



Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program: Characteristics of Cases and People

December 2017

02/2020



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Executive Summary

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is Minnesota's family cash assistance program providing financial payments and other services to help stabilize low-income families economically. The Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is a short-term program meant to assist families in crisis to quickly regain employment. The MFIP grant includes a food portion funded by the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); DWP participants can apply for stand-alone SNAP. Both programs are available only to families with minor children or pregnant women.

Cases and People. In December 2017:

- MFIP: 59,301 children and 23,498 adults in 29,154 cases.
- DWP: 4,624 children and 2,963 adults in 2,456 cases.

The caseload size fell 3% overall, with a 4% decrease in DWP and 3% in MFIP from December 2016 to December 2017, continuing a seven year decline.

Participant Demographics.

Families participating in MFIP or DWP tend to be young:

- An average adult age of 32 for both MFIP enrolled-adult and DWP cases.
- More than half of families with a child younger than 6.

Most enrolled adults are female:

- MFIP: 81%
- DWP: 76%

Most enrolled adults participating in MFIP or DWP have at least a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate:

- MFIP: 67%
- DWP: 77%

Most enrolled adults are U.S. citizens

- MFIP: 84%
- DWP: 88%

Introduction

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 [PL 104-193] set federal program requirements for state cash assistance programs that use federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, such as a five-year limit on cash assistance, a work-first emphasis, work requirements and other rules. Within this broad framework, states have the flexibility to design the program's specific policies. The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Minnesota's TANF program launched in 1998. The program uses the TANF federal block grant and state funds to provide families in deep poverty with income support, food benefits and services to support employment. State funds are used for grants to households with two-parents, teen parents, certain non-citizens, and families participating in the Family Stabilization Services (FSS) track.

In 2005, the federal Deficit Reduction Act [PL 109-171] retained the original main program requirements but narrowed the definition of work activities and increased work activity documentation requirements.

The state introduced the Family Stabilization Services track to MFIP in February 2008 for families with multiple barriers or disabilities who may benefit from a more flexible employment plan. This service track enables counties and tribes to develop employment plans with an emphasis on overcoming barriers to employment, and use a case management model to help families achieve the greatest amount of economic stability possible. Because Minnesota funds benefits to families in these service tracks, they are not included in the federal Work Participation Rate. All active MFIP cases, including families in Family Stabilization Services, are included in the MFIP case and person totals in this report.

The Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is a separate program with services that include job training and education, and employment support services such as child care and transportation assistance. DWP participants are required to engage in approved activities documented in their mandatory individual employment plan. DWP grants last a maximum of four months and are paid directly to landlords and utility companies to cover portions of housing and utility costs.

Report format

This report provides a snapshot of all active cases in MFIP and DWP in December 2017. The Department has produced annual characteristics reports since the beginning of MFIP in 1998. Data are provided on

the demographics of enrolled adults;¹ family composition, residence, and challenges; economic status of cases; and MFIP policy impacts.

Some families receiving MFIP have only children, but no adults, eligible for MFIP cash assistance. This includes families with disabled parents receiving federal disability income support and families in which a relative with custody of the children is only requesting assistance for the children. These households are not subject to work requirements and time limits. To reflect program differences, the MFIP population is divided into three categories:

- child-only cases that include children but not their caregivers on the grant,
- families with one-enrolled adult,
- families with two parents enrolled.

The DWP population, which does not include child-only cases, is divided into cases with one or two enrolled adults.

The Mille Lacs American Indian Tribal Council and Red Lake Nation both administer tribal TANF programs. Tribal TANF programs are not under the jurisdiction of the state. The Mille Lacs American Indian Tribal Council administers TANF-eligible cases in its jurisdiction, including cases for tribal members in Hennepin, Ramsey and Anoka counties. Red Lake Nation administers Tribal TANF to TANF-eligible cases within its jurisdiction, and to TANF-eligible families who identified their race as American Indian living in Beltrami County. These two tribal TANF programs are not included in this report. The White Earth Nation administers state MFIP eligibility and employment services for White Earth Nation tribal members and their program is included in this report.

Within this report, Quick Facts sheets highlight important information from the larger tables using small charts and bulleted text. Relevant policy information needed for interpreting data are included in shaded text boxes. The source tables are referenced in footers. Unless otherwise stated, figure legends referencing MFIP refer to MFIP cases with enrolled adults, not child-only cases. (There are no DWP child-only cases.) Quick Facts sheets were designed to be stand-alone, mini-reports so readers can share topics relevant to their work by copying a single page. Detailed policy and data definitions beginning on page 18 are helpful in understanding tables and Quick Facts sheets.

