



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

December 2016

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Abbreviations used in this report

AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
DHS	Minnesota Department of Human Services (department)
DWP	Diversionary Work Program
ES	Employment Services
FSS	Family Stabilization Services
GED	General Educational Development Equivalency Certificate
MFIP	Minnesota Family Investment Program
PRWORA	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
RSDI	Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
WPR	Work Participation Rate

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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 economically 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 separately for SNAP.

Families applying for assistance are enrolled in DWP up to its four-month maximum, unless they have been enrolled in MFIP within the past 12 months, or are considered unlikely to benefit from DWP's intensive work supports. DWP enrolled its first participants in July 2004. Both programs are available only to families with minor children or pregnant women.

Cases and people. In December 2016, 24,036 adults and 62,064 children received cash assistance through MFIP in 30,143 cases. For DWP, the numbers are 3,159 adults and 5,437 children on 2,589 cases.

Participant demographics. Families participating in MFIP or DWP have an average adult age of 33 for both MFIP enrolled adult and DWP cases.

Fifty-nine percent of MFIP enrolled adult cases and 50 percent of DWP cases have a child under age 6. The majority of enrolled adults are female (81 percent of MFIP adults and 74 percent of DWP adults); about 26 percent of all MFIP cases with enrolled adults have two caregivers present.

The majority of MFIP and DWP adults have at least a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate (65 percent and 78 percent, respectively); have never been married (61 percent and 55 percent); and are U.S. citizens (82 percent and 90 percent).

Over half (59 percent) of MFIP adults were on public assistance when they were children. The most common public assistance was food support (57 percent), followed by family cash assistance (47 percent).

Grant amounts. The average cash grant in December 2016 for MFIP child only cases was \$400; for MFIP enrolled adult cases \$382, and for DWP cases \$437. The average food portion grant for MFIP enrolled adult cases was \$509.

Employment. Many MFIP and DWP participants are working (44 percent and 49%, respectively). The median monthly income for working MFIP parents was \$1,289 whereas DWP participants earned slightly more at \$1,390 a month. Employed parents on MFIP worked an average of 125 hours a month whereas DWP participants worked slightly less, at 115 hours a month.

Time counted toward the lifetime limit. In December 2016, MFIP cases averaged 32 counted months and DWP cases average 21 counted months. Approximately 17 percent of MFIP cases had received time limit extensions for documented hardships. The average of case extended families was 43 months.

Introduction

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 [PL 104-193] set federal program requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), such as a five-year limit on cash assistance, a work-first emphasis, work participation requirements and other rules. Within this broad framework, states have flexibility to design TANF programs to meet their needs. Minnesota's TANF program, the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) began in 1998 and uses the TANF federal block grant and state funds to meet the needs of low-income families for cash, food and services. State grant funds are used for cases with two enrolled adults, participants in Family Stabilization Services (FSS), teen parents and certain non-citizens.

In 2005, the Deficit Reduction Act [PL 109-171] extended funding for TANF. It retained the original program requirements and narrowed the definition of work activities, broadened the definition of which participants are required to participate in work activities to include some MFIP-ineligible caregivers, and increased work activity documentation requirements.

Family Stabilization Services is an MFIP service track for families facing barriers to employment or certain disabilities who may benefit from a more flexible employment plan. Because Minnesota funds FSS cases, they are not included in the federal Work Participation Rate (WPR). All active MFIP cases, including FSS cases, 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 vendor-paid for rent and utilities.

Report format

This report provides a snapshot of all active paid cases in MFIP and DWP in December of the report year. The characteristics reports date back to the beginning of MFIP in 1998. Data are provided on the demographics of enrolled adults¹; family composition, residence, and challenges; economic status of cases; and MFIP policy impacts. 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, cases with one enrolled adult and cases with two enrolled adults. The DWP population, which does not include child only cases, is divided into cases with one or two enrolled adults. Tribal TANF programs administered through the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and Red Lake Nation do not have their participants included in this report

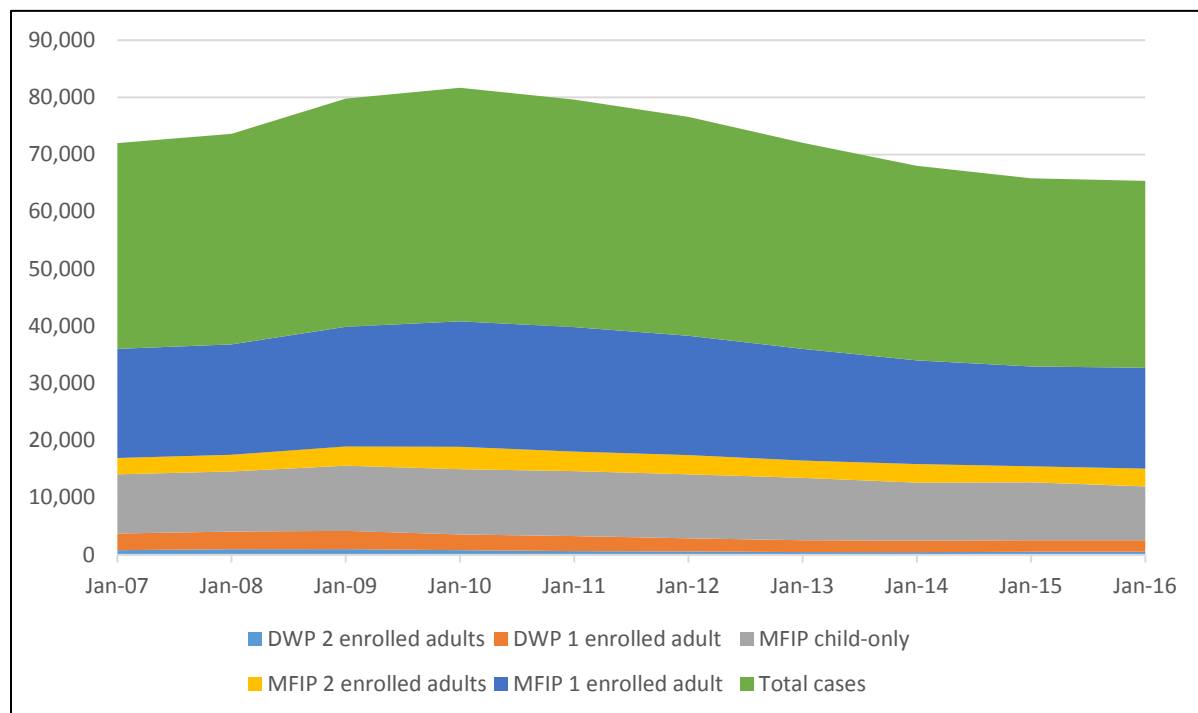
¹ "Adult" here is a caregiver in the case, usually a biological, adoptive or step-parent – including minor teen parents and second parents if in the household – or a relative responsible for the children on the case or a pregnant woman with no other children in the household.

