The Social Services Director provides leadership, critical thinking, and strategic direction to the Social Services Department and Community Services Division. If you are looking to grow professionally, be challenged and lead a service delivery system that is cutting edge and redefining the way an integrated social services model is provided, this may be the job for you. Dakota County Community Services is redefining how government works in a more modernized, integrated, and customer oriented fashion. This is a top leadership position that has a local, regional, state, and national profile. This position reports directly to the Community Services Division Director.

County overview
Dakota County, Minnesota is one of seven counties in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Located across the Mississippi River to the south of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Dakota County is the third most populous county in the state of Minnesota with a population of just more than 417,486 with an increasing growth of diverse populations.

Dakota County’s 593 square miles are one-third urban, one-third suburban, and one-third rural. This land use combination, the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, and the Vermillion River — the only trophy trout stream within a major metropolitan area — make Dakota County a unique geographic area.

Dakota County has a strong tradition of community collaboration that has produced a high-quality of life for its residents with excellent school systems, exemplary parks and libraries, high-quality public services, and a vibrant business climate. This is reflected through Dakota County Core Values of service, integrity, people, and innovation.

The Organization
Dakota County government consists of five divisions, 27 departments and a workforce of approximately 2,000 employees that work in 20 locations across the County including three primary service centers, nine public libraries, a transportation maintenance facility, and other smaller facilities. Seven elected County Board members representing seven resident districts oversees and directs the course of the organization. Other elected officials include the County Attorney and the County Sheriff. The County Manager (Chief Executive) is an appointed position.

The Community Services Division
The Community Services Division is headquartered at the Northern Service Center in West St Paul, Minnesota. Several Division staff are also assigned to work at other locations throughout the County. The Division includes the Social Services Department, the Community Corrections Department, the Employment and Economic Assistance Department, the Public Health Department, the Veteran Services Department, and the Community Services Administration Department.

Social Services Department
The Social Services department, with approximately 300 employees, provides community-based services to protect and support the most vulnerable children and adults. The department promotes the capacity of communities to provide for their own safety, self-sufficiency, and quality of life. The Social Services Department is organized into five major sections: Children and Family Services, Adult Services, Community Living Services, Housing and Community Resources, and Administrative Operations/Quality Assurance.

Children and Family Services (C&F)
Children and Family Services Section has a single intake function that provides information and referral to community resources for child welfare issues. One of the primary services is child protection assessment, which is addressed through either the traditional investigation or family assessment tracks. Staff also works with involuntary child protection case management, adoption and guardianship services, as well as
voluntary access to children’s mental health assessment and ongoing mental health case management. Other voluntary services provided include child care licensing, foster care recruitment and licensing, adoption services, truancy reduction, and minor parent’s case management.

**Adult Services (AS)**
The Adult Services Section includes an intake function, as well as assessment and case management for Chemical Health, Adult Mental Health, and Adult Protection. This section includes Supportive Housing intake, assessment and case management. In addition, the Crisis Response Unit is housed here, providing 24/7 immediate response to law enforcement and medical professionals with after-hours crisis situations.

**Community Living Services (CLS)**
The Community Living Services Section oversees Long Term Care Services and Supports, which includes Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Aging, MN CHOICES Assessments, Alternative Care and Waivered Services, and Personal Care Assistance programs. Staff in this section work to maintain citizens in the least restrictive/community based settings by providing home based services through federal waiver programs, as well as provide ongoing case management for these populations.

**Housing and Community Resources**
The Housing and Community Resources section includes homelessness prevention, shelter and housing resources, community resource development, transportation & GoDakota, quality assurance, adult foster care licensing and legal-non-licensed child care licensing.

**Administrative Operations and Quality Assurance (AO/QA)**
The Administrative Operations and Quality Assurance section provides clerical, administrative, and analytical support to all program areas. Employees in this section are responsible for data entry, purchasing, reception, filing, transcription, equipment, and various other administrative services, as well as coordination of data and reporting systems. This section is also responsible for securing payment to vendors for client services and monitoring program and fiscal mandates to ensure compliance with the requirements associated with revenue streams.

**Organization Chart**

[Organization Chart]

**Click here** to learn more about this unique career opportunity.

_Dakota County – A Premier County in which to Live and Work_