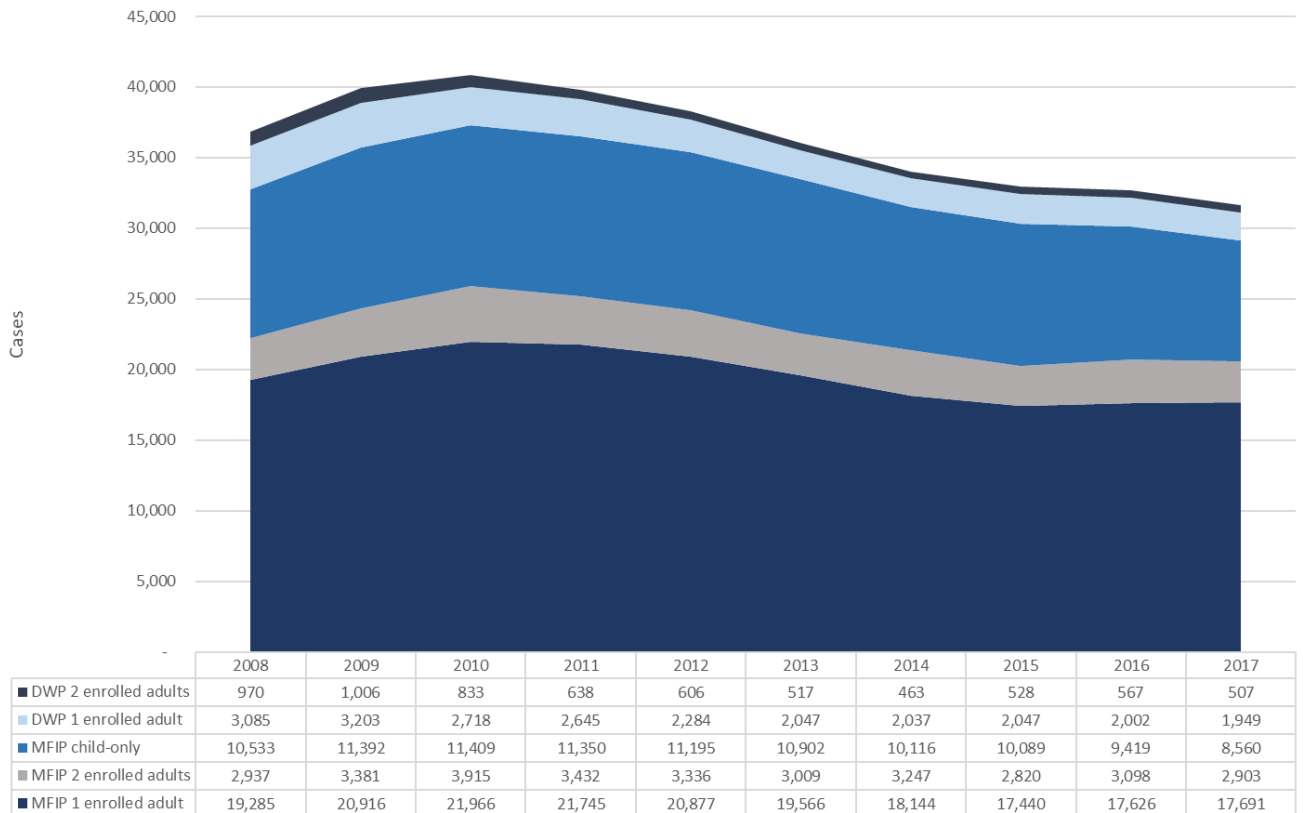
¹ “Adult” is a caregiver in a case, usually a biological, adoptive or step-parent – including minor teen parents, and second parents if in the household – or a relative responsible for children on a case, or a pregnant woman with no other children in the household.

MFIP and DWP caseload and trends

Quick facts for December trends

- The number of MFIP and DWP cases continues to decrease. However, the rate of decline has slowed. The caseload fell by 6% between both December 2012 and 2013 and December 2013 and 2014. From 2016 to 2017, the MFIP and DWP caseload decreased by 3%.
- MFIP two-parent cases fell by 6%. Child-only cases, which account for 29% of all MFIP cases, decreased by 9%. MFIP one-enrolled adult cases, the largest case type, was unchanged from December 2016 to 2017.
- After increasing by 3% from December 2014 to 2015, and remaining unchanged from December 2015 to 2016, the DWP caseload fell 4% from December 2016 to 2017.

Figure 1. MFIP and DWP caseloads, December 2008 to December 2017



Eligible adults on MFIP and DWP

Quick Facts for December 2017

- The average age of MFIP adults was 32 years, as was the average age for DWP adults. Forty percent of MFIP adults and 41% of DWP adults were in their 20s. (Figure 2)
- Eighty-one percent of MFIP adults and 76% of DWP adults were female.
- Sixty-seven percent of MFIP adults and 77% of DWP adults completed high school. (Figure 3)
- Most MFIP adults never married (63%); 18% were married and living with a spouse. Fifty-five percent of DWP adults had never married; 22% were married and living with a spouse.
- Thirty-six percent of MFIP adults and 44% of DWP adults were white, compared to 84% of all Minnesotans. Forty-four percent of MFIP adults and 35% of DWP adults were Black compared to 7% of all Minnesotans. [\[U.S. Census 2019 QuickFacts\]](#). (Figure 4)

Figure 2. Age of MFIP and DWP adults

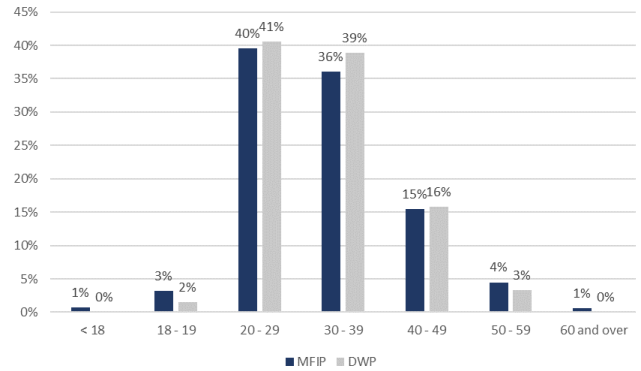


Figure 3. Education status of MFIP and DWP adults

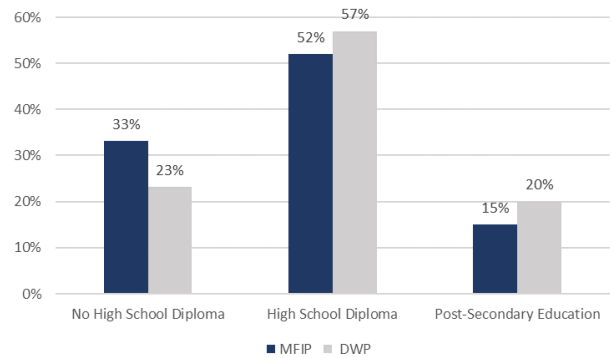
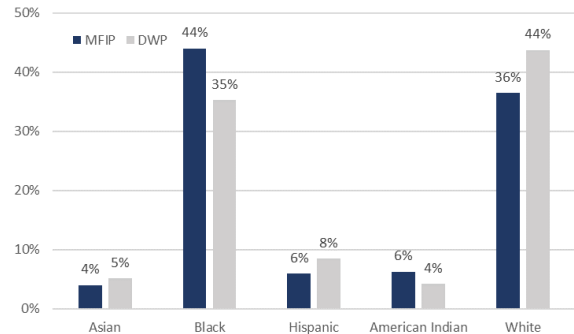