Quick facts: Characteristics of MFIP and DWP Participants, December 2016

Caseload sizes and trends

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP) provided benefits for 32,712 families in December 2016. Corresponding with the great recession, the number of families served reached a high point in December 2010, declined between December 2011 and December 2015, and appears to have stabilized in December 2016.

Figure 1: MFIP and DWP caseloads, December 2007 to December 2016

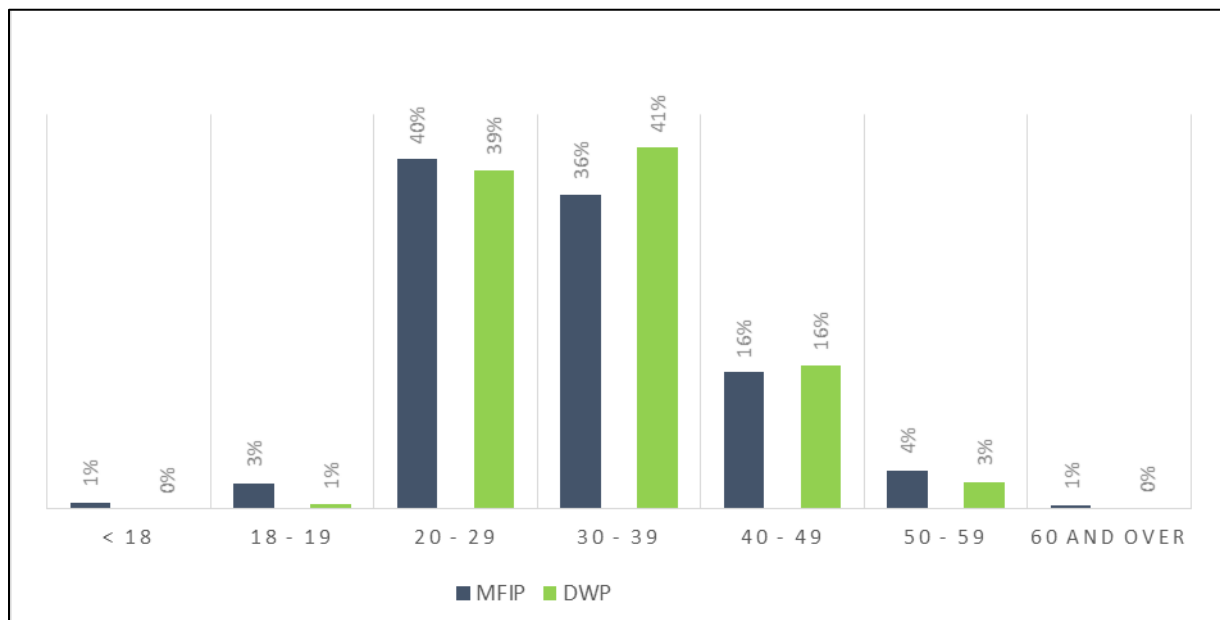


Case Type and Composition	Dec-07	Dec-08	Dec-09	Dec-10	Dec-11	Dec-12	Dec-13	Dec-14	Dec-15	Dec-16
DWP 2 enrolled adults	839	970	1,006	833	638	606	517	463	528	567
DWP 1 enrolled adult	2,894	3,085	3,203	2,718	2,645	2,284	2,047	2,037	2,047	2,002
MFIP child-only	10,353	10,533	11,392	11,409	11,350	11,195	10,902	10,116	10,089	9,419
MFIP 2 enrolled adults	2,862	2,937	3,381	3,915	3,432	3,336	3,009	3,247	2,820	3,098
MFIP 1 enrolled adult	19,048	19,285	20,916	21,966	21,745	20,877	19,566	18,144	17,440	17,626
Total cases	35,996	36,810	39,898	40,841	39,810	38,298	36,041	34,007	32,924	32,712

