



**MFIP EMPLOYMENT SERVICES MANUAL  
DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES ATTACHMENT  
REVISED SECTIONS – ISSUED 10/2014**

**Appendix A (MFIP Assistance Standards)** in the 1st paragraph changes to use the Family Wage Level (FWL) standard for all applicants at the initial income test. It adds a new 2nd paragraph that when calculating the monthly benefit level, use the FWL only for units with earned income. It also updates the MFIP Family Wage Level and Transitional Standard and the Shared Household Standard.

**Appendix A-1 (MFIP Initial Eligibility Threshold Guide)** in the 2nd paragraph changes to use the Family Wage Level when determining the initial income test. It updates the federal minimum wage to 8.00/hour for large employers. It also updates all table amounts.

**Appendix A-2 (Amount of Earnings Needed to Exit MFIP Cash)** in the 3rd paragraph updates the state minimum wage for large employers to \$8.00 and the earned income disregard to 50%. It also updates all table amounts.

**Appendix A-3 (Amount of Earnings Needed to Exit MFIP)** updates table amounts.



MFIP Transition Standards and Shared Household Standards effective October 1, 2014:

MFIP Unit	Family Wage Level	Transitional Standard		
Eligible People	Standard	Full Standard	Cash Portion	Food Portion
1	\$ 464	\$ 422	\$ 250	\$ 172
2	829	754	437	317
3	1,090	991	532	459
4	1,328	1,207	621	586
5	1,530	1,391	697	694
6	1,755	1,595	773	822
7	1,913	1,739	850	889
8	2,114	1,922	916	1,006
9	2,314	2,104	980	1,124
10	2,507	2,279	1,035	1,244
Each Additional Person	191	174	53	121

Use the Family Wage Level (FWL) standard for all applicants at the initial income test.

When calculating the monthly benefit level, use the FWL only for units with earned income.

For families with a child subject to the family cap, apply the FWL for the household size including that child. To determine the Transitional Standard to apply, add the cash portion for the household size **not including** the child to the food portion for the household size **including** the child.

Some state and federal programs do not count the food portion as income. Examples of these programs include housing subsidy programs, low income energy assistance program, Relative Custody Assistance program (RCAP), and Supplemental Security Income when determining interim assistance amount.

SHARED HOUSEHOLD STANDARD effective October 1, 2014:

<b>MFIP Unit</b>	<b>Shared Household Standard</b>		
<b>Eligible People</b>	<b>Full Standard</b>	<b>Cash Portion</b>	<b>Food Portion</b>
1	\$ 397	\$ 225	\$ 172
2	710	393	317
3	938	479	459
4	1,145	559	586
5	1,321	627	694
6	1,518	696	822
7	1,654	765	889
8	1,830	824	1,006
9	2,006	882	1,124
10	2,176	932	1,244
Each Additional Person	169	48	121

**NOTE:** Assistance standards for a household of more than 10 are calculated by MAXIS.

The Shared Household Standard does NOT apply if:

- The MFIP member is a victim of family violence.
- OR
- The non-MFIP member meets the eligible caregiver requirement.

OR

- The MFIP family includes a child subject to the family cap.

Use the Shared Household Standard unless unrelated household members meet at least 1 of the following EXCEPTIONS:

- Receiving Public Assistance:
  - Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).
  - General Assistance (GA).
  - Emergency General Assistance (EGA).
  - Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA).
  - Minnesota Food Assistance Program (MFAP).
  - Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA).
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Medical Assistance (MA).
  - General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC).
  - MinnesotaCare.
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
  - Adoption Assistance.
  - Relative Custody Assistance.
  - Foster Care.
  
- Roomer, Boarder, or a Person to whom Room or Board Is Paid:

For this to apply, the unit must meet the definition of ROOMER/BOARDER, not simply share living expenses. If the MFIP unit is receiving roomer/boarder income, consider the income as self-employment.
  
- Minor Child
  
- Minor Caregiver:

This includes minor caregivers living with parents or in an approved supervised living arrangement, if applicable.
  
- Caregiver of a Child not in the MFIP Assistance Unit:

This refers to the relationship of an unrelated person in the household to a child that is not considered part of the MFIP assistance unit.
  
- Providing Child Care to a Child in the MFIP Assistance Unit:

This refers to the unrelated person providing care for a child who is part of the MFIP assistance unit.



The maximum earnings on this initial eligibility threshold chart are calculated assuming that the unit is employed at application, has only earned income, has not been on MFIP in the previous 4 months, receives the regular Transitional Standard and has no children subject to the Family Cap. The earnings amounts listed assume that the unit has no child care expenses, makes no child or spousal support payments and allocates no income to others in the household. Unless otherwise noted, the table assumes working 40 hours per week and 4.3 weeks per month.

**This chart should be used only as a guide and not to determine eligibility.**

To be eligible for MFIP, the assistance unit's gross earnings minus an 18% disregard must be below the Family Wage Level for that size unit in the month of application. These earnings thresholds apply to a DWP family who applies for MFIP after having received 4 months of DWP benefits. The current federal minimum wage is \$8.00/hour for large employers.