Figure 4. Race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults



Children on MFIP and DWP

Quick facts for December 2017

- In December 2017, 63,925 children were enrolled in MFIP or DWP. There were 43,984 children enrolled in MFIP enrolled-adult families, 15,317 enrolled in MFIP child-only cases, and 4,624 children enrolled in DWP. (Figure 5)
- In December 2017, families receiving MFIP or DWP averaged two children. About half of families receiving child-only MFIP, 39% of MFIP enrolled-adult families and 39% of DWP families, had one enrolled child. (Figure 6)
- The average age of children in MFIP child-only cases was nearly 10 years, compared to 7 years in MFIP cases with an enrolled adult. The average age of children in DWP cases was also 7.
- The average age of the **youngest** child in MFIP child-only cases was nearly 9 years; in MFIP enrolled-adult cases was 4 years, and in DWP cases it was about 5 1/2 years.
- The majority of families enrolled in MFIP or DWP had a child under age 6. In December 2017, two-thirds of MFIP enrolled-adult cases and 56% of DWP cases had a child under age 6. Children in MFIP child-only cases tended to be older, with only 31% having a child under age 6.
- About one-quarter of children in MFIP households were white, compared with one-third in DWP households. One-third of

children in both MFIP cases with an enrolled adult and DWP households were African American.

Figure 5. Number of children enrolled in child-only MFIP, MFIP with an enrolled-adult or DWP, December 2017

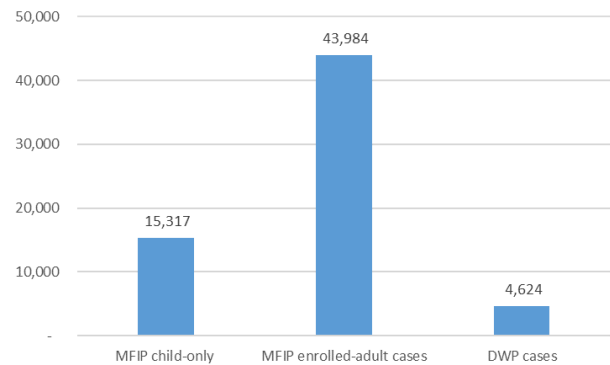
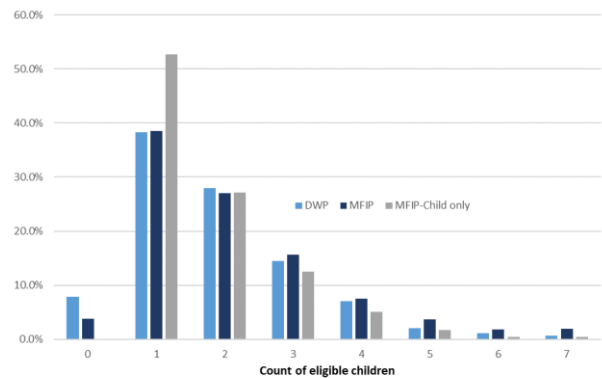


Figure 6. Percent of cases by number of enrolled children in MFIP and DWP cases, December 2017



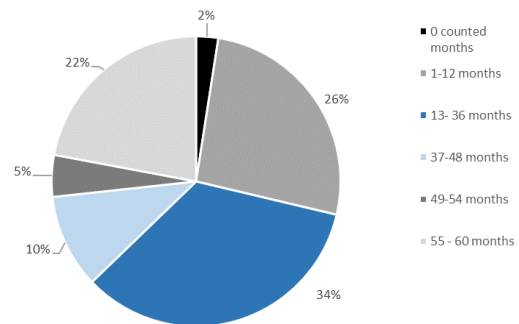
The MFIP 60-month time limit

Quick facts for December 2017

- MFIP enrolled-adult cases averaged 30 counted months and DWP cases 11 counted months (from previous time on MFIP). (Figure 7)
- Sixty-three percent of MFIP cases with enrolled adults used 36 or fewer counted months. The largest proportion of cases, 34%, used between 13 and 36 counted months. (Figures 7)
- The percentages of cases with 12 or fewer counted months have slowly declined since December 2012, while those with 49 to 60 counted months have been slowly increasing. Extended cases already have 60 counted months and are included in these numbers. (Figures 8)

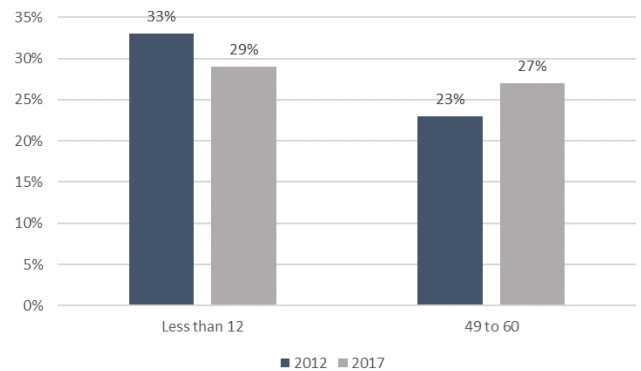
with counted months had 12 months or less (502 of 1,261 DWP cases with counted months).

Figure 7. Counted months of MFIP enrolled-adult cases, December 2017



Policy note: Except under specific hardship circumstances, MFIP participants may only use 60 months of cash assistance between the ages of 18 and 60. Minnesota started counting months as of July 1997, although some states started counting months as early as September 1996. TANF months in other states count toward the MFIP time limit. DWP months do not count.

