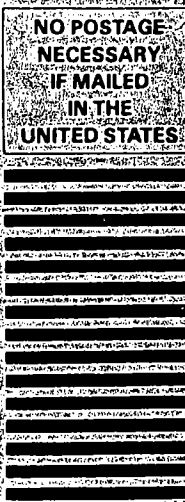
☐ business ☐ other: _____

5. Additional comments are appreciated:



Thank you for your help.

MINNESOTA PLANNING is charged with developing a long-range plan for the state, stimulating public participation in Minnesota's future and coordinating public policy with state agencies, the Legislature and other units of government.



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Minnesota Milestones

1993 Progress Report

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Now available on Internet

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT CARD



on-line information

What is a children's services report card?

A children's services report card is a way for a community to measure how its children are faring. Communities can use the report card to see how they compare with other counties or the state as a whole on 21 important children's indicators. Over time, the report card can help identify what efforts work and don't work and how to best use resources to shape the future for Minnesota's children.

The children's services report card project grew out of the state's long-range planning effort, *Minnesota Milestones*, initiated by Governor Arne H. Carlson in 1991. More than 10,000 Minnesotans across the state helped to develop the *Milestones* vision of the state's future, which is reflected in 20 goals and 79 *Milestones*, or indicators of progress. The state will be using these indicators, many of which focus on children, to measure its progress over time and to evaluate the success of the strategies designed to meet these goals.

In many communities, family services collaboratives have been formed to plan and restructure the way services are provided to children and families. The report card is a tool for collaboratives to use in measuring results and setting priorities for their community.

Benefits of the children's services report card

The children's services report card can help communities monitor how well they are doing. Data for the state, regions and other counties provide a yardstick against which a community can compare itself. As

more years of data become available, communities will be able to track trends over time.

Communities can use the report card to mobilize community support for action on behalf of children and families. The report card can be shared with the general public, community meeting participants, elected officials and government representatives, technical experts and media representatives. It can be distributed through the mail, inserted in local newspapers, included in school mailings and other information distributions, and handed out at shopping centers, churches and community meetings.

How to get the children's services report card

The children's services report card is available online from the Minnesota Planning's DATANET computer system. To use the system, you can subscribe to DATANET using the enclosed order form or use your library's subscription. You also can request a printed copy of your county's report card from Minnesota Planning.

Definitions for indicators

The 21 children's indicators selected for the children's services report card cover children from birth to age 18. While each indicator describes one aspect of children's well-being or quality of life, together they can show what progress has been made for Minnesota's children and families.

Although changes from year to year should be noted, care must be taken not to give these too much importance if they are small in relation to the overall

June 1, 1995

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES RESTRUCTURED IN NEW DEPARTMENT

A major step toward government reform will be taken when Governor Arne H. Carlson signs into law a new Department of Children, Families and Learning. Effective October 1, 1995, the law replaces the Department of Education with a new department that will unify a variety of programs now scattered across seven state agencies.

"By bringing together programs under one roof, we plan to eliminate duplication, fragmentation and turf battles," said Gov. Carlson. "The agency will be able to reduce bureaucratic burdens and focus on children and families."

First proposed by Carlson in 1993, the new department is intended to create a lasting change in the way services for children and families are designed and delivered. Collectively, programs will rework services, redesign procedures and establish measures of success. It will increase flexibility in the design, funding and delivery of programs — both at the local and state levels — and enhance local decision-making, collaboration and governance.

Designed to measurably improve the well-being of Minnesota's children and families, the idea for the new department grew out of a 1992 study that identified 250 state-funded programs for children and families spread across 33 state agencies, boards and commissions.

As part of Gov. Carlson's government reform package, all programs in the Department of Education will be shifted to the new agency, along with three from the Department of Economic Security, three from Minnesota Planning, seven from the Department of Human Services, one from the Department of Corrections and two from the Department of Public Safety.

The new agency will be phased in over a three-year period. By July 1, the Governor will name a commissioner-designate who will work with a planning team to design the organizational structure. On September 30, 1995, the Department of Education will be abolished. On October 1, 1995, the new department will be created with programs from the former education department. Programs from other departments will be transferred into the new department on July 1, 1996, and July 1, 1997.

-more-

"By working together, we can focus the new department on nurturing and challenging every child to success," said Gov. Carlson. "The end result will be a sustained and comprehensive approach to serving Minnesota children and families."

The new department represents the long-term work of the Children's Cabinet, Action for Children and the Legislative Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families.

**Programs to be included in
Department of Children, Families and Learning**

From the Department of Education:

All programs, including adult education, libraries, and special ed and Part H

From the Department of Economic Security:

Head Start

Project Cornerstone

Community Action Programs

From Minnesota Planning:

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Action for Children

The Minnesota Children's Initiative

From the Department of Human Services:

Family Service Collaboratives

Children's Trust Fund

Early Childhood Care and Education Council

Child Care

Migrant Child Care

Child Care Resource and Referral

Child Care Service Development

From the Department of Corrections:

Child Abuse/Child Victim

From the Department of Public Safety:

Drug Policy and Violence Prevention

Chemical Abuse and Violence Prevention Councils

Approximate number of employees: 470

-end-

Upon request, this information will be made available in an alternate format, such as Braille, large print or audio tape.