



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

December 2018

October 2020



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For information about this report, contact:

Mark Besser
Agency Policy Specialist
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division
444 Lafayette Rd. N
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone 651-431-6106
mark.besser@state.mn.us
mn.gov/dhs/

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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. 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 2018 the number of children and adults served included:

- MFIP: 52,876 children and 20,848 adults in 26,215 cases
- DWP: 4,376 children and 2,705 adults in 2,262 cases.

For both programs, the caseload size fell 10% overall, with an 8% decrease in DWP and 10% in MFIP from December 2017 to December 2018, continuing an eight-year decline.

Participant demographics

Families participating in MFIP or DWP tend to be younger, as:

- The average age of adults was 33 for both MFIP enrolled-adult and DWP cases
- More than half of families have a child younger than age 5.

Most enrolled adults in both programs are female, including:

- MFIP: 82%
- DWP: 75%

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

- MFIP: 68%
- DWP: 76%

Most enrolled adults in both programs are U.S. citizens, including:

- MFIP: 86%
- DWP: 89%

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 flexibility to designate specific policies for programs. The Minnesota Family Investment Program, the state's TANF program, was established in 1998. It 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.

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

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (department) 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 county and tribal agencies to develop employment plans with an emphasis on overcoming barriers to employment. It uses a case management model to help families achieve the greatest amount of economic stability possible. Because state funding provides the benefits to families in this service track, these households 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 is separate, 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, paid directly to landlords and utility companies to cover portions of these costs.

Report format

This report provides a snapshot of all active cases in MFIP and DWP in December 2018. Department staff has produced annual characteristics reports since MFIP began 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 only have children, but no adults who are 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 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 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 its members; their program is included in this report.

Within this report, Quick Facts 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.

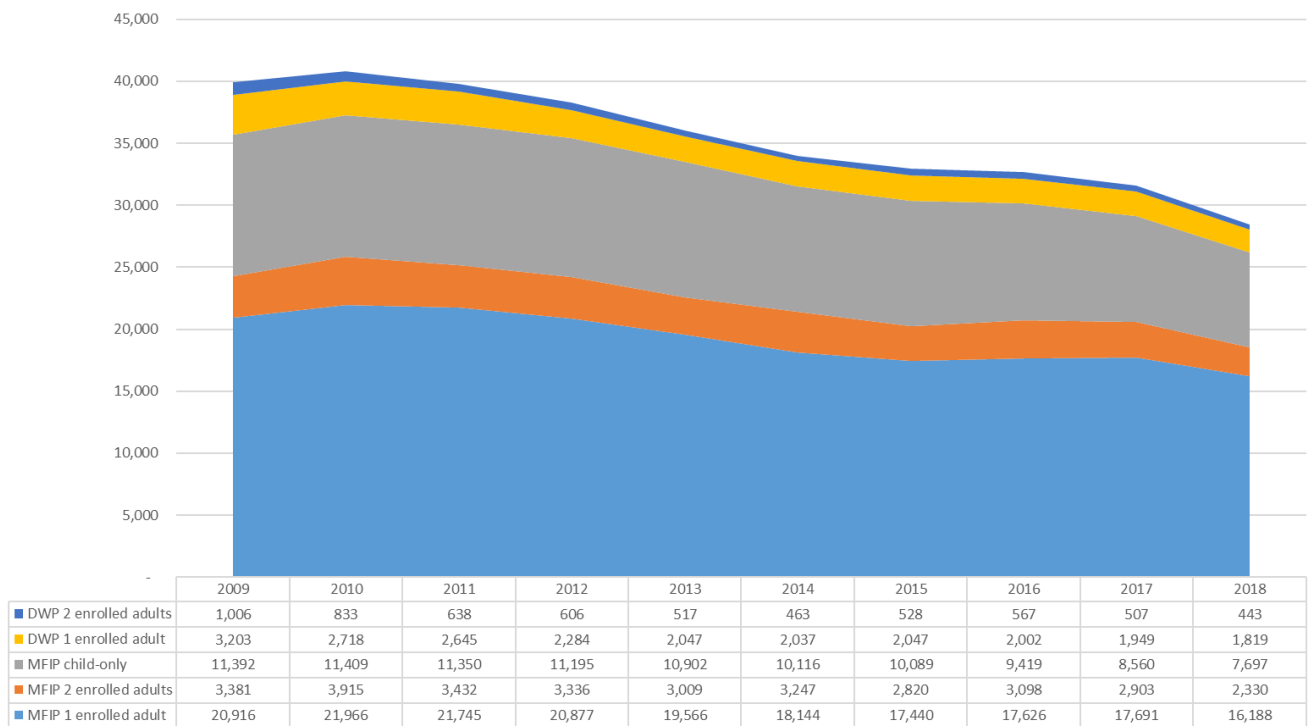
¹ “Adult” is a caregiver in a case, usually a biological, adoptive or step-parent – including minor teen parents, and second parents if in the household – or a relative responsible for children on a case, or a pregnant woman with no other children in the household.