Figure 8. MFIP cases with 12 counted months or less, or 49 to 60 counted months, December 2012 and 2017



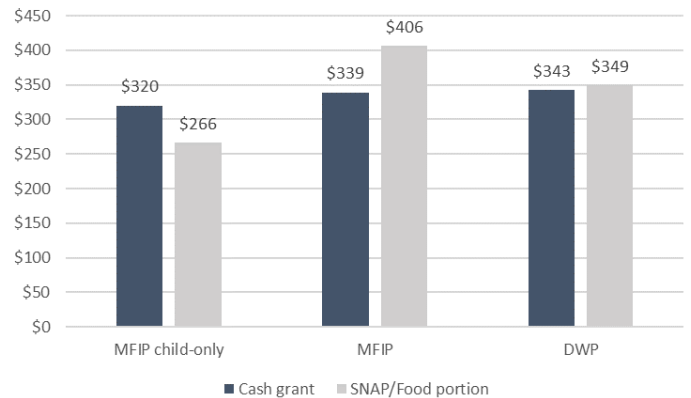
- Fifty-one percent of DWP cases had at least one MFIP counted month from previous time on MFIP. Forty percent of DWP cases

MFIP, DWP and SNAP grant amounts

Quick facts for December 2017

- The average cash portion for MFIP child-only cases was \$320, for MFIP enrolled-adult cases, \$339, and for DWP, \$343. (Figure 9)
- SNAP and MFIP food portion grants average higher than the cash portion for MFIP enrolled-adult and DWP cases. SNAP is annually adjusted for cost-of-living increases. Cash grants increased on Feb. 1, 2020, for the first time since 1986.
- The average food portion grant in December 2017 for MFIP enrolled-adult cases was \$406; the average SNAP grant for DWP cases was \$349. (Figure 9)

Figure 9. Average MFIP/DWP cash and MFIP food portion/SNAP grants



Policy note: The MFIP grant includes a food portion that can only be spent on food and a cash portion. Households that meet the criteria are eligible for a housing assistance grant of \$110. DWP provides a cash grant (out of which housing and utilities are vendor paid); families are categorically eligible for SNAP. Both programs have a grant maximum based on family size. Earned and unearned income available to the family reduces the amount of MFIP assistance they receive. The MFIP cash portion is decreased before the food portion; some families with earned income have a \$0 cash grant, but continue to receive the food portion. Food-only months are not counted toward the MFIP time limit. The full amount of the housing assistance grant is issued to the household as long as they meet the criteria and are eligible for MFIP. This is considered cash and months are counted toward the time limit.

- In 2015, a housing assistance grant of \$110 was added to MFIP. Eighty-three percent of MFIP cases with an enrolled adult and 58% of MFIP child-only cases receive this grant.

MFIP and DWP employment and earnings

Quick facts for December 2017

- DWP serves households with fewer barriers to employment. DWP adults work at higher rates, earn higher income, and work more hours than MFIP enrolled-adults. (Figures 10, 11, 12)
- A total of 36% of MFIP one enrolled-adult families and 68% of two parent families reported wages for December 2017. Forty-six percent of DWP one-adult families and 72% of two-parent families reported wages. The rates of employment increased notably among two-parent families in MFIP and DWP over the past five years. (Table 4)
- Average monthly wages for MFIP adult cases with a working adult were \$1,215, and for DWP cases \$1,566. A household of three exited the program when gross monthly wages reached \$2,228 in 2017. (Figure 11)
- Employed MFIP enrolled-adults worked an average of 101 hours in December 2017, compared with 114 hours for employed DWP adults. This equates to an average of 23.5 hours per week for MFIP enrolled-adults, and 26.5 hours for DWP adults. (Figure 12)

Figure 10. MFIP enrolled-adult and DWP cases with at least one member reporting work, December 2017

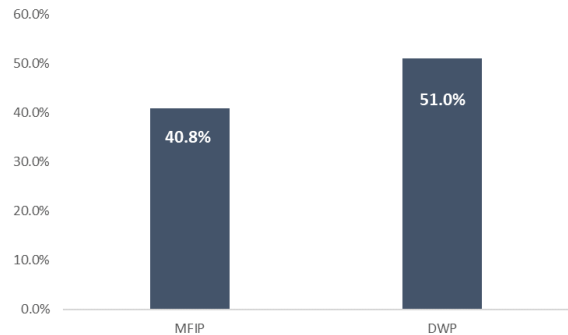


Figure 11. Average reported monthly income of employed MFIP enrolled-adult and DWP cases, December 2017

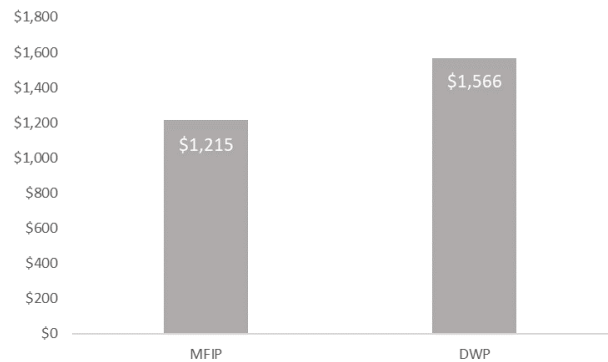
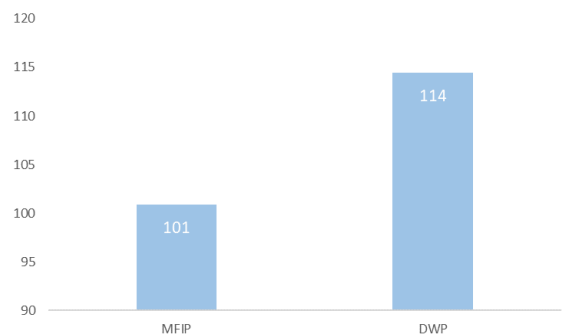


Figure 12. Average monthly work hours of employed adults, December 2017



Extensions and exemptions to the MFIP time limit

Quick facts for December 2017

- The percentage of extended MFIP cases has been relatively steady at 17%.
- The most common extension reasons were mental illness (32%), being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (31%), or having a family member who meets special medical criteria (14%). (Figure 13)
- Six percent of cases (1,136 cases) met an exemption from the time limit, meaning their months were not counted toward the 60-month limit.
- Nearly half of cases meeting an exemption have a family violence waiver. Thirty percent are older teens working to finish high school. (Figure 14)

Policy note: MFIP enrolled-adults can meet an exemption from the 60-month time limit if they are a minor parent or are age 19 and younger finishing high school, were approved for a family violence waiver, are a caregiver living on an American Indian reservation, or a caregiver age 60 or older.

