

INCOME MAINTENANCE CASELOAD HISTORY

2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAXIS	1831	1826	1847	1836	1852	1863	1836	1836	1827			
MNCare	369	377	372	377	373	375	373	373	356			
Day Care	56	54	52	49	53	57	64	60	53			
Totals	2256	2257	2271	2262	2278	2295	2273	2269	2236			
Applications-MAXIS	84	59	80	81	76	49	67	78	70			
2012	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAXIS	1813	1819	1820	1832	1848	1848	1842	1828	1813	1805	1804	1817
MNCare	341	346	368	345	309	332	351	352	346	363	367	369
Day Care	72	70	73	72	72	62	63	65	64	67	61	58
Totals	2226	2235	2261	2249	2229	2242	2256	2245	2223	2235	2232	2244
Applications-MAXIS	91	62	77	71	94	77	63	85	69	86	60	86
2011	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAXIS	1727	1748	1784	1827	1848	1847	1837	1843	1802	1823	1822	1827
MNCare	521	532	442	381	354	354	336	346	350	343	347	347
Day Care	72	71	71	80	72	80	87	82	84	81	80	74
Totals	2320	2351	2297	2288	2274	2281	2260	2271	2236	2247	2249	2248
Applications-MAXIS	84	79	115	100	84	92	73	100	62	96	84	65
2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAXIS	1686	1675	1705	1694	1686	1668	1676	1664	1665	1671	1695	1703
MNCare	408	417	419	442	439	439	451	477	490	502	522	513
Day Care	77	74	68	67	67	67	67	63	62	62	67	72
Totals	2171	2166	2192	2203	2192	2174	2194	2204	2217	2235	2284	2288
Applications-MAXIS	76	52	75	90	68	64	73	82	68	88	85	73
2009	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAXIS	1556	1578	1611	1628	1627	1620	1636	1629	1638	1644	1658	1687
MNCare	308	318	322	343	349	356	374	398	400	403	402	399
Day Care	80	81	82	85	83	83	80	84	82	80	81	78
Totals	1944	1977	2015	2056	2059	2059	2090	2111	2120	2127	2141	2164
Applications-MAXIS	93	93	98	91	66	78	89	72	81	84	67	91

MAXIS Cases: Number of unduplicated cases open for all programs except MNCare & Child Care can be open on multiple programs per case.

MNCare: Number of cases open on MNCare that Aitkin County manages. Residents do have the option of having their MNCare cases managed at the State Level.

Day Care: Number of day care cases open.

Total: Total cases open.

Applications – MAXIS: New applications taken during month for MAXIS programs only. Does not include MN Care or Day Care.

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.

AITKIN WORKFORCE CENTER

WORKSHOP & ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

MFIP & DWP Orientation:

This orientation is required for all participants of the Diversionary Work Program (DWP) and Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). Participants will learn their rights and responsibilities and meet with an employment counselor to develop a personalized employment plan.

ABAWD Orientation: *This orientation is required for participants currently receiving SNAP benefits who meet the eligibility criteria. Participants will learn their rights and responsibilities and meet with an employment counselor to develop a personalized employment plan.*

Job Club:

This workshop is an opportunity for job seekers to network with other individuals and employers from the area. Workshops feature guest speakers, mock interviews, and discuss topics related to job retention.

Creative Job Search:

This workshop features presentations and activities that teach job searching techniques, resume development, and tips to help you find a job.

New Leaf:

This workshop is focused on overcoming barriers caused by having a criminal record. You will learn job search strategies tailored to individuals with criminal backgrounds.

GED/ABE:

Adult Basic Education (ABE) is for individuals who are interested in obtaining their General Efficiency Diploma (GED). One-on-one tutoring is available to prepare students for the GED test.

Lives in Transition:

Have you lost your spouse or significant other due to divorce, separation or death? Lives in Transition (LIT) is a support group for people going through major life changes.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

If you have a disability that makes it hard for you to get and keep a job, you may be eligible for a variety of counseling, training, job skills and job placement services.

Appointments must be made prior to meeting with a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist by calling 218-879-0738.

Veteran's Outreach

Veteran's Service Specialists provide counseling and special employment services to help Minnesota veterans return to work or plan careers. Appointments must be made prior to meeting with a Veteran's Service Specialist by calling 218-825-6776.