MFIP and DWP caseloads and trends

Quick facts for December trends

- The number of MFIP and DWP cases continue to decrease. Caseloads fell by 3% from December 2016 to 2017, and decreased 10% from December 2017 to 2018.
- MFIP two-parent cases fell by 20%; child-only cases, which account for 29% of all MFIP cases, decreased by 10%; and one enrolled adult cases, the most common case type, decreased by 8%; from December 2017 to 2018.
- After remaining unchanged from December 2015 to 2016, and decreasing by 4% from December 2016 to 2017, the DWP caseload fell 8% from December 2017 to 2018.

Figure 1. MFIP and DWP caseloads, December 2009 to December 2018



Adults enrolled in MFIP and DWP

Quick facts for December 2018

- The average age of MFIP adults was 33 years, as was the average age for DWP adults; 39% of MFIP and DWP adults were in their 20s. (Figure 2)
- Eighty-two percent of MFIP adults and 75% of DWP adults were female.
- Sixty-eight percent of MFIP adults and 76% of DWP adults completed high school. (Figure 3)
- Most MFIP adults never married (64%); 16% were married and living with a spouse. Fifty-six percent of DWP adults never married; 21% were married and living with a spouse.
- Thirty-six percent of MFIP adults and 45% of DWP adults were White, compared to 84% of all Minnesotans. Forty-three percent of MFIP adults and 35% of DWP adults were Black compared to 7% of all Minnesotans. (Figure 4) [\[U.S. Census 2019 Quick Facts\]](#)

Figure 2. Age of MFIP and DWP adults

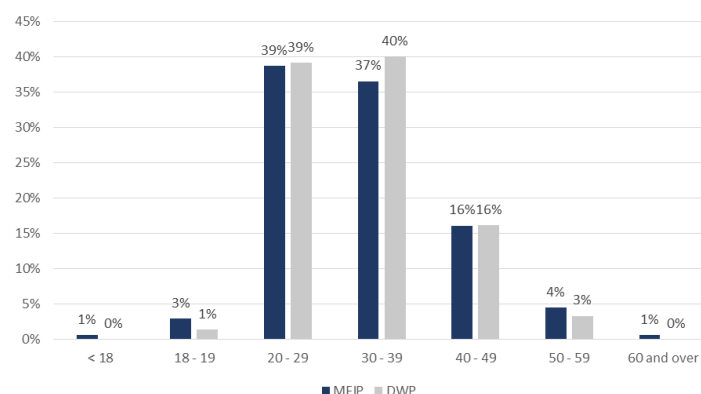


Figure 3. Education status of MFIP and DWP adults

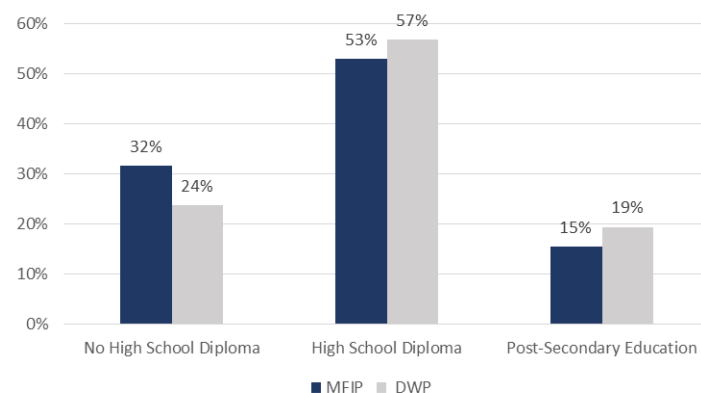
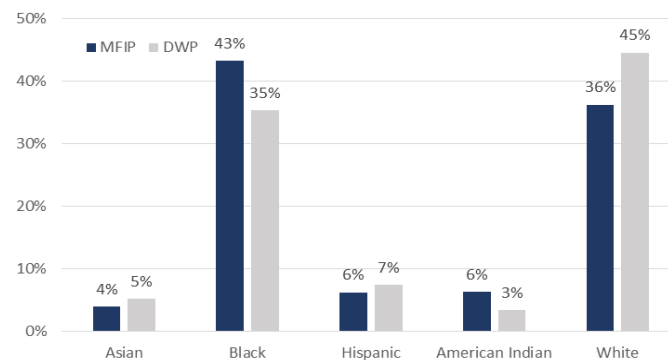