Figure 13. Reasons for extended MFIP cases, December 2017

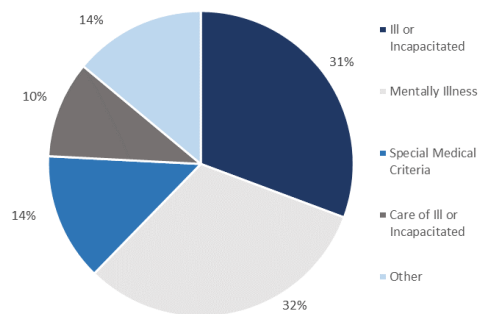
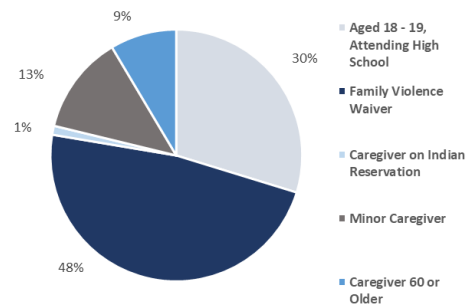


Figure 14. Exemption reasons for MFIP cases, December 2017



Policy note: MFIP cases can be extended beyond the time limit for certain documented hardships, or when caregivers are employed but do not earn enough to exit MFIP. TANF rules state that no more than 20% of a state's caseload can be extended and funded by TANF. Most of Minnesota's extended cases are state funded.

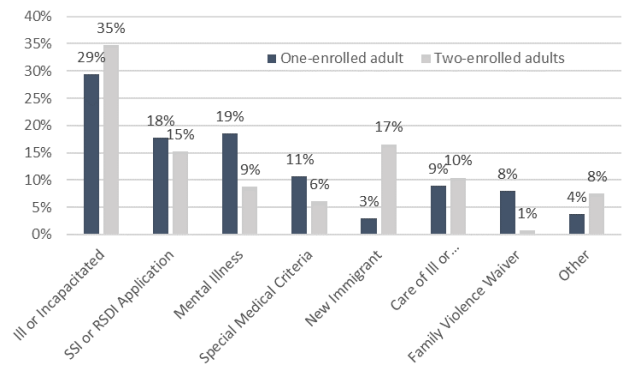
Family Stabilization Services

Quick facts for December 2017

- Since Family Stabilization Services (FSS) started in 2008, its share of MFIP cases has slowly increased. In December 2017, about 41% of MFIP cases were in the FSS service track.
- The most common FSS eligibility reasons for one-enrolled-adult cases were being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (29%), mental illness (19%), followed by application pending for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) (18%). (Figure 15)
- The most common FSS eligibility reasons for two-parent families were being ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (35%), a new immigrant for less than 12 months (17%), or pending SSI or RSDI application (15%). (Figure 15)

Policy note: FSS is an MFIP service track for families with specific barriers to employment who might benefit from a flexible employment plan. The eligibility categories are hierarchical so caregivers who meet more than one eligibility criterion will be assigned the highest category in the hierarchy. Two-parent families are considered FSS-eligible if one caregiver meets any of the criteria.

Figure 15. Family Stabilization Services categories by one and two enrolled-adult MFIP case types



DATA TABLES

Table 1. MFIP and DWP caseload counts, December 2017

Counts	MFIP cases			DWP cases				
	Total MFIP	Child-only	Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Cases	29,154	8,560	17,691	2,903	20,594	1,949	507	2,456
	100%	29%	61%	10%	71%	79%	21%	100%
Enrolled adults	23,498	0	17,691	5,807	23,498	1,949	1,014	2,963
	100%	0.0%	75%	25%	100%	66%	34%	100%
Enrolled children	59,301	15,317	34,974	9,010	43,984	3,322	1,302	4,624
	100%	26%	59%	15%	74%	72%	28%	100%

Table 2. Demographic characteristics of adults enrolled in MFIP or DWP cases, December 2017

		MFIP adults			DWP adults			
		Type of household			Type of household			
		One	Two	All adults	One	Two	All adults	
Adults	Count	17,691	5,807	23,498	1,949	1,014	2,963	
	Percent	75%	25%	100%	66%	34%	100%	
Age	Mean	32	34	32	32	33	32	
	Median	30	33	31	31	32	31	
	Minimum	13	16	13	18	17	17	
	Maximum	81	76	81	59	59	59	
	< 18		136	29	165	0	1	1
			0.8%	0.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
	18 - 19		609	140	749	31	14	45
			3.4%	2.4%	3.2%	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%
	20 - 29		7,413	1,870	9,283	817	384	1,201
			41.9%	32.2%	39.5%	41.9%	37.9%	40.5%
	30 - 39		6,145	2,325	8,470	741	411	1,152
			34.7%	40.0%	36.0%	38.0%	40.5%	38.9%
	40 - 49		2,584	1,046	3,630	296	171	467
			14.6%	18.0%	15.4%	15.2%	16.9%	15.8%
	50 - 59		719	335	1,054	64	33	97
			4.1%	5.8%	4.5%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
	60 and over		85	62	147	0	0	0
		0.5%	1.1%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Gender	Female		16,216	2,914	19,130	1,738	506	2,244
			91.7%	50.2%	81.4%	89.2%	49.9%	75.7%
	Male		1,475	2,893	4,368	211	508	719
			8.3%	49.8%	18.6%	10.8%	50.1%	24.3%
Education	None, < 1st, Unknown		1,035	885	1,920	71	79	150
			5.9%	15.2%	8.2%	3.6%	7.8%	5.1%
	Grade school		333	299	632	28	27	55
			1.9%	5.1%	2.7%	1.4%	2.7%	1.9%
	Some high school		3,998	1,225	5,223	305	177	482
			22.6%	21.1%	22.2%	15.6%	17.5%	16.3%
	High school graduate		9,550	2,696	12,246	1,105	577	1,682
			54.0%	46.4%	52.1%	56.7%	56.9%	56.8%
	Some post-secondary		2,394	525	2,919	357	106	463
			13.5%	9.0%	12.4%	18.3%	10.5%	15.6%
	College graduate		248	103	351	59	33	92
			1.4%	1.8%	1.5%	3.0%	3.3%	3.1%
	Graduate degree		133	74	207	24	15	39
			0.8%	1.3%	0.9%	1.2%	1.5%	1.3%
	High school grad or higher		12,325	3,398	15,723	1,545	731	2,276
			69.7%	58.5%	66.9%	79.3%	72.1%	76.8%