Quick facts: Demographics of parents receiving MFIP and DWP, December 2016

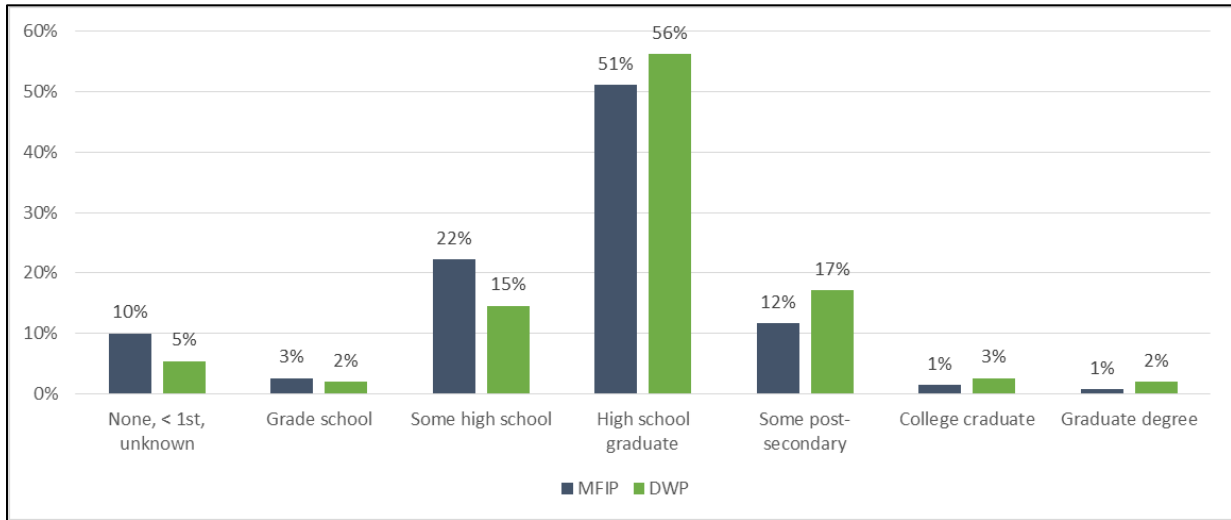
- Number of families served.** In December 2016, 30,143 families received benefits through the MFIP program, and 2,589 families received benefits through DWP. MFIP paid cases included 24,036 enrolled adults and 62,064 children, DWP cases included 3,159 adults and 5,437 children.
- Average age.** The average age for adults in both programs was 33, but ranged from 13-85. The majority of participants were between the ages of 20 and 40. Figure 2 shows the ages of MFIP and DWP enrolled caregivers.

Figure 2: Ages of MFIP and DWP enrolled caregivers



- Gender of MFIP/DWP participants.** The majority of caregivers in each program were female, 81 percent in MFIP and 74 percent in DWP. In single adult families, 12 percent of DWP caregivers were male, as were 9 percent of MFIP caregivers.
- Citizenship status.** Most MFIP and DWP participants were US citizens – 82 percent and 90 percent, respectively
- Marital status.** The majority of participants in both programs have never been married, 61 percent of MFIP adults and 55 percent of DWP adults. Nineteen percent of MFIP participants and 22 percent of DWP recipients were married and living with their spouse.
- Education level.** The majority of program participants have completed at least a high school diploma – 65 percent of MFIP participants and 78 percent in DWP. Figure 3 shows the education levels of adults enrolled in MFIP or DWP.

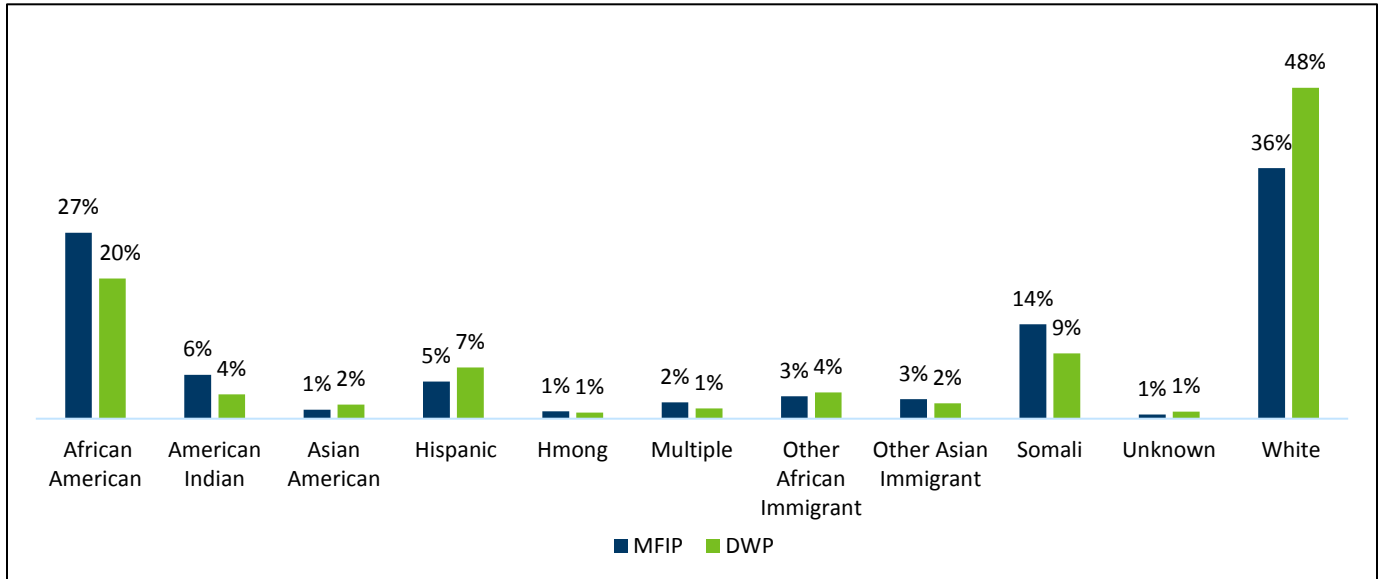
Figure 3: Educational attainment of MFIP and DWP adults