Aitkin Workforce Center

321 Minnesota Avenue North · Aitkin, MN 56431
 NE MN Office of Job Training (Kari) 218-735-6121
 AEOA (Aileen & David) 218-927-7046
 AEOA ABE/GED (David) 218-927-5635

October 2013

The Aitkin Workforce Center Resource Room will be closed THURSDAYS in August.
 Counselors will meet with individuals by APPOINTMENT ONLY on Thursdays. Please call to schedule an appointment.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 <i>JOB CLUB: 9 AM</i> <i>Working with Difficult People</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i> <i>CJS 10 AM</i>	2 <i>ABE/GED 8:30-4:00 PM</i> <i>Lives in Transition: 2 PM</i>	3	4 <i>Veterans Outreach **</i> <i>Vocational Rehab**</i> <i>Lakes & Pines SNAP & MN</i> <i>CARE OUTREACH</i>
7 <i>MFIP Orientation: 9 AM</i> <i>DWP Orientation: 1 PM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	8 <i>JOB CLUB: 9 AM</i> <i>Topic: MLEC</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	9 <i>ABAWD Orientation 9 AM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i> <i>Student Orientation 1:00 PM</i>	10	11 <i>Veterans Outreach **</i>
14 <i>MFIP Orientation: 9 AM</i> <i>DWP Orientation: 1 PM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	15 <i>JOB CLUB: 9 AM</i> <i>Topic: Fraud</i> <i>CJS 10 AM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	16 <i>ABAWD Orientation 9 AM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i> <i>Skills Appraisals 1:00 PM</i> <i>Lives in Transition: 2 PM</i>	17	18 <i>Veterans Outreach **</i>
21 <i>MFIP Orientation: 9 AM</i> <i>DWP Orientation: 1 PM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	22 <i>JOB CLUB: 9 AM</i> <i>Topic: Oakridge</i> <i>10AM New Leaf</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	23 <i>ABAWD Orientation 9 AM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	24 <i>Financial Fitness:</i> <i>Presented by Lakes & Pines</i> <i>12:30-3:30 PM</i> <i>Vocational Rehab**</i>	25 <i>Veterans Outreach **</i>
28 <i>MFIP Orientation: 9 AM</i> <i>DWP Orientation: 1 PM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	29 <i>JOB CLUB: 9 AM</i> <i>Topic: ERC</i> <i>10AM CJS</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i>	30 <i>ABAWD Orientation 9 AM</i> <i>ABE/GED 1:00-4:00 PM</i> <i>Lives in Transition: 2 PM</i>		

Hours: Monday — Friday ♦ 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

****Times may vary — Please call to make an appointment with a representative.**

If you are interested in attending JOB CLUB, NEW LEAF, CREATIVE JOB SEARCH, please contact the Workforce Center to reserve a seat.

10/15/2013 TUE 14:46 FAX 1 218 927 5624 AITKIN, W. F. C. --- Health & Human Services

'FPI' recovers taxpayer money

Posted: Friday, August 23, 2013 12:00 am

The caseload keeps growing and welfare fraud is being vigorously investigated in Aitkin County, recovering thousands of dollars for taxpayers.

Working under a state and federal grant the last three years, a retired police officer, a Pine County employee, performs investigations under the Fraud Prevention Investigation, or FPI, program. The grant pays for services for more than 5,000 square miles in Pine, Kanabec, Carlton and Aitkin counties. There is no cost to Aitkin County.

For security reasons, the investigator will remain unnamed in this story.

The investigator is looking for fraud by those who receive a form of public assistance – food, cash benefits or child care subsidies. He travels to each of the four counties weekly.

"I get involved when inconsistencies appear in the computer system," he said.

Before this man was hired to investigate fraud, it was performed by local law enforcement, "who did great with what they had," he said.

To begin an investigation, a 21-point worksheet of information is created – address verification, work information, computer searches, contacting schools and landlords, just to name a few.

"I recognize that people need help," he said. "We just want people to be truthful in their applications. Then I will work with them."

The investigator has two choices in working with the people he has contact with – to handle the matter in-house or take it to law enforcement for possible criminal charges.

Some of the public assistance violations include unreported household members, unreported income and job search fraud.

Besides the 21-point worksheet, the investigator, who owns a game camera and multiple vehicles, performs surveillance. He's been known to follow individuals when necessary.

The vast majority of cases are processed in-house, he said. If offenders admit the fraud and waive their right to a hearing before a judge, their benefits are removed for a period of time, generally for one year.

"We don't take away health care or anything from children," the investigator said.

Since the investigator began three years ago, at least \$200,000 has been saved in the four counties. Since that is based on a monthly estimate and some people lose their benefits longer than one month, the actual figure is higher.

"Some think that people come to Aitkin County to get benefits because it's a soft touch," said the investigator. "It's no different than any other county. The same rules and regulations are followed."

30: Active cases every week in Aitkin, Carlton, Kanabec and Pine counties.

50%: Of those 30 active cases, half of the violations are related to household makeup.

97: Cases investigated in Aitkin County since 2010. Of those, 55 cases saw no change, seven were written up with a total savings for one year of more than \$17,000, two were referred for criminal charges and 35 saw reduced benefits.

\$200,000: Taxpayer money saved in one month on each case.