Figure 4. Race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults



Children enrolled in MFIP and DWP

Quick facts for December 2018

- There were 57,252 children enrolled in MFIP or DWP in December 2018; 39,286 children in enrolled-adult families, and 13,590 in MFIP child-only cases; 4,376 children were enrolled in DWP. (Figure 5)
- Families receiving MFIP or DWP averaged two children in December 2018. More than half of families receiving child-only MFIP, 38% of MFIP enrolled-adult families, and 36% of DWP families, had only one enrolled child. (Figure 6)
- The average age of children in MFIP child-only cases was 9 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 it was 4 1/2 years, and in DWP it was nearly 5 1/2 years.
- The majority of families enrolled in MFIP or DWP had a child under age 6. In December 2018, two-thirds of MFIP enrolled-adult cases and 57% of DWP cases had a child under age 6. Children in MFIP child-only cases tended to be older, with only 30% having a child under age 6.
- About one-quarter of children in MFIP households were White, compared with one-third of children in DWP households. One-third of children in 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

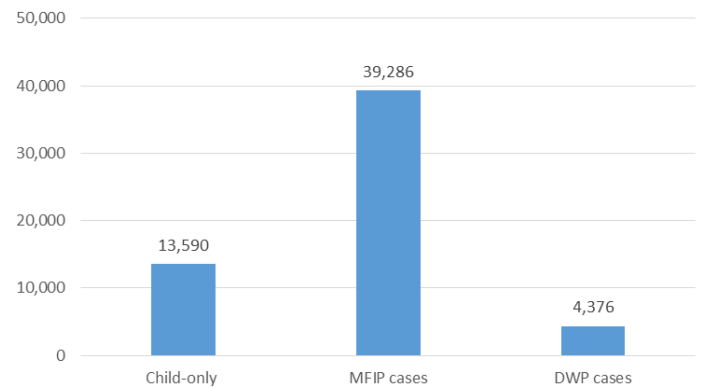
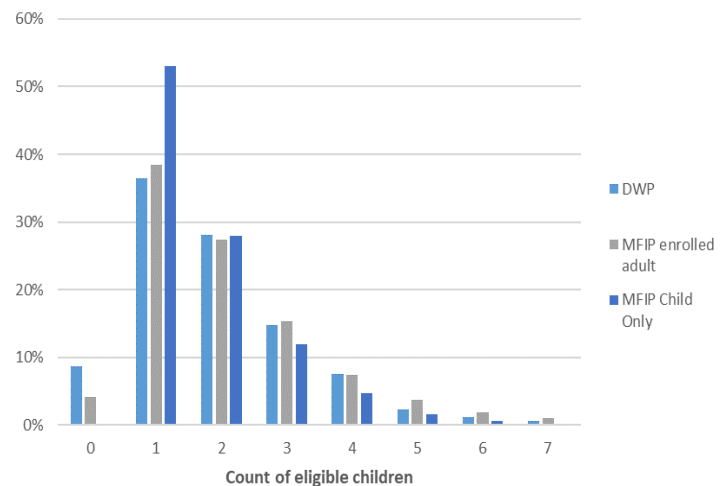


Figure 6. Percent of cases by number of enrolled children in MFIP and DWP cases



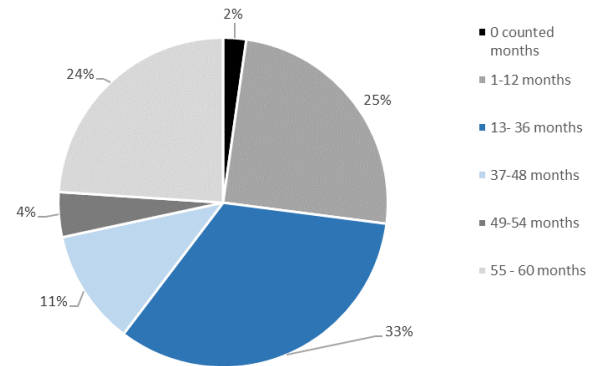
The MFIP 60-month time limit

Quick facts for December 2018

- MFIP enrolled-adult cases averaged 31 counted months; DWP cases 11 counted months, from previous time on MFIP. (Figure 7)
- Sixty percent of MFIP cases with enrolled adults used 36 or fewer counted months. One-third of cases used between 13 and 36 counted months. (Figures 7)
- The percent of cases with 12 or fewer counted months has slowly declined since December 2012; the percent of cases with 49 to 60 counted months slowly increased. Extended cases have 60 counted months, included in these numbers. (Figures 8)

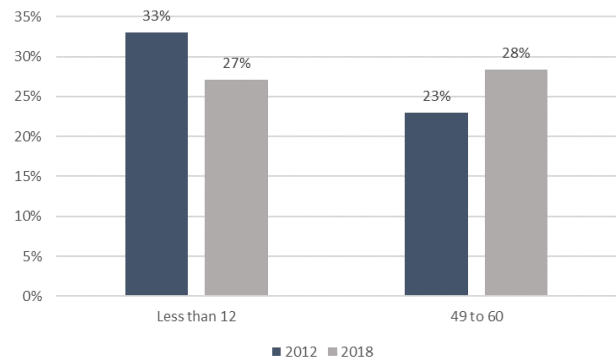
(465 of 1,202 DWP cases with counted months).

