

# Bulletin

September 16, 2008

Minnesota Department of Human Services -- P.O. Box 64941 -- St. Paul, MN 55164-0941

## OF INTEREST TO

- County Directors
- County Financial Supervisors and Staff
- Employment Services Providers
- Tribal Representatives

## ACTION/DUE DATE

Please read and implement immediately.

## EXPIRATION DATE

The policies in this bulletin are ineffective as of October 1, 2009.

## DHS Updates “Work Will Always Pay...With MFIP” Handout to show changes effective October 1, 2008

### TOPIC

“Work Will Always Pay...With MFIP” handout for use by financial workers and job counselors.

### PURPOSE

Update handout for financial workers and job counselors to use with MFIP participants. This bulletin replaces bulletin #07-11-05.

### CONTACT

Submit questions on income maintenance program or employment services policy through Policy Quest.

### SIGNED

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CHARLES E. JOHNSON

Assistant Commissioner

Children and Family Services Administration

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The “Work Will Always Pay...With MFIP” handouts were last issued in bulletin #07-11-05. This bulletin replaces bulletin #07-11-05. All handouts copied from the prior bulletin should be destroyed. The attached handouts have been updated based on state law which requires Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) transitional standards be adjusted each year in October to reflect the federal Food Stamp program’s cost-of-living increase and to maintain MFIP’s exit level for working families at the level required in state law. The exit level required in statute is 115% of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) for a household size of three. State law requires the exit level be maintained by adjusting the MFIP disregard. The disregard remains at 39% of gross earnings through September 30, 2009. Other household sizes may exit at higher or lower than the 115% FPG level.

The revised handouts include family sizes one through ten. There are five earning amount examples for each household size:

- not working,
- working 20 hours per week at \$6.55/hour,
- working 30 hours per week at \$6.55/hour,
- amount a family must earn in a month to not count against the 60-month limit, and
- maximum amount a family can earn before MFIP eligibility ends.

Families that do not receive cash (receive food only) count as a success for the MFIP Self Support Index. The federal work participation requirement for a single caregiver whose youngest child is under six years of age is 87 hours a month and for a single caregiver whose youngest child is six years of age or older is 130 hours per month. Other activities besides employment can count towards the work participation requirement.

## **II. IMPLEMENTATION**

Provide handouts to MFIP participants to help them understand the benefit of increased earnings and explain how income can be increased even more through tax credits. Advise families to take advantage of free tax preparation sites available statewide between February 1 and April 15.

## **III. AUTHORITY**

Minnesota Statutes, section 256J.24, subdivisions 5, 5a, 7 and 10.

## **IV. SPECIAL NEEDS**

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by contacting Aaron Coonce at (651) 431-4049 (voice) or toll free at 1(888) 234-1138. TDD users can call the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529. For the Speech-to-Speech Relay, call (877) 627-3848.

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

Household size of ONE - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09

You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:

		Not Working	60 Month Clock Stops	Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour	MFIP Ends	Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$476</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$730</b>	<b>\$845</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$155	\$155	\$102	\$0 *	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$405</b>	<b>\$155</b>	<b>\$102</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$405</b>	<b>\$631</b>	<b>\$665</b>	<b>\$730</b>	<b>\$845</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$0** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$730.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) and Minnesota **Working Family Credit** (WFC). Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) .

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

**Household size of TWO - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09**

**You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:**

		<b>Not Working</b>	<b>Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>60 Month Clock Stops</b>	<b>Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>MFIP Ends</b>
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$833</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,301</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$437	\$165	\$0	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$278	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$722</b>	<b>\$450</b>	<b>\$285</b>	<b>\$278</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$722</b>	<b>\$1,013</b>	<b>\$1,118</b>	<b>\$1,123</b>	<b>\$1,301</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$16** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$1,301.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) and Minnesota **Working Family Credit** (WFC). Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us).

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

Household size of **THREE** - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09

You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:

		Not Working	Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour	Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour	60 Month Clock Stops	MFIP Ends
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,027</b>	<b>\$1,704</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$532	\$283	\$111	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$413	\$413	\$413	\$413	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$945</b>	<b>\$696</b>	<b>\$524</b>	<b>\$413</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$945</b>	<b>\$1,259</b>	<b>\$1,369</b>	<b>\$1,440</b>	<b>\$1,704</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$21** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$1,704.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) and Minnesota **Working Family Credit** (WFC). Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us).

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

**Household size of FOUR - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09**

**You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:**

		<b>Not Working</b>	<b>Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>60 Month Clock Stops</b>	<b>MFIP Ends</b>
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,204</b>	<b>\$2,056</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$621	\$391	\$219	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$520	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$1,141</b>	<b>\$911</b>	<b>\$739</b>	<b>\$520</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$1,141</b>	<b>\$1,474</b>	<b>\$1,584</b>	<b>\$1,724</b>	<b>\$2,056</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$25** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$2,056.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** and Minnesota **Working Family Credit (WFC)**. Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) .