- Indicators of generational poverty.** Over half (59 percent) of MFIP adults were on public assistance when they were children. The most common public assistance program was food assistance (57 percent), followed by family cash assistance (47 percent).
- Race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults.** The greatest percentage of adults enrolled on MFIP or DWP in December 2016 were White (36 percent of MFIP adults and 48 percent of DWP adults) as compared to 82.1² percent of the population in Minnesota. The second largest group of enrolled adults were African American (27 percent in MFIP, and 20 percent in DWP) as compared to 4 percent of state residents. Figure 4 shows the race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults.

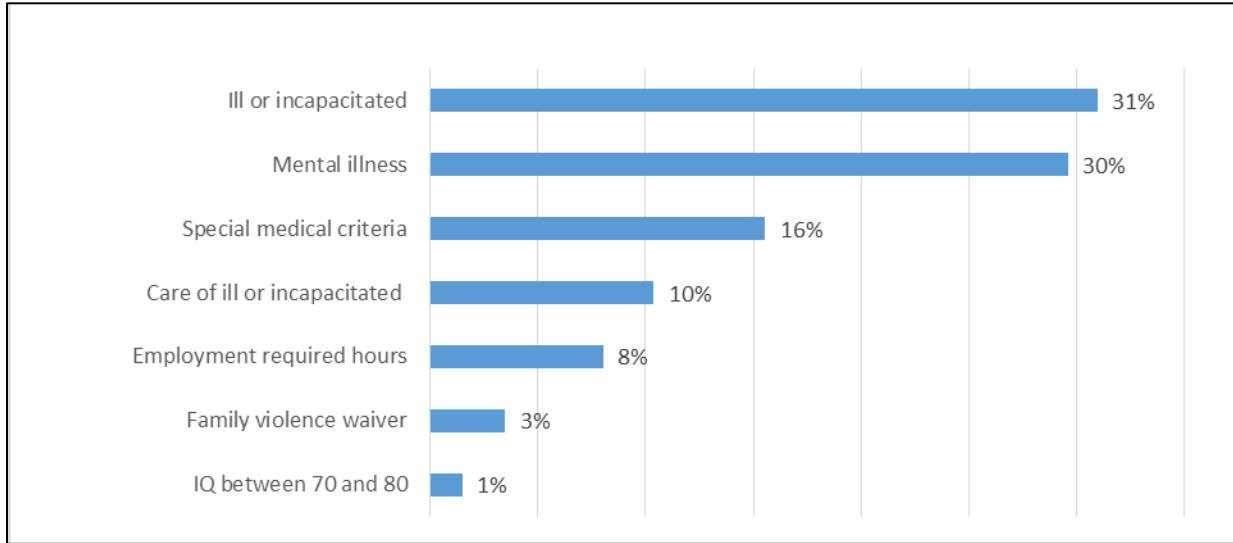
² Minnesota State Demographic Center, available at https://mn.gov/admin/assets/the-economic-status-of-minnesotans-chartbook-msdc-jan2016-post_tcm36-219454.pdf

Figure 4: Race/ethnicity of MFIP and DWP adults



- Employment status of enrolled adults.** Many MFIP and DWP participants are working (44% and 49%, respectively). The median monthly income for working MFIP parents was \$1,355 whereas DWP participants earned slightly more at \$1,495 a month. Working parents in MFIP worked an average of 125 hours a month whereas DWP participants worked slightly less, at 115 hours a month.
- Average cash grant.** The average cash grant in December 2016 for MFIP child only cases was \$400; for MFIP enrolled adult cases \$382, and for DWP cases \$437. The average food portion grant for MFIP enrolled adult cases was \$509.
- Time counted toward the lifetime limit.** In December 2016, MFIP cases averaged 32 counted months and DWP cases averaged 21 counted months. Approximately 17 percent of MFIP cases had received time limit extensions for documented hardships. The average extension case has been extended for 43 months. Figure 5 shows the most common reasons for extensions of MFIP cases.

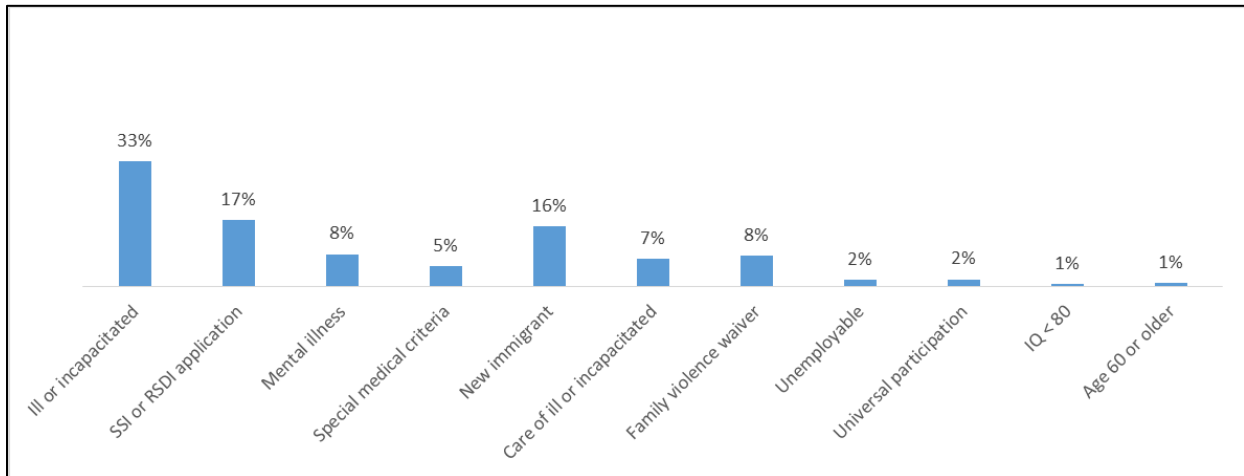
Figure 5: Most common reasons for extensions of MFIP cases