Figure 7. Counted months of MFIP enrolled-adult cases



Policy note: Except under specific hardship circumstances, MFIP participants may only use 60 months of cash assistance between the ages of 18 and 60. The department started counting months as of July 1997; 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 2018



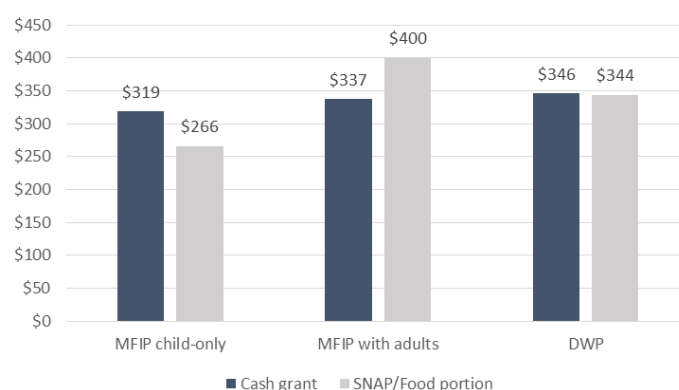
- Fifty-three percent of DWP cases had at least one MFIP counted month from previous time on MFIP; 39% of DWP cases with counted months had 12 months or less

MFIP, DWP and SNAP grant amounts

Quick facts for December 2018

- The average cash portion for MFIP child-only cases was \$319, for MFIP enrolled-adult cases it was \$337, and for DWP the average was \$346. (Figure 9)
- SNAP and MFIP food portion grants average higher than the cash portion for MFIP enrolled-adult and about the same for 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 2018 for MFIP enrolled-adult cases was \$400; the average SNAP grant for DWP cases was \$344. (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 meeting 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 a 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 a household as long as they meet criteria and eligible for MFIP. This is considered cash and months are counted toward the time limit.

- A housing assistance grant of \$110 was added to MFIP in 2015; 83% of MFIP cases with an enrolled adult, and 57% of MFIP child-only cases receive this grant.

MFIP and DWP employment and earnings

Quick facts for December 2018

- 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 35% of MFIP one enrolled-adult families and 68% of two parent families reported wages for December 2018. For DWP, 45% of one-adult families and 71% of two-parent families reported wages. The rates of employment have increased notably among two-parent families in MFIP and DWP over the past five years. (Table 4)
- Average monthly wages for MFIP cases with a working adult were \$1,226, and for DWP cases, \$1,447. A household of three would exit the program when gross monthly wages reached \$2,228 in 2018. (Figure 11)
- Employed MFIP enrolled-adults worked an average of 98 hours in December 2018, compared with 106 hours for employed DWP adults. This equates to an average of 22.8 hours per week for MFIP enrolled-adults, and 24.7 hours for DWP adults. (Figure 12)

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

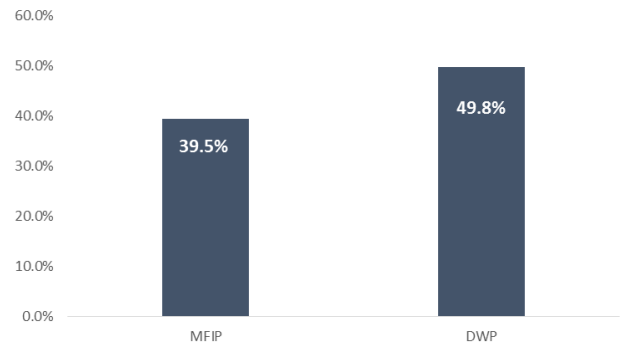


Figure 11. Average monthly income of employed MFIP enrolled-adult and DWP cases

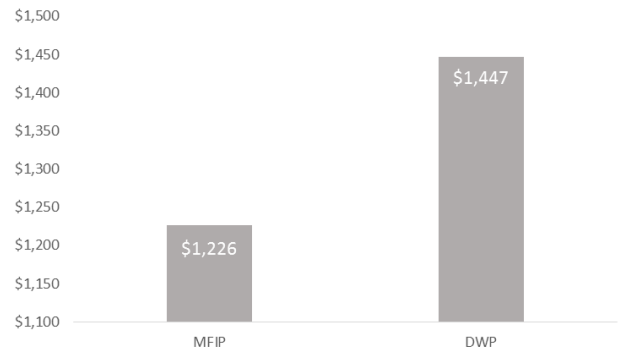
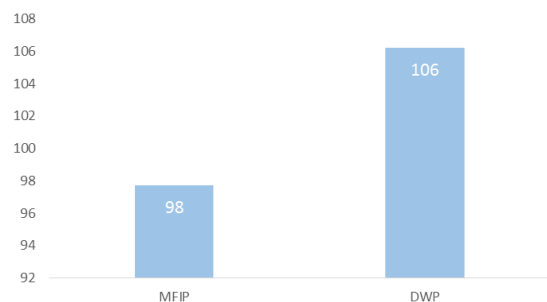