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>10/1/2014 Family Wage Level</b>	<b>Maximum Monthly Gross Earnings of Applicant to be Eligible for MFIP</b>	<b>Maximum Hourly Wage of Applicant to be Eligible for MFIP</b>	<b>Monthly 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines*</b>	<b>Percent of Federal Poverty Guideline at Threshold</b>
<b>1</b>	\$464	\$564	16 hrs/wk @ \$8.00	\$973	58%
<b>2</b>	\$829	\$1,009	29 hrs/wk @ \$8.00	\$1,311	77%
<b>3</b>	\$1,090	\$1,327	38 hrs/wk @ \$8.00	\$1,650	80%
<b>4</b>	\$1328	\$1,618	\$9.42	\$1,988	81%
<b>5</b>	\$1,530	\$1,864	\$10.83	\$2,326	80%
<b>6</b>	\$1,755	\$2,138	\$12.43	\$2,665	80%
<b>7</b>	\$1,913	\$2,331	\$13.55	\$3,003	78%
<b>8</b>	\$2,114	\$2,576	\$14.97	\$3,341	77%
<b>9</b>	\$2,314	\$2,820	\$16.39	\$3,680	77%
<b>10</b>	\$2,507	\$3,055	\$17.76	\$4,019	76%

\*The 2015 FPG amounts are effective for Calendar Year 2015.



This table is used to calculate the amount of earnings needed to exit the MFIP cash portion and eligible only for the food portion.

**NOTE:** MFIP does not count against 60-month clock if only the food portion is received. A participant can choose to “opt out” of cash portion to stop the 60-month clock.

Unless otherwise noted, this table assumes working 40 hours per week and 4.3 weeks per month. It also assumes no allocation, deeming or sanctions. Calculations are based on MFIP standards effective October 1, 2014. The current state minimum wage is \$8.00 per hour for large employers. The earned income disregard is 50% of gross earnings.

**Amount of Earnings Needed to Reach the Food Portion**

Household Size	Full MFIP Food Portion Effective 10/1/2014	Monthly Income	Annual Income	Weekly Hours Must Work at Minimum Wage	Hourly Wage	Child Care Bi-Weekly Copay when Lose Cash	2014 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)	Percent of FPG when Lose Cash Portion
1	\$172	\$581	\$6,972	16 hrs	16 hrs/wk @ \$8.00	None	\$11,676	60%
2	\$317	\$1,024	\$12,288	27hrs	27 hrs/wk @ \$8.00	None	\$15,732	78%
3	\$459	\$1,262	\$15,144	36 hrs	36hrs/wk @ \$7.25 8.00	\$2.00	\$19,800	76%
4	\$586	\$1,484	\$17,808	43hrs	43 hrs/wk @ \$8.00	None	\$23,856	75%
5	\$694	\$1,671	\$20,052	48hrs	\$9.50	None	\$27,912	72%
6	\$822	\$1,867	\$22,404	54 hrs	\$10.85	None	\$31,980	70%
7	\$889	\$2,048	\$24,576	59hrs	\$11.90	None	\$36,036	68%
8	\$1,006	\$2,216	\$26,592	64 hrs	\$12.88	None	\$40,092	66%
9	\$1,124	\$2,380	\$28,560	68 hrs	\$13.83	None	\$44,160	65%
10	\$1,244	\$2,526	\$30,312	73 hrs	\$14.68	None	\$48,228	63%

\*The 2015 FPG amounts are effective for Calendar Year 2015.



**AMOUNT OF EARNINGS NEEDED TO EXIT MFIP**

**APPENDIX A-3**

This table is used to calculate the amount of earnings needed to exit the MFIP program (both the cash and food portion) effective October 1, 2014.

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Family Wage Level</b>	<b>Monthly Income</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Hourly Wage</b>	<b>Child Care Bi-Weekly Copay when Exit MFIP*</b>	<b>Annual 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)**</b>	<b>Percent of FPG when Exit MFIP</b>
<b>1</b>	\$464	\$927	\$11,124	26hrs/wk @ \$8.00	NA	\$11,676	95%
<b>2</b>	\$829	\$1,657	\$19,884	\$9.63	\$23	\$15,732	126%
<b>3</b>	\$1,090	\$2,179	\$26,148	\$12.66	\$30	\$19,800	132%
<b>4</b>	\$1,328	\$2,655	\$31,860	\$15.49	\$36	\$23,856	134%
<b>5</b>	\$1,530	\$3,059	\$36,708	\$17.78	\$42	\$27,912	132%
<b>6</b>	\$1,755	\$3,509	\$42,108	\$20.40	\$48	\$31,980	132%
<b>7</b>	\$1,913	\$3,825	\$45,900	\$22.23	\$57	\$36,036	127%
<b>8</b>	\$2,114	\$4,427	\$53,124	\$25.73	\$80	\$40,092	133%
<b>9</b>	\$2,314	\$4,627	\$55,524	\$26.90	\$97	\$44,160	126%
<b>10</b>	\$2,507	\$5,013	\$60,156	\$29.14	\$120	\$48,228	125%

\* The child care co-pay amounts are effective October 13, 2014.

\*\* The 2015 FPG amounts are effective for calendar year 2015.