Family Stabilization Services

- Family Stabilization Services (FSS) is an MFIP service track for families facing barriers to employment or certain disabilities who may benefit from a more flexible employment plan. The most common reasons for FSS enrollment are presented in figure 6. Approximately 25 percent of MFIP families have at least one caregiver enrolled in FSS, whereas approximately 40 percent of two-parent cases have at least one adult enrolled in FSS.

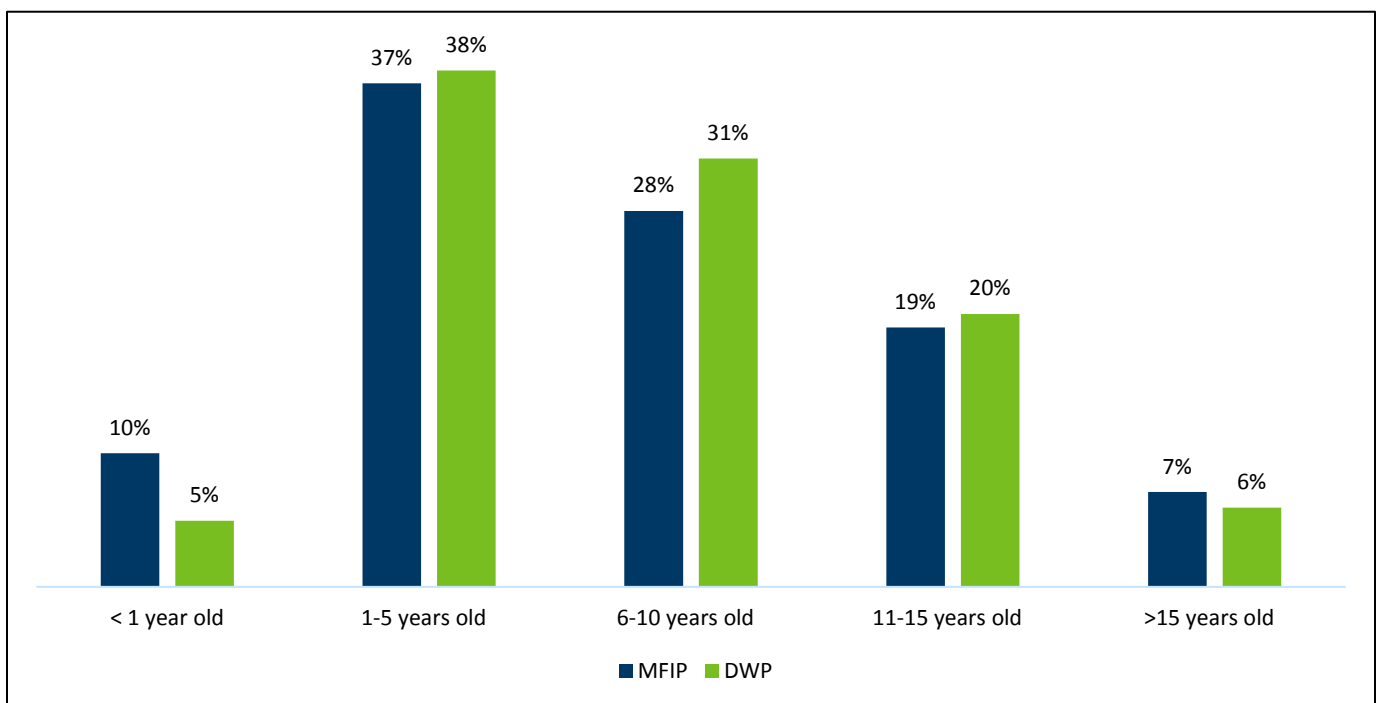
Figure 6: Most common reasons for FSS enrollment



Quick facts: Children receiving MFIP or DWP

- Families enrolled in MFIP and DWP had an average of 2.2 children, ranging from zero - 12. (Pregnant women are also eligible for family cash programs.)
- The average age of a child enrolled in MFIP is 7.5, the average in DWP is 6.6.
- Families enrolled in DWP have slightly younger children than those enrolled in MFIP, the average age of a DWP-participant's youngest child is 5.1, compared to the average age in MFIP, which is 5.7. Children in child only MFIP cases tend to be older, with an average age of 9.7, and an average youngest child age of 8.7.

