



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

MFIP expects, supports and rewards work

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) provides temporary assistance to low-income families with one or more child under age 19 and to women who are pregnant. MFIP assistance includes job counseling, cash, food and child care assistance. The longest period of time most parents with minor children can get cash help is a total of 60 months; most families are off assistance within two years. The program helps families by expecting, supporting and rewarding work.

MFIP expects parents who receive cash and food benefits to work

- MFIP participants work with a job counselor. They are required to participate in work activities or look for a job at least 30 hours per week and must take any suitable job offer.
- Failure to follow work rules results in a 10 percent grant reduction in the first month and 30 percent in the second through sixth months. After six months, a case is closed.
- Three years after entering MFIP, approximately 70 percent of participants are either off cash assistance or working 30 or more hours per week.
- Cash and food benefits are issued electronically through electronic benefits transfer (EBT).

MFIP supports working parents with various services

- Almost all families on MFIP are eligible for health care coverage.
- MFIP participants qualify for assistance to pay for child care while working or when following an employment plan approved by a job counselor. Depending on income level, a co-pay for child care may be required.
- In state fiscal year 2008, \$9.8 million in child support was collected and distributed to families in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

MFIP rewards working families transitioning to economic stability

- Families on MFIP may not have all earned income count in determining their grant amounts.
- Families leave MFIP when their income is about 15 percent above the federal poverty level.
- Health care coverage may continue for many families after leaving MFIP.
- A family of three — two children, one adult — with no other income receives \$1,005 a month, which includes Food Support. When that same parent is working, the parent's earnings are counted against a grant standard of \$1,106 a month. The family remains on MFIP until its gross earned income is \$1,812 a month, or 115 percent of the 2009 federal poverty level.
- As of July 2009, a single parent with two children, working 30 hours per week at \$7.25 per hour, is eligible for \$535 a month, or 46 percent more than if not working and on MFIP only.
- In December 2008, 62 percent of MFIP families had received cash benefits for less than 25 months, counting against their 60-month time limit.

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by calling us at (651) 431-4671. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529. For Speech-to-Speech, call (877) 627-3848. For additional assistance with legal rights and protections for equal access to human services programs, contact your agency's ADA coordinator.