

Public Assistance Recipient Examples

MFIP: Caregiver with one child
 \$417 earned income
 \$263 MFIP cash
 \$327 SNAP
 Pays \$300 rent plus utilities

MFIP: Caregiver with one child
 No income
 \$437 MFIP cash
 \$327 SNAP
 Pays \$0 for rent as living in subsidized housing

Note: All MFIP participants are required to work with Employment Services in job search activities and/or training.

Single disabled adult
 \$698 SSI
 \$111 MSA
 \$ 16 SNAP
 Pays \$250 rent plus utilities

Single adult medically unable to work but not certified disabled
 \$203 GA
 \$183 SNAP

Single adult over age 65
 \$1156 Social Security
 \$ 225 rent
 \$ 16 SNAP

Married couple over age 65
 \$1065 Social Security & SSI
 \$ 326 rent
 \$ 211 MSA
 \$ 91 SNAP

MFIP: Minnesota Family Investment Program (cash program)
 SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food assistance)
 SSI: Supplemental Security Income - cash program administered by Social Security
 MSA: Minnesota Supplemental Aid (cash program)
 GA: General Assistance (cash program)

NOTE: MFIP grant amounts have not changed since 7/1/1987

What is MFIP?

- MFIP is a **WORK**-focused program that provides cash and food benefits for families.
- MFIP supports and rewards employment.
- Parents must **WORK** hard to improve their family's well being.
- MFIP is a temporary assistance program that has a 5-year or 60-month lifetime limit.
- 98% families in Aitkin County utilize the resources MFIP provides them and get off of welfare before 60 months.

After 60 months, some people may qualify for an extension if they are:

- Working 30 hours per week.
- Defined as hard to employ, ill or incapacitated.
- A victim of domestic violence.

MFIP supports work activities by providing:

- Child Care Assistance
- Health Care Coverage
- Employment Services
- Support Services
- Mileage reimbursement, car repairs, work clothing, and interview clothing if you are following your employment plan and funding is available. (Job Search and Employment Activities only)

What are the requirements?

- Participants sign a contract that states that they will participate in MFIP approved activities for **35 hours** a week. This is state law: it is not optional.
- This contract is an agreement with the state of Minnesota. It will be enforced.

What activities are allowed under the MFIP Program?

- Paid Employment.
- Job Search.
- Employment Services Workshops.
- Volunteer Work.
- Vocational, Trade and Post-Secondary Training and Education.
- GED, Adult Basic Education, and English as Second Language.
- Chemical Dependency Treatment, Mental Health Services, Parenting Education.
- Activities related to a family violence waiver or pre-employment activities.

Families must provide proof of their job search and work activities:

- With their weekly activity logs participants must provide written proof of their job search activity.
- Each week participants must attach at least one form of written proof of their job search activity to their verification log.
- Acceptable forms of written proof include:
 - A photocopy of a completed application.
 - Employer business card from an employer they contacted.
 - Employer letter related to a job for which they applied.
 - A printout of a confirmation from an online application.

Case Sanctions:

- If a participant does not follow their employment plan or turn in activity logs as required the case is sanctioned.
- Participants receive a written warning prior to their case being sanctioned outlining what needs to be done in order to maintain compliance.
- Sanctioned means that the family will receive less cash, less food support, no child care assistance, and no support services.
- The 1st time a sanction goes into effect the benefits received will be reduced by 10%. Two parent families it's an automatic 30% sanction.
- Any additional months that a case is in sanction the money received will be reduced by 30%.
- At the start of a 30% sanction rent will be vendor paid and will continue to be vendor paid for 6 months after the participant is in compliance and have cured their sanction.
- After 6 months in sanction, the MFIP case will close and the participant's family will not receive any cash benefits.