Hennepin County Diversionary Work Program
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROGRAM
Two-Parent Household Questions and Answers

You are a member of a Diversionary Work Program (DWP) two-parent household. This sheet describes what to expect when you are sent to a DWP Employment Service Provider.

Both parents will be sent to the same DWP Employment Service Provider, but may not have the same employment counselor. The employment counselor will most often meet with each parent alone but some meetings may be with both parents.

Employment Plan (EP)
Most EP's are written for 35 - 40 hours a week of activities. These activities will help you get full time employment. If there is a good cause exception, some plans may be written for less than 35 hours of activities per week.

Activities in the EP must meet the minimum weekly and hourly requirements. In a two-parent household this means:

- Both parents together must do at least 55 hours of activities per week.
- One parent must have a plan listing at least 35 hours of activities per week.
- Even if one parent is working 55 hours, the other parent must still participate in activities to help the family take care of itself.

Domestic Violence Information
The DWP agency is required to discuss and give out information about domestic violence to each individual. Domestic violence is a very sensitive subject. A family violence plan can be made even if the abuser is still living in the home.

Compliance
Both parents must comply with the activities listed in their EP unless there is an exemption or good cause reason for not participating. Ask your employment counselor or financial worker for a list of the exemptions and good cause reasons.

If one person is not in compliance
If one parent is not in compliance, the whole family unit will be disqualified and assistance will stop.

Household Changes
Immediately report any changes in your household to your employment counselor. Examples: If someone starts or ends a job, if the work hours change, or if someone moves or returns to the household.

Child Care for a Two-Parent Household
There must be a need for the child care. Each parent must show what he or she is doing and give the employment counselor documentation of the days and times of their activities. Parents can get childcare the times when both parents are in activities at the same time. You may have to pay a co-payment. Please see "Child Care Questions and Answers."

Self-employment
If you are self-employed, your EP must include self-employment. You must write a business plan. You should make at least $5.15 per hour, which is the minimum wage. Your Human Services Team will work out your countable earnings and take away your monthly expenses from your gross income to find out your net income. Your participation hours will be figured by dividing your net income by the minimum wage ($5.15). You may be working 40 hours a week, but your participation hours allowed might not equal that. If this is the case, your employment counselor may work with you to increase your hours or get another job.