

Do you have a disability?

If you have a serious health problem or a disability you have special rights

If you have a disability that makes it harder for you to do the things we ask you to do **please tell us!** A disability is a physical or mental condition that limits one or more life activities.

These conditions may include:

- Diseases (i.e. diabetes, epilepsy, heart)
- Learning disabilities (i.e., a problem reading, writing or doing math)
- Mental retardation
- Depression or other mental health problems
- Limited ability to walk or stand
- Hearing or vision loss
- History of drug or alcohol addiction; illegal drug use is not a disability.

If you are applying for or getting services or benefits through your human service agency, the agency will determine if you have a disability based on information they get from medical, psychological, vocational and rehabilitation experts.

Help is available

If you tell us you have a disability, we can help you by:

- Calling or visiting if you are not able to come to the office
- Meeting you at a different location in our building if you are not able to take the stairs or elevator
- Giving you forms or letters in other formats (i.e. large print or audiotape)
- Telling you what the letters we send to you mean
- Helping you complete a form
- Helping you make a plan that allows you to work even though you have a disability
- Referring you to services to help you
- Helping you appeal if you disagree with a decision we make.

Federal law protects people with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law that says people with disabilities have the same rights to benefits or services from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) or county human service agencies as other people. You will not be denied benefits and services because of your disability. If you have a condition that makes it hard for you to do what we ask, your human service agency will help you find a way to get the benefits and services available to you. **If you need help tell us.**

Your right to file a complaint

If you feel the county or the Minnesota Department of Human Services treated you differently in the handling of a public assistance application or payment because of race, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, public assistance status, age or disability (including access to buildings or programs), you may file a complaint with one or more of these agencies:

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Office for Equal Opportunity
PO Box 64997
St. Paul, MN 55164-0997
(651) 431-3040 (Voice)
(651) 431-3041 (TTY/TDD)

Minnesota Department of Human Rights
190 East 5th Street, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101
(800) 657-3704 (Voice)
(651) 296-1283 (TTY/TDD)

U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
Office for Civil Rights, Region V
233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 240
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 886-2359 (Voice)
(312) 353-5693 (TTY/TDD)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director, Office of Civil Rights
Room 326-W, Whitten Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
(202) 720-5964 (Voice or TTY/TDD)

This information is available in other forms to people with disabilities by calling your county worker. For TTY/TDD users, contact your county worker through the Minnesota Relay at 711 or (800) 627-3529. For the Speech-to-Speech Relay, call (877) 627-3848.