Figure 12. Average monthly work hours of employed adults



Extensions and exemptions to the MFIP time limit

Quick facts for December 2018

- The percentage of extended MFIP cases has been relatively steady at 19%.
- The most common extension reasons were mental illness (32%), ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (31%), or having a family member who meets special medical criteria (13%). (Figure 13)
- Six percent of cases (1,025 cases) met an exemption from the time limit, meaning their months were not counted toward the 60-month limit.
- More than half of cases meeting exemption criteria have a family violence waiver. Another 27% are older teens working to finish high school. (Figure 14)

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

Figure 13. Reasons for extended MFIP cases

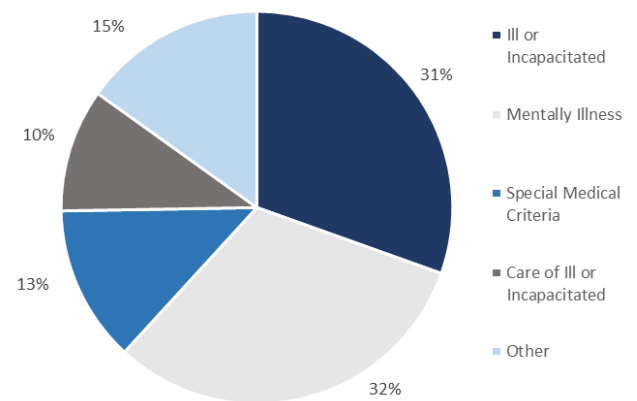
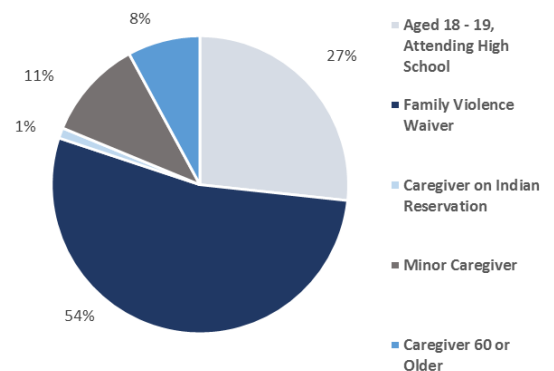


Figure 14. Exemption reasons for MFIP cases



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.

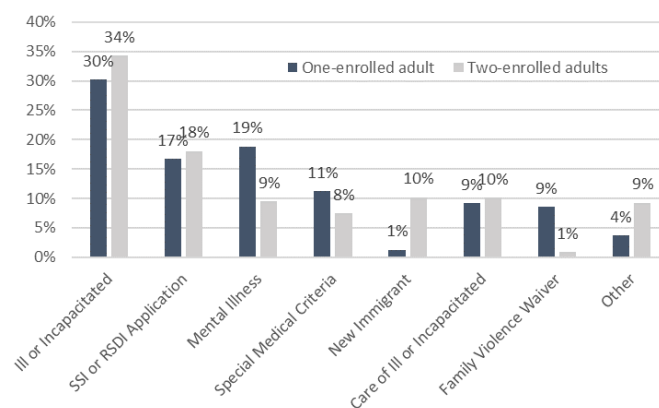
Family Stabilization Services

Quick facts for December 2018

- Since Family Stabilization Services (FSS) started in 2008, its share of MFIP cases has slowly increased. In December 2018, about 42% of MFIP cases were in the FSS service track.
- The most common FSS eligibility reasons for one enrolled-adult cases were ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (30%); mental illness (19%); application pending for Supplemental Security Income (SSI); or Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI, 17%). (Figure 15)
- The most common FSS eligibility reasons for two-parent families were ill or incapacitated for more than 30 days (34%), followed by a pending SSI or RSDI application (18%). (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. 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 2018

Counts	MFIP cases					DWP cases		
	Total	Child-	Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
	MFIP	only	One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Cases	26,215	7,697	16,188	2,330	18,518	1,819	443	2,262
	100%	29%	62%	9%	71%	80%	20%	100%
Enrolled adults	20,848	0	16,188	4,660	20,848	1,819	886	2,705
	100%	0.0%	78%	22%	100%	67%	33%	100%
Enrolled children	52,876	13,590	32,052	7,234	39,286	3,168	1,208	4,376
	100%	26%	61%	14%	74%	72%	28%	100%

Table 2. Demographic characteristics of adults enrolled in MFIP or DWP cases, December 2018

