

The Minnesota Family Investment Program

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ORIENTATION

**Welcome! We are glad you're here and
we look forward to working with you.**

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Services

How to use this worksheet:

What questions do you have about these three different types of MFIP services?

Financial services

- Financial services include your cash grant and your food support grant
- You will have a financial worker who is responsible for managing your financial case and processing documents such as your Household Report Form (HRF) and paystubs

Childcare services

- Childcare may be available to support you in working toward your goals
- You will have a childcare worker who is responsible for managing your childcare case and communicating with your child care provider

Employment services

- Employment services provides you with guidance and support as you journey toward financial independence
- Your employment counselor partners with you to set and achieve your goals across life areas directly and indirectly related to employment

For Past Participants Only:
Your MFIP Experience

How to use this worksheet:

If you have participated with MFIP previously, tell a bit about your experience and wishes.

How would you summarize **your past experience with MFIP?** (relationship with counselor, supports you found useful, how you felt about it...)

What would you say has brought you **back to the program** now?

What are you wishing will be different in this new MFIP **experience?**

For All Participants:

What We Believe

Here are the core beliefs of MFIP Employment Services.
How do they compare to yours?

- We believe in “guided self-determination” which means that we support you as you set direction for your life.
- We believe that you can learn a lot from looking back at past experiences.
- We believe in the power of setting goals and creating step-by-step plans to achieve those goals.
- We believe that everyone has strengths. Our job is to help you tap those strengths and find support around life’s challenges.

Personal Focus

How to use this worksheet:

1. Think about these different areas of your life and check all the things calling your attention
2. Which **one** of these areas is most important to you right now? Circle it!
3. If it feels right, the counselor may introduce you to “My Bridge of Strength” to look even more closely at these different life areas.

Family Stability

Housing

Dependent care

Transportation

Well-being

Health

Children's behavior

Relationships and social support

Education

GED

Certification and training

Diploma or advanced degree

Financial and Legal

Budgeting and saving

Legal issues

Employment

Workplace skills

Job search

Career advancement

Where I'm Going and How to Get There

Your name: _____

Today's date: _____

Using this worksheet...

1. Begin on the far right. In a few words, write down where you want to be in one "focus" area of your life. For example: I want to have my GED and hold a better-paying job.
2. When it's time, move to the far left of the worksheet. In a few words, describe where you see yourself now. For example: I don't know where to begin to get my GED
3. Next, move to the center of the worksheet. Name whatever you already see it will take to get where you want to be. For example, I need to make time to go to GED classes and study each week OR I need help finding a GED program that's easy for me to get to.

