Non-citizen Participation in Family Assistance Programs

Undocumented immigrants, including those in the country illegally, are not eligible for family cash assistance in Minnesota. There are numerous categories of legal, documented non-citizens that are eligible for the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP). The categories of eligibility based on characteristics of the applicant and the date of entry into the United States are explained in the manual referenced below.

Figure 1 illustrates the percent of all MFIP/DWP caregivers that are legal, documented non-citizens. Ten to 15 percent are refugees and about 2 percent are other legal non-citizens.

Figure 2 presents the distribution of legal, documented, non-citizen MFIP/DWP caregivers by race/ethnicity, identifying the four largest immigrant groups each year, over time. The two largest groups of immigrants in MFIP or DWP have consistently been Hmong and Somali refugees.

For more information on racial/ethnic groups on MFIP, see the Welfare Reform Outcomes of Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Groups in Minnesota: Racial/Ethnic and Immigrant Studies (REIS) series at www.mn.gov/dhs (Economic Supports / MFIP / Reports). For policy on eligible non-citizens, see www.mn.gov/dhs. (County and Tribal Workers / Manuals / Combined Manual / Current Version of the Entire CM / 0011.03.03).