		MFIP adults			DWP adults		
		Type of household			Type of household		
		One	Two	All adults	One	Two	All adults
Adults	Count	16,188	4,660	20,848	1,819	886	2,705
	Percent	78%	22%	100%	67%	33%	100%
Age	Mean	32	34	33	32	33	33
	Median	31	33	31	31	32	32
	Minimum	13	16	13	18	18	18
	Maximum	70	77	77	59	59	59
	< 18	112	19	131	0	0	0
		0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	18 - 19	508	111	619	24	13	37
		3.1%	2.4%	3.0%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%
	20 - 29	6,612	1,458	8,070	737	321	1,058
		40.8%	31.3%	38.7%	40.5%	36.2%	39.1%
	30 - 39	5,728	1,886	7,614	728	355	1,083
		35.4%	40.5%	36.5%	40.0%	40.1%	40.0%
	40 - 49	2,502	854	3,356	277	160	437
		15.5%	18.3%	16.1%	15.2%	18.1%	16.2%
	50 - 59	654	278	932	53	37	90
		4.0%	6.0%	4.5%	2.9%	4.2%	3.3%
	60 and over	72	54	126	0	0	0
		0.4%	1.2%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gender	Female	14,831	2,344	17,175	1,593	446	2,039
		91.6%	50.3%	82.4%	87.6%	50.3%	75.4%
	Male	1,357	2,316	3,673	226	440	666
		8.4%	49.7%	17.6%	12.4%	49.7%	24.6%
Education	None, < 1st, Unknown	803	658	1,461	57	99	156
		5.0%	14.1%	7.0%	3.1%	11.2%	5.8%
	Grade school	302	252	554	29	27	56
		1.9%	5.4%	2.7%	1.6%	3.0%	2.1%
	Some high school	3,591	989	4,580	282	150	432
		22.2%	21.2%	22.0%	15.5%	16.9%	16.0%
	High school graduate	8,839	2,195	11,034	1,076	460	1,536
		54.6%	47.1%	52.9%	59.2%	51.9%	56.8%
	Some post-secondary	2,262	423	2,685	305	114	419
		14.0%	9.1%	12.9%	16.8%	12.9%	15.5%
	College graduate	255	99	354	40	31	71
		1.6%	2.1%	1.7%	2.2%	3.5%	2.6%
	Graduate degree	136	44	180	30	5	35
		0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.6%	0.6%	1.3%
	High school grad or higher	11,492	2,761	14,253	1,451	610	2,061
		71.0%	59.2%	68.4%	79.8%	68.8%	76.2%

Table 2. Page 2

		MFIP adults			DWP adults		
		Type of household			Type of household		
		One	Two	All adults	One	Two	All adults
Adults	Count	16,188	4,660	20,848	1,819	886	2,705
	Percent	78%	22%	100%	67%	33%	100%
Marital Status	Divorced	1452	106	1,558	208	21	229
		9%	2%	7%	11%	2%	8%
	Legally separated	47	0	47	9	0	9
		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Married, living with spouse	622	2,713	3,335	17	559	576
		4%	58%	16%	1%	63%	21%
	Never married	11,596	1,733	13,329	1,216	291	1,507
		72%	37%	64%	67%	33%	56%
	Married, living apart	2,275	101	2,376	357	14	371
		14%	2%	11%	20%	2%	14%
	Widowed	196	7	203	12	1	13
		1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Race/Ethnicity	African American	5,927	1056	6,983	570	200	770
		37%	23%	33%	31%	23%	28%
	American Indian	1,080	253	1,333	63	29	92
		7%	5%	6%	3%	3%	3%
	Asian American	315	124	439	50	37	87
		2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%
	Hispanic	1058	252	1,310	133	69	202
		7%	5%	6%	7%	8%	7%
	Hmong Immigrant	60	26	86	1	3	4
		0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Multiple	588	100	688	61	15	76
		4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%
	Other African Immigrant	253	156	409	20	17	37
		2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%
	Other Asian Immigrant	147	157	304	7	44	51
		1%	3%	1%	0%	5%	2%
	Somali Immigrant	815	811	1,626	63	88	151
		5%	17%	8%	3%	10%	6%
	Unknown	59	50	109	13	16	29
		0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
	White	5,886	1,675	7,561	838	368	1,206
		36%	36%	36%	46%	42%	45%
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,470	1,379	2,849	107	181	288
		9%	30%	14%	6%	20%	11%
	U.S.	14,718	3,281	17,999	1,712	705	2417
		91%	70%	86%	94%	80%	89%
On assistance as a child in MN	Count	8,907	1,677	10,584	868	296	1,164
		55%	36%	51%	48%	33%	43%
	Family Assistance	7,905	1,475	9,380	751	243	994
		49%	32%	45%	41%	27%	37%
	Food Support	830	173	1,003	90	47	137
		5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
	Emergency Services	172	29	201	27	6	33
		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Table 3. Children receiving MFIP or DWP, December 2018