Table 2. Page 2

		MFIP adults			DWP adults		
		Type of household			Type of household		
		One	Two	All adults	One	Two	All adults
Adults	Count	17,691	5,807	23,498	1,949	1,014	2,963
	Percent	75%	25%	100%	66%	34%	100%
Marital Status	Divorced	1480	119	1,599	233	12	245
		8%	2%	7%	12%	1%	8%
	Legally separated	51	7	58	10	1	11
		0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
	Married, living with spouse	716	3,507	4,223	31	614	645
		4%	60%	18%	2%	61%	22%
	Never married	12,628	2,059	14,687	1,270	366	1,636
		71%	35%	63%	65%	36%	55%
	Married, living apart	2,590	112	2,702	390	20	410
		15%	2%	11%	20%	2%	14%
Widowed	226	3	229	15	1	16	
	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	
Race/Ethnicity	African American	6,435	1,225	7,660	611	209	820
		36%	21%	33%	31%	21%	28%
	American Indian	1,151	322	1,473	89	35	124
		7%	6%	6%	5%	3%	4%
	Asian American	339	159	498	42	40	82
		2%	3%	2%	2%	4%	3%
	Hispanic	1,108	294	1,402	172	78	250
		6%	5%	6%	9%	8%	8%
	Hmong Immigrant	60	36	96	5	5	10
		0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Multiple	583	90	673	57	15	72
		3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%
	Other African Immigrant	254	219	473	38	22	60
		1%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Other Asian Immigrant	165	181	346	17	44	61
		1%	3%	1%	1%	4%	2%
Somali Immigrant	1,052	1,156	2,208	69	96	165	
	6%	20%	9%	4%	9%	6%	
Unknown	57	54	111	16	7	23	
	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	
White	6,487	2,071	8,558	833	463	1,296	
	37%	36%	36%	43%	46%	44%	
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,767	1,933	3,700	147	197	344
		10%	33%	16%	8%	19%	12%
	U.S.	15,924	3,874	19,798	1,802	817	2,619
		90%	67%	84%	92%	81%	88%
On assistance as a child in MN	Count	9,525	1,969	11,494	881	354	1,235
		54%	34%	49%	45%	35%	42%
	Family Assistance	8,422	1,718	10,140	752	292	1,044
		48%	30%	43%	39%	29%	35%
	Food Support	911	213	1,124	106	54	160
		5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
	Emergency Services	192	38	230	23	8	31
		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Table 3. Children receiving MFIP or DWP, December 2017

		MFIP cases				DWP cases		
		Child-only	Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	8,560	17,691	2,903	20,594	1,949	507	2,456
Number of children		15,317	34,974	9,010	43,984	3,322	1,302	4,624
Count of eligible children per family	Mean	1.8	2.0	3.1	2.1	1.7	2.6	1.9
	Median	1	2	3	2	1	2	2
	Minimum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maximum	9	12	11	12	7	9	9
Ages of children	Mean	9.8	6.8	6.6	6.8	7.7	5.8	7.2
	Median	10	6	6	6	7	5	7
	< 1 year old	448	3,605	998	4,603	48	190	238
		3%	10%	11%	10%	1%	15%	5%
	1-3 years old	1,639	8,202	2,117	10,319	743	311	1,054
		11%	23%	23%	23%	22%	24%	23%
	4-5 years old	1,409	4,630	1,169	5,799	489	199	688
		9%	13%	13%	13%	15%	15%	15%
	6-10 years old	4,521	9,391	2,494	11,885	1,030	354	1,384
		30%	27%	28%	27%	31%	27%	30%
	11-15 years old	5,007	6,848	1,703	8,551	784	200	984
		32.7%	20%	19%	19%	24%	15%	21%
	>15 years old	2,293	2,298	529	2,827	228	48	276
		15.0%	7%	6%	6%	7%	4%	6%
Race, ethnicity and immigrant status	African American	3,788	13,731	2,806	16,537	1156	385	1541
		24.7%	39.3%	31.1%	37.6%	34.8%	29.6%	33.3%
	American Indian	1,484	1,796	313	2,109	92	22	114
		9.7%	5.1%	3.5%	4.8%	2.8%	1.7%	2.5%
	Asian American	1,023	933	361	1,294	99	88	187
		6.7%	2.7%	4.0%	2.9%	3.0%	6.8%	4.0%
	Hispanic	3,661	2,914	384	3,298	399	100	499
		23.9%	8.3%	4.3%	7.5%	12.0%	7.7%	10.8%
	Hmong immigrant	58	35	9	44	1	0	1
		0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Multiple	1,014	3,018	382	3,400	235	107	342
		6.6%	8.6%	4.2%	7.7%	7.1%	8.2%	7.4%
	Other African immigrant	60	297	348	645	23	24	47
		0.4%	0.8%	3.9%	1.5%	0.7%	1.8%	1.0%
	Other Asian immigrant	84	211	151	362	21	21	42
		0.5%	0.6%	1.7%	0.8%	0.6%	1.6%	0.9%
Somali immigrant	362	2,403	1,973	4,376	86	76	162	
	2.4%	6.9%	21.9%	9.9%	2.6%	5.8%	3.5%	
Unknown	237	920	186	1,106	115	30	145	
	1.5%	2.6%	2.1%	2.5%	3.5%	2.3%	3.1%	
White	3,546	8,716	2,097	10,813	1095	449	1544	
	23.2%	24.9%	23.3%	24.6%	33.0%	34.5%	33.4%	
Ages of youngest child per family	Mean	8.8	4.6	3	4.3	6.1	2.9	5.4
	Median	9	3	1	3	5	1	4