Figure 7: Ages of children enrolled in MFIP or DWP



Data Tables

Table 1: MFIP and DWP caseload counts, December 2016

Counts	MFIP Cases					DWP Cases		
	Total MFIP	Child Only	Number of enrolled adults in case			Number of enrolled adults in case		
			One	Two	Total	One	Two	Total
Paid cases	30,143	9,419	17,626	3,098	20,724	2,022	567	2,589
	100%	31%	58%	10%	69%	78%	22%	100%
Enrolled adults	24,036	209	17,632	6,195	23,827	2,025	1,134	3,159
	100%	0.9%	73%	26%	99%	64%	36%	100%
Enrolled children	62,064	16,985	35,512	9,567	45,079	3,894	1,543	5,437
	100%	27.4%	57%	15%	73%	72%	28%	100%

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of adults enrolled in MFIP and DWP paid cases, December 2016

		MFIP Adults			DWP Adults		
		Types of people			Types of people		
		One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults	One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults
Adults	Count	17,632	6,195	23,827	2,025	1,134	3,159
	Percent	74%	26%	100%	64%	36%	100%
Age	Mean	32	36	33	33	33	33
	Median	31	33	32	32	32	32
	Minimum	13	15	13	18	18	18
	Maximum	71	85	85	58	62	62
	< 18	159	19	178	0	0	0
		0.9%	0.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	18 - 19	568	134	702	11	7	18
		3.2%	2.2%	2.9%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
	20 - 29	7,489	2,019	9,508	789	431	1,220
		42.5%	32.6%	39.9%	39.0%	38.0%	38.6%
	30 - 39	6,148	2,404	8,552	809	494	1,303
		34.9%	38.8%	35.9%	40.0%	43.6%	41.2%
	40 - 49	2,550	1,166	3,716	353	166	519
		14.5%	18.8%	15.6%	17.4%	14.6%	16.4%
50 - 59	663	387	1,050	63	35	98	
	3.8%	6.2%	4.4%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	
60 and over	55	66	121	0	1	1	
	0.3%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	
Gender	Female	16,130	3,106	19,236	1,755	570	2,325
		91.5%	50.1%	80.7%	86.7%	50.3%	73.6%
	Male	1,502	3,089	4,591	270	564	834
		8.5%	49.9%	19.3%	13.3%	49.7%	26.4%
Education	None, < 1st, unknown	1,104	1,284	2,388	76	96	172
		6.3%	20.7%	10.0%	3.8%	8.5%	5.4%
	Grade school	316	308	624	20	42	62
		1.8%	5.0%	2.6%	1.0%	3.7%	2.0%
	Some high school	4,078	1,224	5,302	291	170	461
		23.1%	19.8%	22.3%	14.4%	15.0%	14.6%
	High school graduate	9,574	2,617	12,191	1,168	606	1,774
		54.3%	42.2%	51.2%	57.7%	53.4%	56.2%
	Some post-secondary	2,220	572	2,792	378	164	542
		12.6%	9.2%	11.7%	18.7%	14.5%	17.2%
	College graduate	217	128	345	55	28	83
		1.2%	2.1%	1.4%	2.7%	2.5%	2.6%
	Graduate degree	123	62	185	37	28	65
		0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	1.8%	2.5%	2.1%
High school grad or higher	12,135	3,380	15,514	1,639	826	2,465	
	68.8%	54.6%	65%	81%	73%	78%	

Table 2: page 2

		MFIP Adults			DWP Adults		
		Types of people			Types of people		
		One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults	One adult in case	Two adults in case	All adults
Adults	Count	17,632	6,195	23,827	2,025	1,134	3,159
	Percent	74%	26%	100%	64%	36%	100%
Marital status	Divorced	1426	128	1,554	230	22	252
		8%	2%	7%	11%	2%	8%
	Legally separated	40	2	42	8	0	8
		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Married, living with spouse	754	3,882	4,636	34	658	692
		4%	63%	19%	2%	58%	22%
	Never married	12,541	2,055	14,596	1,298	426	1,724
		71%	33%	61%	64%	38%	55%
	Married, living apart	2645	126	2,771	438	28	466
		15%	2%	12%	0	2%	15%
Widowed	226	2	228	17	0	17	
	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	
Race/ethnicity	African American	5642	772	6,414	503	138	641
		32%	12%	27%	25%	12%	20%
	American Indian	1167	342	1509	77	34	111
		7%	6%	6%	4%	3%	4%
	Asian American	219	92	311	18	46	64
		1%	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%
	Hispanic	1054	228	1,282	154	80	234
		6%	4%	5%	8%	7%	7%
	Hmong	175	74	249	14	14	28
		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Multiple	480	88	568	33	14	47
		3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%
	Other African immigrant	472	306	778	86	34	120
		3%	5%	3%	4%	3%	4%
	Other Asian immigrant	230	444	674	27	44	71
		1%	7%	3%	1%	4%	2%
	Somali	1631	1630	3,261	110	188	298
		9%	26%	14%	5%	17%	9%
	Unknown	85	54	139	18	14	32
		0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
White	6,477	2,165	8,642	985	528	1,513	
	37%	35%	36%	49%	47%	48%	
Citizenship	Non-U.S.	1,856	2,332	4,188	153	160	313
		1,856	2,332	4,188	153	160	313
	Unknown	11%	38%	18%	8%	14%	10%
		1	0	1	0	0	0
	U.S.	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		15,775	3,863	19,638	1,872	974	2,846
	89%	62%	82%	92%	86%	90%	
On assistance as a child in Minn.	Count	11,792	2,349	14,141	1,156	491	1,647
		67%	38%	59%	57%	43%	52%
	Family assistance	9,402	1,762	11,164	829	356	1,185
		53%	28%	47%	41%	31%	38%
	Emergency services	7,629	1,346	8,975	618	248	866
		43%	22%	38%	31%	22%	27%
	Food support	11,332	2,283	13,615	1,103	470	1,573
		64%	37%	57%	54%	41%	50%

