



Facts about the Minnesota Family Investment Program

The Minnesota Family Investment Program provides job counseling and up to 60 months of financial assistance to families in poverty with minor children, and to pregnant women with low incomes. Families with significant specific challenges, such as serious mental illness, cognitive disability or incapacitating illness, may receive assistance for more than 60 months. In 2019, the program served an average of about 27,000 families a month.

Program helps children, parents

- About 72% of the individuals served by the program are children.
- About 61% of children on the program are age 6 or younger.
- About 7% of the adults who have turned to the program since its implementation in 1998 have reached their five-year lifetime limit on benefits.

Parents are expected to work

- Job counselors ensure that parents participate in work activities and help solve barriers to employment.
- Parents may pursue Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language or post-secondary training to meet education requirements for jobs.
- Failure to follow work rules results in a 10% reduction in assistance in the first month and 30% reduction in the second through sixth months if the individual does not start complying with work rules. After six months of continued failure to comply with work rules, assistance ends.

Families work toward stability

- Families can receive help paying for child care while working or preparing for work.
- A family of three — a parent with two children — with no other income can receive \$632 in cash assistance and \$412 in food benefits per month. That adds up to \$1,044, less than two-thirds of the poverty level of \$1,810 for a family of three. Some families also receive a monthly \$110 Minnesota Family Investment Program housing assistance grant.
- When parents work, families receive reduced assistance. Once the earnings of a family of three reaches \$1,537 a month, the family no longer receives cash assistance, but may continue to receive food benefits, housing assistance and help paying for child care until earnings reach \$2,360 (\$550 over the poverty line for a family of three).

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