Table 4. Economic characteristics of MFIP and DWP cases, December 2017

		MFIP Cases				DWP Cases		
		Child-Only	Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	8,560	17,691	2,903	20,594	1,949	507	2,456
Cash portion MFIP food portion DWP SNAP grant	Mean of all cases in column	\$320	\$345	\$307	\$339	\$315	\$451	\$343
	Mean of all cases in column	\$266	\$382	\$551	\$406			
	Mean of all cases in column					\$322	\$455	\$349
Income from work	Count of cases		6,418	1,976	8,394	888	364	1,252
	Percent of all cases		36.3%	68.1%	40.8%	45.6%	71.8%	51.0%
	Mean earnings of working cases		\$1,055	\$1,735	\$1,215	\$1,408	\$1,951	\$1,566
	Median		\$1,007	\$1,666	\$1,122	\$1,221	\$1,684	\$1,343
Work hours	Mean of working cases		87.8	143.3	100.9	103.0	142.3	114.4
	Median		87	142	97	98	143	110
Counted MFIP months	Mean		31	23	30	11	9	11
	Median		27	18	26	3	0	2
	0 counted months		483	27	510	912	283	1,195
			3%	1%	2%	47%	56%	49%
	1-12 months		4,396	1,002	5,398	405	97	502
			25%	35%	26%	21%	19%	20%
	13-36 months		5,827	1,202	7,029	441	90	531
			33%	41%	34%	23%	18%	22%
	37-48 months		1,910	246	2,156	118	22	140
			11%	8%	10%	6%	4%	6%
49-54 months		847	111	958	37	8	45	
		5%	4%	5%	2%	2%	2%	
55-60 months		4,228	315	4,543	36	7	43	
		24%	11%	22%	2%	1%	2%	
Child Care Assistance Program	Cases with children less than age 6	2,681	11,444	2,310	13,754	961	411	1,372
	Cases with paid CCAP	88	3,437	616	4,053	277	55	332
	Percent	3.3%	30.0%	26.7%	29.5%	28.8%	13.4%	24.2%
	Cases with children less than age 13	6,062	15,335	2,740	18,075	1,545	479	2,024
	Cases with paid CCAP	119	3,759	652	4,411	309	57	366
	Percent	2.0%	24.5%	23.8%	24.4%	20.0%	11.9%	18.1%
	Cases with children age 13-15	2,618	3,146	696	3,842	370	88	458
	Cases with paid CCAP	18	448	228	676	32	9	41
	Percent	0.7%	14.2%	32.8%	17.6%	8.6%	10.2%	9.0%

Table 5. MFIP policies and cases, December 2017

		MFIP cases			
		Child-only	Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	8,560	17,691	2,903	20,594
	Percent	29%	61%	10%	100%
Time limit exemptions	Count		1,052	84	1,136
	Percent of MFIP cases		6%	3%	6%
	Aged 18 - 19, Attending High School		302	36	338
	Percent of exempted cases		29%	43%	30%
	Family Violence Waiver		534	10	544
	Percent of exempted cases		51%	12%	48%
	Caregiver on Indian Reservation		12	1	13
	Percent of exempted cases		1%	1%	1%
	Minor Caregiver		129	15	144
Percent of exempted cases		12%	18%	13%	
Caregiver 60 or Older		75	22	97	
Percent of exempted cases		7%	26%	9%	
Time Limit Extensions	Count		3,330	200	3,530
	Percent of MFIP cases		19%	7%	17%
Extension reason	Ill or Incapacitated		1,029	54	1,083
	Percent of extension cases		31%	27%	31%
	Mentally Illness		1069	47	1116
	Percent of extension cases		32%	24%	32%
	Special Medical Criteria		445	32	477
	Percent of extension cases		13%	16%	14%
	Care of Ill or Incapacitated		329	32	361
	Percent of extension cases		10%	16%	10%
	Employment Required Hours		245	33	278
	Percent of extension cases		7%	17%	8%
	Family Violence Waiver		151	0	151
	Percent of extension cases		5%	0%	4%
	IQ Between 70 and 80		42	1	43
	Percent of extension cases		1%	1%	1%
	Unemployable		16	0	16
	Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%
	Learning Disabled		2	0	2
Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%	
Developmental Disability		2	1	3	
Percent of extension cases		0%	1%	0%	
Appeal		0	0	0	
Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%	
Extension Months	Mean		45	30	44
	Median		32	20	31
	Maximum		186	138	186

Table 5. Page 2

		MFIP cases			
		Child-only	Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	8,560	17,691	2,903	20,594
		29%	61%	10%	100%
Family Stabilization Services	Count		7,261	1,159	8,420
	Percent of all cases		41%	40%	41%
Eligibility reason	Ill or Incapacitated		2,135	402	2,537
	Percent of FSS cases		29%	35%	30%
	SSI or RSDI Application		1290	176	1466
	Percent of FSS cases		18%	15%	17%
	Mental Illness		1349	101	1450
	Percent of FSS cases		19%	9%	17%
	Special Medical Criteria		770	71	841
	Percent of FSS cases		11%	6%	10%
	New Immigrant		218	192	410
	Percent of FSS cases		3%	17%	5%
	Care of Ill or Incapacitated		645	121	766
	Percent of FSS cases		9%	10%	9%
	Family Violence Waiver		582	9	591
	Percent of FSS cases		8%	1%	7%
	Unemployable		71	19	90
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	2%	1%
	Universal Participation		83	26	109
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	2%	1%
	IQ < 80		53	3	56
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	0%	1%
	Age 60 or Older		54	36	90
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	3%	1%
Learning Disability		8	1	9	
Percent of FSS cases		0%	0%	0%	
Developmental Disability		3	2	5	
Percent of FSS cases		0%	0%	0%	
Countable Sanctions	10% Countable sanctions	1	184	32	216
	30% Countable sanction	46	644	103	747
	All countable sanctions	47	828	135	963
	Percent of MFIP cases	1%	5%	5%	5%
	Six Counted Sanction Months	7	136	20	156
Percent of MFIP cases	0%	1%	1%	1%	
Recipients of subsidized housing	Count		4908	695	5603
	Percent		28%	24%	27%

Data definitions and policy information

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent so may not equal 100 percent when summed across subgroups.

Table 1

MFIP and DWP rules determine who in a household is a member of the assistance unit, based on their relationship to case applicants. This includes minor children and/or minor relative care children of an applicant; spouse of applicant, or second parent of applicant's child/ren, and other minor children of the spouse. Pregnant women with no children of their own living with them are also eligible. Program rules define eligibility of unit members, which in turn determines the size of cash grants for active cases. Adult refers to a caregiver (parent or other relative), or minor parent responsible for a child/ren. Cases with two adults where only one is enrolled in MFIP or DWP are included in the one enrolled-adult cases column. Cases with no MFIP enrolled adult are child-only, but have at least one caregiver.

