

Bulletin

July 27, 2007

Minnesota Department of Human Services □ PO Box 64245 □ St. Paul, MN 55164-0245

OF INTEREST TO

County Agencies

- Directors
- Economic Assistance Supervisors and Staff
- Employment Services Directors and Providers
- Child Care Assistance Supervisors and Staff
- Social Services Supervisors and Staff
- Child Support Supervisors and Staff

Other Interested Parties

- Child Care Resource and Referral Directors
- Tribal Representatives

ACTION/DUE DATE

Please notify agency staff and organizations that may be interested in these reports.

EXPIRATION DATE

July 27, 2009

DHS Releases First Report in Series Describing Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Food Support Program**TOPIC**

Release of report, *Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and Persons*.

PURPOSE

This report provides a snapshot of the household, demographic, and economic characteristics of Food Support households and eligible or suspended persons in December 2006.

CONTACT

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SIGNED

CHARLES E. JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner
Children and Family Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is the first in a series of annual reports that provides a snapshot of the household, demographic, and economic characteristics of Food Support households and eligible or suspended persons in December 2006. Food Support is Minnesota's name for the federal Food Stamp Program. Although there is information in the report on households and persons receiving Food Support as part of their Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) benefits, the focus is on those households and persons eligible for stand-alone Food Support. (For information about the former households, see the soon-to-be released report, *Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Family Assistance Programs: Cases and Eligible Adults*.)

Three themes to emerge from the findings are:

- **The number of Food Support households continues to increase.** Food Support is the state's largest non-medical assistance program. Additional data includes percentage increases in the total Food Support caseload over the years and a comparison of the number of eligible children receiving stand-alone Food Support to the number of children receiving the MFIP Food Portion.
- **Food Support assists a wide range of diverse Minnesotans.** There is data providing the region of residence, age, race/ethnicity, and whether a person has a disability.
- **Food Support recipients experience regular financial instability.** Information in the report indicates low rates of earned income and frequent use of other economic assistance programs.

Input from readers is invited, both reactions to this report and suggestions for indicators in future reports. Feedback, questions or comments on this report series should be forwarded to Dana DeMaster (651) 431-3963 dana.demaster@state.mn.us.

RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

You can find the report, *Characteristics of December 2006 Minnesota Food Support Program: Cases and Persons*, on the DHS Public Web Site at <http://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us>. Once there,

- Click on **Economic Supports** from the menu at the top of the page.
- Click on **MFIP** located in the far left column.
- Click on **Reports** located in the far left column.
- Scroll down to the heading, **Food Support Caseload and Participant Characteristics Reports**

You will also find reports and statistical information about welfare reform and evaluation related to the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

FUTURE REPORTS

The next annual report in this series will describe the December 2007 Food Support caseload and participants.

SPECIAL NEEDS

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 431-3936, toll free at 1-800-366-7895 or through the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TDD), 7-1-1 or 1-877-627-3848 (speech to speech relay service).