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

**Household size of FIVE - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09**

**You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:**

		<b>Not Working</b>	<b>Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>60 Month Clock Stops</b>	<b>MFIP Ends</b>
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,355</b>	<b>\$2,348</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$697	\$483	\$311	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$606	\$606	\$606	\$606	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$1,303</b>	<b>\$1,089</b>	<b>\$917</b>	<b>\$606</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$1,303</b>	<b>\$1,652</b>	<b>\$1,762</b>	<b>\$1,961</b>	<b>\$2,348</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is \$29 when MFIP ends at earnings of \$2,348.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) and Minnesota **Working Family Credit** (WFC). Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) .

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

**Household size of SIX - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09**

**You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:**

		<b>Not Working</b>	<b>Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>60 Month Clock Stops</b>	<b>MFIP Ends</b>
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,510</b>	<b>\$2,691</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$773	\$578	\$406	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$720	\$720	\$720	\$720	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$1,493</b>	<b>\$1,298</b>	<b>\$1,126</b>	<b>\$720</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$1,493</b>	<b>\$1,861</b>	<b>\$1,971</b>	<b>\$2,230</b>	<b>\$2,691</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$33** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$2,691.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) and Minnesota **Working Family Credit** (WFC). Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) .



# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

**Household size of SEVEN - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09**

**You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:**

		<b>Not Working</b>	<b>Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>60 Month Clock Stops</b>	<b>MFIP Ends</b>
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,660</b>	<b>\$2,935</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$850	\$669	\$497	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$778	\$778	\$778	\$778	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$1,628</b>	<b>\$1,447</b>	<b>\$1,275</b>	<b>\$778</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$1,628</b>	<b>\$2,010</b>	<b>\$2,120</b>	<b>\$2,438</b>	<b>\$2,935</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$41** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$2,935.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** and Minnesota **Working Family Credit (WFC)**. Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) .

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

**Household size of EIGHT - Effective 10/1/08- 9/30/09**

**You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:**

		<b>Not Working</b>	<b>Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour</b>	<b>60 Month Clock Stops</b>	<b>MFIP Ends</b>
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,796</b>	<b>\$3,240</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$916	\$752	\$580	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$881	\$881	\$881	\$881	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$1,797</b>	<b>\$1,633</b>	<b>\$1,461</b>	<b>\$881</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$1,797</b>	<b>\$2,196</b>	<b>\$2,306</b>	<b>\$2,677</b>	<b>\$3,240</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$45** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$3,240.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) and Minnesota **Working Family Credit** (WFC). Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) .

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

Household size of NINE - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09

You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:

		Not Working	Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour	Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour	60 Month Clock Stops	MFIP Ends
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$1,928</b>	<b>\$3,543</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$980	\$833	\$661	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$985	\$985	\$985	\$985	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$1,965</b>	<b>\$1,818</b>	<b>\$1,646</b>	<b>\$985</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$1,965</b>	<b>\$2,381</b>	<b>\$2,491</b>	<b>\$2,913</b>	<b>\$3,543</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$54** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$3,543.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** and Minnesota **Working Family Credit (WFC)**. Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

**Have your taxes done for FREE!** For a list of free tax preparation sites call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at **651-297-3724** or **1-800-657-3989**. Neighborhood Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available throughout the state. They are open from February 1 through April 15. Some sites are open year around to help you file back taxes. Search for free tax preparation sites at [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) .

# WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY ... WITH MFIP

Household size of TEN - Effective 10/1/08 - 9/30/09

You want your family to have more money to live on - and MFIP lets that happen.  
As you earn more income, here's how much your total family income could be:

		Not Working	Working 20 hours at \$6.55/hour	Working 30 hours at \$6.55/hour	60 Month Clock Stops	MFIP Ends
<b>If your gross EARNINGS are:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$563</b>	<b>\$845</b>	<b>\$2,045</b>	<b>\$3,835</b>
<b>You would get an MFIP grant of:</b>	<b>Cash</b>	\$1,035	\$904	\$732	\$0	\$0
	<b>Food</b>	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$1,092	\$0 *
	<b>MFIP Grant</b>	<b>\$2,127</b>	<b>\$1,996</b>	<b>\$1,824</b>	<b>\$1,092</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Your TOTAL family income would be:</b>		<b>\$2,127</b>	<b>\$2,559</b>	<b>\$2,669</b>	<b>\$3,137</b>	<b>\$3,835</b>

\* Food Support may be available when your MFIP closes.

The **childcare bi-weekly co-pay** is **\$57** when MFIP ends at earnings of \$3,835.

Be sure to apply for the federal **Earned Income Tax Credit** (EITC) and Minnesota **Working Family Credit** (WFC). Getting a tax refund will **NOT** affect your eligibility for MFIP.

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