



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keeping teens healthy: Program offers free checkups to age 20

Child and Teen Checkups can help youth get free wellness visits from local medical, dental and vision providers.

“These checkups are important for everyone,” said Denise Sjodin, Crow Wing County public health nurse. “Parents are great at bringing small children in for regular checkups. That tends to drop off through the teenage years.”

Even if teens are healthy, Sjodin says, medical checkups are needed at least every two years. Checkups include physical, mental and emotional health screenings, including immunizations.

To qualify for a free checkup through Child and Teen Checkups, youth must be age 20 or younger, and on Medical Assistance.

“We want eligible people to use this program for their checkups while it’s available to them,” Sjodin said. “Don’t wait until there’s a problem to see a doctor.”

Crow Wing County residents can get more information, along with a current list of medical, dental and eye clinics at www.ChildAndTeenCheckups.com. Or, by calling 1-877-724-1080. To schedule a checkup, contact the clinic and ask for a Child and Teen Checkup.

Those living outside of Crow Wing County should contact their local county public health department to learn more.

Community Services expends more than \$163 million dollars annually, of which 4.66%, \$7.6 million is funded by the county levy. In 2015, total program costs were \$163,133,479 with Medical Assistance programs being the highest spending area at \$110 million, or 67.5% of the total program costs. Social Service programs represent the second largest portion of the total at \$41.4 million, or 25.4%. Cash assistance programs were 6.3% of the total at \$10.2 million. While this is a large portion of the county budget we have seen a significant decrease. For example, from 2009 to our proposed 2017 budget, we have reduced tax levy dollars by \$1,209,306, a decrease of 14.3%.

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota’s favorite place.
Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.
Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

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