		MFIP cases				DWP cases		
		Child-only	Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	7,697	16,188	2,330	18,518	1,819	443	2,262
Number of children		13,590	32,052	7,234	39,286	3,168	1,208	4,376
Count of eligible children per family	Mean	1.8	2.0	3.1	2.1	1.7	2.7	1.9
	Median	1	2	3	2	2	2	2
	Minimum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maximum	10	11	11	11	9	9	9
Ages of children	Mean	10.0	6.8	6.6	6.8	7.7	6.0	7.2
	Median	10	6	6	6	7	5	7
	< 1 year old	370	3,251	761	4,012	58	156	214
		2.7%	10.1%	10.5%	10.2%	1.8%	12.9%	4.9%
	1-3 years old	1,437	7,490	1,724	9,214	684	313	997
		10.6%	23.4%	23.8%	23.5%	21.6%	25.9%	22.8%
	4-5 years old	1,144	4,295	976	5,271	482	156	638
		8.4%	13.4%	13.5%	13.4%	15.2%	12.9%	14.6%
	6-10 years old	3,872	8,449	1,987	10,436	1,000	339	1,339
		28.5%	26.4%	27.5%	26.6%	31.6%	28.1%	30.6%
	11-15 years old	4,617	6,328	1,354	7,682	732	189	921
		34.0%	19.7%	18.7%	19.6%	23.1%	15.6%	21.0%
	>15 years old	2,150	2,239	432	2,671	212	55	267
		15.8%	7.0%	6.0%	6.8%	6.7%	4.6%	6.1%
Race, ethnicity and immigrant status	African American	3,498	12,660	2,342	15,002	1022	374	1,396
		25.7%	39.5%	32.4%	38.2%	32.3%	31.0%	31.9%
	American Indian	1,285	1,683	270	1,953	93	28	121
		9.5%	5.3%	3.7%	5.0%	2.9%	2.3%	2.8%
	Asian American	841	868	250	1,118	99	60	159
		6.2%	2.7%	3.5%	2.8%	3.1%	5.0%	3.6%
	Hispanic	3,020	2,672	338	3,010	333	103	436
		22.2%	8.3%	4.7%	7.7%	10.5%	8.5%	10.0%
	Hmong immigrant	37	28	4	32	0	2	2
		0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
	Multiple	921	2,896	375	3,271	286	58	344
		6.8%	9.0%	5.2%	8.3%	9.0%	4.8%	7.9%
	Other African immigrant	63	347	255	602	25	29	54
		0.5%	1.1%	3.5%	1.5%	0.8%	2.4%	1.2%
	Other Asian immigrant	87	205	157	362	9	41	50
		0.6%	0.6%	2.2%	0.9%	0.3%	3.4%	1.1%
	Somali immigrant	284	1,802	1,401	3,203	88	86	174
		2.1%	5.6%	19.4%	8.2%	2.8%	7.1%	4.0%
	Unknown	244	1,041	185	1,226	111	44	155
		1.8%	3.2%	2.6%	3.1%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%
	White	3,310	7,850	1,657	9,507	1102	383	1,485
		24.4%	24.5%	22.9%	24.2%	34.8%	31.7%	33.9%
Ages of youngest child per family	Mean	9.0	4.6	3.0	4.4	5.9	2.8	5.3
	Median	9	3	1	3	5	1	4

Table 4. Economic characteristics of MFIP and DWP cases, December 2018

		MFIP Cases				DWP Cases		
		Child-Only	Number of enrolled adults			Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	7,697	16,188	2,330	18,518	1,819	443	2,262
Cash portion	Mean of all cases in column	\$319	\$342	\$299	\$337	\$318	\$463	\$346
MFIP food portion	Mean of all cases in column	\$266	\$379	\$546	\$400			
DWP SNAP grant	Mean of all cases in column					\$320	\$439	\$344
Income from work	Count of cases		5,738	1,576	7,314	812	314	1,126
	Percent of all cases		35.4%	67.6%	39.5%	44.6%	70.9%	49.8%
	Mean earnings of working cases		\$1,069	\$1,800	\$1,226	\$1,311	\$1,800	\$1,447
	Median		\$1,008	\$1,731	\$1,129	\$1,205	\$1,601	\$1,300
Work hours	Mean of working cases		85.4	142.4	97.7	96.7	130.6	106.2
	Median		84	140	94	92	134	100
Counted MFIP months	Mean		32	24	31	12	8	11
	Median		29	20	28	4	0	3
	0 counted months		396	23	419	812	248	1,060
			2%	1%	2%	45%	56%	47%
	1-12 months		3,818	771	4,589	370	95	465
			24%	33%	25%	20%	21%	21%
	13- 36 months		5,218	947	6,165	442	78	520
			32%	41%	33%	24%	18%	23%
	37-48 months		1,839	252	2,091	128	12	140
			11%	11%	11%	7%	3%	6%
	49-54 months		746	70	816	47	5	52
			5%	3%	4%	3%	1%	2%
	55 - 60 months		4,171	267	4,438	20	5	25
			26%	11%	24%	1%	1%	1%
Child Care Assistance Program	Cases with children less than age 6	2,270	10,478	1,857	12,335	923	357	1,280
	Cases with paid CCAP	83	3,181	528	3,709	256	45	301
	Percent	3.7%	30.4%	28.4%	30.1%	27.7%	12.6%	23.5%
	Cases with children less than age13	5,377	13,960	2,177	16,137	1,447	420	1,867
	Cases with paid CCAP	108	3,465	558	4,023	295	45	340
	Percent	2.0%	24.8%	25.6%	24.9%	20.4%	10.7%	18.2%
	Cases with children age 13-15	2,379	2,899	553	3,452	340	85	425
	Cases with paid CCAP	14	398	200	598	29	4	33
	Percent	0.6%	13.7%	36.2%	17.3%	8.5%	4.7%	7.8%

