

Minnesota's Diversionary Work Program - DWP

The Diversionary Work Program (DWP) is a four-month program that provides services and supports to eligible families to help them move immediately to work rather than go on welfare.

The four months of DWP do not count towards the 60-month lifetime limit for the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Who is eligible

DWP is for families with children or pregnant women. Most families who apply for assistance will be on this program for four months.

Eligibility criteria:

- You must meet the income eligibility test
- Your family may have up to \$2,000 in assets.

Ask a county financial worker for information about other DWP eligibility requirements.

Supports for working families

DWP supports your family while you work or look for work. With DWP, you may be eligible for supports, such as:

- Help with rent, utilities or other housing costs
- Personal needs allowance
- Child care assistance.

Parents are expected to work

All parents, including both parents in a two-parent family, are expected to develop and sign an employment plan before your family is approved for DWP. Your employment plan will consider

what work you can do and other things about your family situation.

You must seek full-time work immediately if you are approved for DWP.

Employment services

Parents will get help to find and keep a job.

- DWP services will help find work that fits your employment plan.
- DWP services may include help for you to identify and address family issues, which may prevent or delay your being able to get a job.
- Your employment plan may include limited training that you can complete in four or fewer months.

Penalties for not following DWP rules

If you do not cooperate with your employment plan or child support requirements, your case will be closed. *You are not eligible for any other cash programs until your four months of DWP end.* Contact your job counselor or financial worker if you have a good reason for not following the rules.

Verifications

You and each person in your family must submit information that proves:

- Who you are
- Where you live
- What your income and resources are.

To get help with your living expenses, you will also have to give proof of your housing costs.

Who is not eligible

Some families are excluded from DWP. These include families with:

- All adults over 60 years old
- No adults who receive assistance
- Disabled adults or severely disabled children
- Teen parents who do not have a high school diploma or GED and wish to finish school
- Some single parents with a child under 12 weeks old
- One or more caregivers who have been on MFIP or DWP in the past 12 months
- One or more caregivers who have received 60 months of MFIP or TANF
- A caregiver who is disqualified from DWP or MFIP due to fraud.

Other supports

- You may be eligible for Food Support, health care and child care assistance while on DWP.
- After the four months of DWP, you may be eligible for MFIP. You may continue to be eligible for Food Support, health care and child care assistance.

How do you appeal?

If you do not agree with the action the county takes on your application, tell your county worker. Ask your worker to explain the reasons for the action.

You may see the policy manuals, rules and laws that give the reasons for the action. If you still do not agree, you may appeal. Your county worker will help you ask for an appeal hearing or contact:

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Appeals Office
PO Box 64941
St. Paul, MN 55164-0941
Metro: (651) 431-3600 (Voice)
Outstate: (800) 657-3510
TTY/TDD: (800) 627-3529
Fax: (651) 431-7523

Bring any facts to the hearing that will help you explain why you do not agree. You may bring a friend or a lawyer. If you want a lawyer, ask your county worker for information about free legal services. You may bring people to the hearing to give information about the facts. After you and the county have talked about your case, the appeals referee will decide the case. You will get the decision in the mail.

If you are still not satisfied, you have 30 days to appeal to the state district court.

Your right to privacy

Most of the time, the facts asked for by the human services office are called “private.” This means you may see the facts about yourself, but they are not open to the public. Certain other government agencies may see them too. You have the right to question what you think is wrong in your file.

For more facts about data privacy, ask your worker, or write the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

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/TTD)

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.