Table 3: Family composition, MFIP and DWP paid cases, December 2016

			MFIP Cases				DWP Cases		
			Child only	Types of cases			Types of cases		
				One adult in case	Two adults in case	Total	One adult in case	Two adults in case	Total
Cases	Count		9419	17,626	3,098	20,724	2022	567	2,589
Number of children			16,985	35,512	9,567	45,079	3,894	1,543	5,437
Count of enrolled children per family	Mean		1.9	2.1	3.2	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.2
	Median		2	2	3	2	2	2	2
	Minimum		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Maximum		12	11	12	12	9	10	10
Ages of children on MFIP	Mean		9.7	6.8	6.4	7.5	7.5	5.7	6.6
	Median		10	6	6	7	7	5	6
	Minimum		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maximum		18	18	18	18	18	18	18
	< 1 year old		423	3,491	922	4,413	53	211	264
		2%	10%	10%	10%	1%	14%	5%	
	1-5 years old		3,414	13,171	3,469	16,640	1,447	610	2,057
		20%	37%	36%	37%	37%	40%	38%	
	6-10 years old		5,170	9,669	2,751	12,420	1,288	419	1,707
		30%	27%	29%	28%	33%	27%	31%	
	11-12 years old		2,168	3,033	829	3,862	412	112	524
		12.8%	9%	9%	9%	11%	7%	10%	
	13-15 years old		3,178	3,640	974	4,614	443	126	569
		18.7%	10%	10%	10%	11%	8%	10%	
>15 years old		2,632	2,508	622	3,130	251	65	316	
	15.5%	7%	7%	7%	6%	4%	6%		
Ages of youngest child on MFIP	Mean		8.7	3.5	4.2	5.7	5.8	2.7	5.1
	Median		9	3	1	4	5	1	4

Table 4: Economic characteristics of MFIP and DWP paid cases, December 2016

		MFIP Cases				DWP Cases		
		Child only	Types of cases			Types of cases		
			One adult in case	Two adults in case	Total	One adult in case	Two adults in case	Total
Cases	Count	9,419	17,626	3,098	20,724	2022	567	2,589
Cash grant	Mean of all cases in column	\$400	\$388	\$353	\$382	\$394	\$484	\$437
MFIP food portion	Mean of all cases in column	\$364	\$495	\$679	\$509			
DWP SNAP food grant	Mean of all cases in column					\$458	\$608	\$529
Income from work	Count of cases	1,588	7,064	2,100	9,164	915	343	1,258
	Percent of all cases	17%	40%	68%	44%	45%	60%	49%
	Mean of working cases	\$1,230	\$1,388	\$2,084	\$1,567	\$1,432	\$1,917	\$1,675
	Median	\$954	\$1,225	\$1,887	\$1,355	\$1,233	\$1,757	\$1,495
Work hours	Mean of working cases	104.0	115.0	171.0	125.0	110.0	141.0	115.0
	Median	90	107	160	112	104	140	122
Counted MFIP months	Mean	35	35	24	32	22	20	21
	Median	36	35	19	29	18	17	18
	0 counted months	4,936	452	31	483	866	307	1,173
		52%	3%	1%	2%	43%	54%	45%
	1-12 months	1,067	4,344	1,258	5,602	466	104	570
		11%	25%	41%	27%	23%	18%	22%
	13- 36 months	1,222	5,811	1,167	6,978	464	114	578
		13%	33%	38%	34%	23%	20%	22%
	37-48 months	499	1,967	252	2,219	131	34	165
		5%	11%	8%	11%	6%	6%	6%
49-54 months	194	783	108	891	63	4	67	
	2%	4%	3%	4%	3%	1%	3%	
55 - 60 months	1,501	4,269	282	4,551	32	4	36	
	16%	24%	9%	22%	2%	1%	1%	
Child Care Assistance Program recipients	Youngest MFIP enrolled child less than age 6	133	5,282	1,308	6,590	413	106	519
	Percent of children under 6	3.5%	31.7%	29.8%	31.3%	27.5%	12.9%	22.4%
	Youngest MFIP enrolled child age 6 to 12 years	94	3,054	1,227	4,281	264	72	336
	Percent of children 6-12 Years	1.3%	24.0%	34.3%	26.3%	15.5%	13.6%	15.1%
	Any MFIP enrolled child, 12 and under	255	9,094	2,935	12,029	730	195	925
	Percentage of MFIP enrolled children	2.3%	31.0%	36.8%	32.2%	22.8%	14.4%	20.3%