The report only includes eligible adults and children. In certain cases, people who would otherwise be included in the grant are not eligible for reasons such as receiving Supplemental Security Income, immigration status, or convicted of welfare fraud. Cases receiving MFIP cash or food grants, or DWP cash grants, are paid cases; active cases suspended for a month because they have enough income to cancel out the cash grant are also included in this report. This suspended status typically happens in a three or five paycheck month; cases are eligible for an MFIP grant again the following month.

Table 2

Characteristics with no effect on program eligibility are not routinely updated after the initial application. This includes education, marital status and citizenship. Therefore, these categories may be under- or over-reported.

The coding method for race/ethnicity continues to follow department standards, with participants asked their racial choice (yes or no) of each of five racial categories (American Indian, Asian, black, Pacific Islander and white), and ethnicity (Hispanic or non-Hispanic). Hispanics of all races are listed as Hispanic, meaning the other racial categories are non-Hispanic. Pacific Islanders and Asian groups are combined due to very small numbers of Pacific Islanders. Additional nationalities are determined by looking at primary language and citizenship status.

The 'on assistance as a child in Minnesota' section is reported in a hierarchy of family assistance, food support, and emergency services, to maintain the addition in columns.

Demographic data was missing for 27 recipients and dropped from this report.

Table 3

Table 3 provides case and person level statistics for eligible children.

Table 4

Months of welfare use. Counted MFIP months are defined as the maximum number of months of eligibility for TANF and/or MFIP counted toward the 60-month time limit between September 1996 and December 2017 for either enrolled adult on a case. This includes Minnesota and federally paid months in Minnesota, and federally paid months in other states, but excludes months with an exemption or exception from the time limit.

Cash and food grant amounts. MFIP includes a cash grant and a food portion that can only be spent on food; many households receive a housing assistance grant. As families work their way toward leaving assistance, their cash grant is decreased first so some families only receive a food portion. A family can opt out of the cash portion, receiving only the food portion; those months do not count toward their lifetime limit. The full amount of the housing assistance grant, \$110, is issued to the household as long as they are eligible for MFIP. It does not decrease as income from other sources increases. DWP provides only a cash grant, but these families are categorically eligible to receive SNAP as well.

The means for MFIP and DWP cash grants and MFIP food portions are calculated using grant amounts for all cases, including zero cash and food portions for some MFIP cases.

Income, earnings and work hours. Total income is either the actual or projected income of eligible adults used in the budget for a case for December 2017. The income used in a month will be different, depending on whether past actual or projected income methods were used to determine eligibility for a case. The amount used was verified. Total income is gross income, except for those self-employed, where it is gross less expenses, with a minimum of zero. Mean total income excludes cases with no verified or expected income from eligible adults. Income from deeming adults and children was not included.

Work hours reported for eligible adults with earned income are defined in the same manner as earned income. The hours are totals for a case. The percentages of all cases with hours reported are slightly smaller than the percentages reported working because of hours not entered into the administrative database. Mean hours only include cases with reported hours. Work hours from deeming adults and children were not included.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Reported CCAP means that a child care assistance payment was made for December 2017. Cases may have CCAP eligible children in more than one age group. MFIP and DWP ineligible children (for example, SSI eligible children) are excluded. Children must be both CCAP eligible and MFIP or DWP eligible. Children's eligibility for MFIP CCAP is determined based on parents' eligibility for MFIP or DWP. Cases labeled as MFIP child-only are eligible for Basic Sliding Fee child care. Data are collected from the Minnesota Electronic Child Care (MEC²) information system.

Table 5

Extensions beyond the time limit. MFIP cases can be extended beyond the 60-month lifetime limit for certain documented criteria that affect an adult's ability to obtain or retain employment, or if an adult is working but does not earn enough to leave assistance. Extensions may be granted for cases that have an ill or incapacitated adult, family member or caregiver who meets special medical criteria, caregiver with an IQ score below 80, caregiver who is needed in the home to care for an ill or incapacitated family member, a single parent working

an average of at least 30 hours, or two parents working a total of 55 hours a month, and other less common reasons. Cases sanctioned for non-compliance with Employment Services or child support requirements in month 60 can never be extended.

Exemptions and exceptions from the time limit. Cases can receive an exception from the time limit for special medical criteria. Counted months in which special medical criteria are present before the time limit of 60 months is reached can be “banked” and used to extend eligibility beyond 60 months after the time limit is reached. The following cases are exempt from the time limit (neither counted nor banked) in months with the following conditions: Living on a reservation with a not employed rate of at least 50 percent, family violence cases cooperating with an alternative employment plan, caregivers age 60 or older, a minor parent, or an 18- or 19-year-old parent complying with an education plan.

Sanctions. MFIP cases not complying with Employment Services requirements can be sanctioned with reduction of the grant amount. The first sanction is 10%, and if not resolved, the sanction is increased the next month to 30%. Some sanctions can be addressed (cured) and removed. In July 2003, the Minnesota Legislature instituted a policy that after the sixth occurrence of non-compliance, a case may face closure, or 100% sanction. Table 5 reports the number of cases with 10% and 30% sanctions, and the number of cases with six or more unresolved sanction months.

Pre-sanction procedures for FSS enrolled adults are different from those for other MFIP adults. See the “Employment Services Manual,”² Appendix H, for steps that must be taken prior to sanction.

Family Stabilization Services. FSS is a state funded MFIP service track that enrolled its first participants in February 2008. The purpose is to provide county agency staff more flexibility in development of employment plans by removing FSS cases from the federal Work Participation Rate calculation. FSS eligibility is limited to caregivers who have one of the following extension reasons: Illness or injury lasting more than 30 days that prevents them from obtaining employment, requirement to remain in the home to care for a household member with an illness or injury lasting more than 30 days, legal non-citizen in the U.S. for fewer than 12 months, developmental disability or mental illness that prevents person from obtaining employment, unemployable, learning disability that prevents person from obtaining employment, IQ less than 80, family violence waiver or pending application for SSI or RSDI. Two-caregiver cases are FSS eligible if one caregiver meets FSS criteria. Extended cases, apart from those extended as working, are also eligible for FSS.

²[Link to the MFIP Employment Services manual](#)