2 Where I see myself now

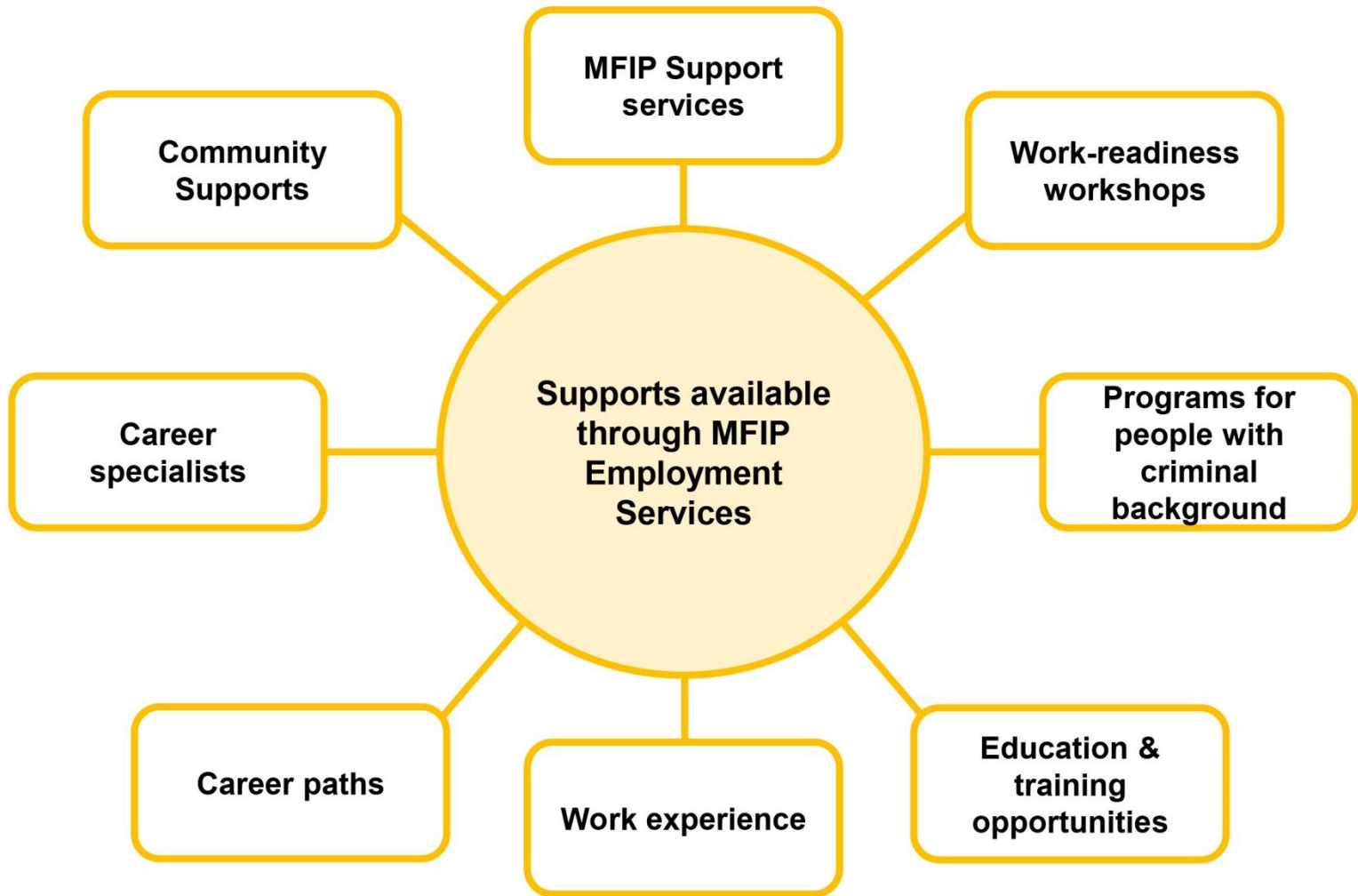


1 Where I want to be

3 What it will take (effort & support)

MFIP Opportunity

Using this worksheet...
Thinking about your area of focus, hear these examples of MFIP supports. Mark those supports that MOST interest you now.



Mutual Expectations

To Set and Achieve Goals



You...

Identify goals and actively participate in activities toward those goals.



You...

Communicate regularly with me.
Use an employment plan (contract that we both sign) to document your goals as they evolve.

I...

Help you navigate and reach your goals by providing information, resources, support, and encouragement.

Do what I say I'm going to do.



I...

Schedule meaningful and productive appointments with you.
Focus on your individual and unique situation.

Each of us is accountable and do what we say we'll do.

The MFIP Journey

This is a snapshot of the journey that people typically take when working with the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

What questions do you have now about the overall journey and your upcoming experience?

Establish relationships

We get to know you—your strength and needs

You learn about yourself and get clarity about what you want in life

You learn more about MFIP and how we can support you

Work together toward your goals



Leave MFIP

When you achieve your goals and no longer need MFIP assistance

When you reach your time limit (5 years total maximum)

If you choose not to communicate with us or to actively work on your plan, your MFIP assistance can be reduced or your case may be closed.

My Task-Plan-Do-Review

TASK

What do I want to do?

PLAN

How will I do it?

DO

When will I do it?

REVIEW

How did it go?

Before Leaving....

Please sign the following documents for our files:

1. DHS Notice of Privacy Practices
2. Authorization to Communicate
3. DHS Rights and Responsibilities and Consent

Please also:

1. Take home your worksheets from this session because we will build on them!
2. Choose brochures on other related topics you might find useful.

Jot down this information for our next conversation:

My counselor's name:

Date of my next meeting:

Thanks again!