



Bulletin

NUMBER

#15-11-02

DATE

October 1, 2015

OF INTEREST TO

County Directors

County Financial
Supervisors and Staff

Employment Service
Providers

Tribal Representatives

ACTION/DUE DATE

Please read information
and prepare for
implementation

October 1, 2015

EXPIRATION DATE

September 30, 2016

DHS Reissues “Work Will Always Pay...With MFIP”

TOPIC

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

PURPOSE

Update handout for eligibility workers and job counselors to use with MFIP participants. This bulletin replaces bulletin #14-11-03 which expires September 30, 2015.

CONTACT

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

SIGNED

James G. Koppel
Assistant Commissioner
Children and Family Services Administration

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. BACKGROUND

The "Work Will Always Pay...With MFIP" handouts were last issued in bulletin 14-11-03. This bulletin replaces bulletin 14-11-03. 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 to be adjusted each year in October to reflect the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) cost-of-living increase.

The revised handouts include an increase in the earnings disregard from 50% to the 1st \$65 plus half the unit's remaining gross earned income. Handouts also reflect an increase in the standards, family wage level and food portions for household sizes five through ten. The cash portion remains the same for all household sizes. The child care co-pays have been updated based on the revised minimum gross earnings needed to exit MFIP.

In order to meet the federal Work Participation Rate (WPR) a single caregiver whose youngest child is under six years of age must work 87 hours per month or be in other activities that count towards the required 87 hour WPR requirement. The WPR requirement for a single caregiver whose youngest child is six years of age or older is 130 hours of counted activities per month. Although these charts are approximate, they may be helpful to determine how working will affect a participant's MFIP assistance.

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, and 7.

IV. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling 651-431-4049 (voice) or toll free at (800) 234-1138 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact your agency's ADA coordinator.

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of ONE

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$649	\$992
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0 **	\$0
	Food	\$172	\$109	\$0*	\$172	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$422	\$109	\$0	\$172	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$422	\$883	\$1,161	\$821	\$992

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you want the clock to stop.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of TWO

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,032	\$1,089	\$1,722
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$437	\$157	\$0	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$317	\$317	\$281	\$317	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$754	\$474	\$281	\$317	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$754	\$1,248	\$1,313	\$1,406	\$1,722

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$23** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$1,722**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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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WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of THREE

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$1,327	\$2,244
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$532	\$276	\$83	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$459	\$459	\$459	\$459	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$991	\$735	\$542	\$459	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$991	\$1,509	\$1,703	\$1,786	\$2,244

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$31** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$2,244**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of FOUR

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$1,549	\$2,720
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$621	\$387	\$194	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$586	\$586	\$586	\$586	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$1,207	\$973	\$780	\$586	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$1,207	\$1,747	\$1,941	\$2,135	\$2,720

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$37** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$2,720**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of FIVE

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$1,739	\$3,134
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$697	\$482	\$289	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$698	\$698	\$698	\$698	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$1,395	\$1,180	\$987	\$698	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$1,395	\$1,954	\$2,148	\$2,437	\$3,134

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$42** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$3,135**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PLAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of SIX

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$1,931	\$3,586
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$773	\$578	\$385	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$828	\$828	\$828	\$828	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$1,601	\$1,406	\$1,213	\$828	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$1,601	\$2,180	\$2,374	\$2,759	\$3,586

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$48** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$3,586**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of SEVEN

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$2,113	\$3,900
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$850	\$669	\$476	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$894	\$894	\$894	\$894	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$1,744	\$1,563	\$1,370	\$894	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$1,744	\$2,337	\$2,531	\$3,007	\$3,900

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$59** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$3,900**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of EIGHT

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$2,283	\$4,306
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$916	\$754	\$561	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$1,012	\$1,012	\$1,012	\$1,012	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$1,928	\$1,766	\$1,573	\$1,012	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$1,928	\$2,540	\$2,734	\$3,295	\$4,306

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$64** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$4,306**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY WITH MFIP

Household Size of NINE

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$2,447	\$4,704
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$980	\$836	\$643	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$1,129	\$1,129	\$1,129	\$1,129	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$2,109	\$1,965	\$1,772	\$1,129	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$2,109	\$2,739	\$2,933	\$3,576	\$4,704

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$84** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$4,704**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).

WORK WILL ALWAYS PAY...WITH MFIP

Household size of TEN

Effective 10/1/15

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 a week at \$9/hour	Working 30 hours a week at \$9/hour	60 Month Clock stops if you earn at least	MFIP Ends if you earn
If your monthly GROSS EARNINGS are:		\$0	\$774	\$1,161	\$2,591	\$5,088
You would get an MFIP grant of :	Cash	\$1,035	\$908	\$715	\$0**	\$0
	Food	\$1,244	\$1,249	\$1,249	\$1,249	\$0*
	MFIP Grant	\$2,284	\$2,157	\$1,964	\$1,249	\$0
Your TOTAL family income would be:		\$2,284	\$2,931	\$3,125	\$3,840	\$5,088

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be available when your MFIP closes.

**The 60 month clock does not stop if you are eligible and receive the housing grant. You can choose to opt-out of all cash (including the housing grant) if you wish the clock to stop.

The **child care bi-weekly co-pay is \$112** when MFIP ends at earnings of **\$5,088**. Co-payment is effective October 12, 2015.

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 [Department of Revenue](#).