Table 5. MFIP policies and cases, December 2018

		MFIP cases			
		Child-only	Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	7,697	16,188	2,330	18,518
	Percent	29%	62%	9%	100%
Time limit exemptions	Count		955	70	1,025
	Percent of MFIP cases		6%	3%	6%
	Aged 18 - 19, attending high school		243	29	272
	Percent of exempted cases		25%	41%	27%
	Family violence waiver		540	10	550
	Percent of exempted cases		57%	14%	54%
	Caregiver on indian reservation		6	1	7
	Percent of exempted cases		1%	1%	1%
	Minor caregiver		104	10	114
	Percent of exempted cases		11%	14%	11%
	Caregiver 60 or older		62	20	82
	Percent of exempted cases		6%	29%	8%
Time limit extensions	Count		3,280	179	3,459
	Percent of MFIP cases		20%	8%	19%
Extension reason	Ill or incapacitated		1,001	58	1,059
	Percent of extension cases		31%	32%	31%
	Mental illness		1049	44	1093
	Percent of extension cases		32%	25%	32%
	Special medical criteria		410	23	433
	Percent of extension cases		13%	13%	13%
	Care of ill or incapacitated		338	20	358
	Percent of extension cases		10%	11%	10%
	Employment required hours		268	26	294
	Percent of extension cases		8%	15%	8%
	Family violence waiver		158	1	159
	Percent of extension cases		5%	1%	5%
	IQ between 70 and 80		34	5	39
	Percent of extension cases		1%	3%	1%
	Unemployable		18	2	20
	Percent of extension cases		1%	1%	1%
	Learning disability		2	0	2
	Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%
	Developmental disability		2	0	2
	Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%
	Appeal		0	0	0
	Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%
Extension months	Mean		46	34	46
	Median		34	21	33
	Maximum		198	178	198

Table 5. Page 2

		MFIP cases			
		Child-only	Number of enrolled adults		
			One	Two	Total
Cases	Count	7,697	16,188	2,330	18,518
		29%	62%	9%	100%
Family Stabilization Services	Count		6,801	969	7,770
	Percent of all cases		42%	42%	42%
Eligibility reason	Ill or incapacitated		2,058	333	2,391
	Percent of FSS cases		30%	34%	31%
	SSI or RSDI application		1140	175	1315
	Percent of FSS cases		17%	18%	17%
	Mental illness		1282	92	1374
	Percent of FSS cases		19%	9%	18%
	Special medical criteria		765	73	838
	Percent of FSS cases		11%	8%	11%
	New immigrant		88	99	187
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	10%	2%
	Care of ill or incapacitated		629	98	727
	Percent of FSS cases		9%	10%	9%
	Family violence waiver		582	9	591
	Percent of FSS cases		9%	1%	8%
	Unemployable		78	35	113
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	4%	1%
	Universal participation		82	22	104
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	2%	1%
	IQ < 80		45	5	50
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	1%	1%
	Age 60 or older		40	28	68
	Percent of FSS cases		1%	3%	1%
	Learning disability		10	0	10
	Percent of FSS cases		0%	0%	0%
	Developmental disability		1	0	1
	Percent of FSS cases		0%	0%	0%
	Pregnant or incapacitated		1	0	1
	Percent of FSS cases		0%	0%	0%
Countable Sanctions	10% countable sanctions	1	170	29	199
	30% countable sanction	43	590	69	659
	All countable sanctions	44	760	98	858
	Percent of MFIP cases	1%	5%	4%	5%
	Six counted sanction months	10	124	14	138
	Percent of MFIP cases	0%	1%	1%	1%
Recipients of subsidized housing	Count		4696	613	5309
	Percent		29%	26%	29%

Data definitions and policy information

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

Table 1

MFIP and DWP rules determine whom in a household is a member of an 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 enrolled 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 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 were missing for 10 recipients and dropped from this report.

Table 3

Table 3 provides case- and person-level statistics for enrolled 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 2018 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 a 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 2018. 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; amounts used were 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 these adults and children was not included.

Work hours reported for enrolled 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 these adults and children were not included.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Reported CCAP means that a child care assistance payment was made for December 2018. 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 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%, 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 grant amounts. 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](#)