Table 5: MFIP policies and paid cases, December 2016

		MFIP cases			
		Child only	Types of cases		
			One adult in case	Two adults in case	Total
Cases	Count	9,419	17,626	3,098	20,724
		28%	53%	19%	100%
Time limit exemptions	Count of cases		1,095	135	1,230
	Percent of all cases		6%	4%	6%
	Aged 18 - 19, attending high school		332	53	385
	Percent of exempted cases		30%	39%	31%
	Family violence waiver		504	10	514
	Percent of exempted cases		46%	7%	42%
	Caregiver on Indian reservation		37	4	41
	Percent of exempted cases		3%	3%	3%
	Minor Caregiver		150	7	157
	Percent of exempted cases		14%	5%	13%
	Caregiver 60 or older		72	61	133
	Percent of exempted cases		7%	45%	11%
Time limit extensions	Count		3287	185	3467
	Percent of MFIP cases		19%	6%	17%
Extension reason	Ill or incapacitated		1,027	46	1,073
	Percent of extension cases		31%	25%	31%
	Mentally ill		969	57	1,026
	Percent of extension cases		29%	31%	30%
	Special medical criteria		510	29	539
	Percent of extension cases		16%	16%	16%
	Care of ill or incapacitated		336	24	360
	Percent of extension cases		10%	13%	10%
	Employment required hours		255	24	279
	Percent of extension cases		8%	13%	8%
	Family Violence Waiver		120	1	121
	Percent of extension cases		4%	1%	3%
	IQ Between 70 and 80		51	1	52
	Percent of extension cases		2%	1%	1%
	Unemployable		10	1	11
	Percent of extension cases		0%	1%	0%
	Learning disabled		5	0	5
Percent of extension cases		0%	0%	0%	
Developmental disability		4	1	5	
Percent of extension cases		0%	1%	0%	
Appeal		0	1	1	
Percent of extension cases		0%	1%	0%	
Extension months	Mean		46	31	43
	Median		34	24	31
	Minimum		1	1	1
	Maximum		176	174	176
Employment Services sanctions	10 % ES sanction		4	158	45
	30 % ES sanction		2	432	91
	All cases with ES sanctions		6	590	136
	Percent of all cases		0%	3%	4%
	Six counted sanction months		0	108	23
	Percent of all cases		0%	1%	1%
Recipients of subsidized housing	Count		101	4,574	614
	Percent		1%	26%	20%
					25%

Table 5 – part 2

		MFIP cases			
		Child only	Types of cases		
			One adult in case	Two adults in case	Total
Cases	Count	9,419	17,626	3,098	20,724
		28%	53%	19%	100%
Family Stabilization Services	Count	117	3928	1250	5178
	Percent of all cases	1%	22%	40%	25%
Eligibility reason	Ill or incapacitated	29	1317	366	1683
	Percent of FSS cases	25%	34%	29%	33%
	SSI or RSDI application	33	733	163	896
	Percent of FSS cases	28%	19%	13%	17%
	Mental illness	6	378	57	435
	Percent of FSS cases	5%	10%	5%	8%
	Special medical criteria	6	237	40	277
	Percent of FSS cases	5%	6%	7%	5%
	New immigrant	11	357	448	805
	Percent of FSS cases	9%	9%	73%	16%
	Care of ill or incapacitated	3	293	82	375
	Percent of FSS cases	3%	7%	7%	7%
	Family violence waiver	6	414	4	418
	Percent of FSS cases	5%	11%	0%	8%
	Unemployable	3	60	28	88
	Percent of FSS cases	3%	2%	2%	2%
	Universal participation	4	73	26	99
	Percent of FSS cases	3%	2%	2%	2%
	IQ < 80	1	28	4	32
	Percent of FSS cases	1%	1%	0%	1%
Age 60 or older	15	25	29	54	
Percent of FSS cases	13%	1%	2%	1%	
Learning disability	0	12	1	13	
Percent of FSS cases	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Developmental disability	0	1	2	3	
Percent of FSS cases	0%	0%	0%	0%	

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 child(ren) 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 the cash grant for an active case. Adult refers to an adult 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 called "child only" but do have at least one caregiver. Cases receiving MFIP cash or food grants or DWP cash grants are known as "paid cases;" this excludes active cases suspended for a month because they have enough income to cancel out the cash grant. This typically occurs in months with five weekly or three biweekly pay periods. Suspended cases are not included in this report.

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.

Table 3

Table 3 provides case-level statistics for family type and age of youngest child.

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 2015 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. As families work their way toward leaving assistance, their cash grant is decreased first so that some families only receive a food portion. A family can opt out of the cash portion, receiving only the food portion, and those months do not count toward their lifetime limit. 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 portion for some MFIP cases. The means for all other SNAP amounts include only cases with benefit amounts greater than zero.

Income, earnings and work hours. Total income is either actual or projected December 2015 income of enrolled adults and other adults whose earnings were deemed counted for a case. The amount used was either verified earnings for December 2015, or zero for cases still active in February 2016 with no income reported for December 2015 (required to be reported by February 2016), or prospective December 2015 income for new cases with retrospective data missing, and for all migrant cases. Total income is gross income, except for 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 enrolled or deeming adults in December 2015.

Work hours reported for enrolled and other deeming 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 that are not entered into the administrative database. Mean hours only include cases with reported hours.

Child Care Assistance Program. Reported CCAP eligibility means that an eligibility determination is currently active and a child may or may not have service authorization (payment) for the month. The table excludes children ages 13 and older with special needs who continue to receive CCAP. Data are reported by age of youngest child. Cases may have CCAP eligible children in both age groups. MFIP-ineligible 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. An MFIP case 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, a family member or caregiver who meets special medical criteria, a caregiver with an IQ score below 80, a 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. A case 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 has been reached. The following cases are exempt from the time limit (neither counted nor banked) in the months with these 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 who is complying with an education plan.

Sanctions. MFIP cases not complying with ES requirements can be sanctioned with a reduction of the grant amount. The first sanction is 10 percent, and if not resolved, the sanction is increased the next month to 30 percent. 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 percent sanction. Table 5 reports the number of cases with 10 percent and 30 percent sanctions in December 2015, and the number of cases with six unresolved sanction months in December 2015.

Pre-sanction procedures for FSS enrolled adults are different from those for other MFIP adults. See the “Employment Services Manual”³, Appendix H, for details on what steps 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 these extension reasons: An 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.

³[Link to the MFIP Employment Services manual](#)