

Subject Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

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Overview

This bill increases the MFIP transitional standard by \$300 per household effective July 1, 2019.

MFIP is a jointly funded, federal-state program that provides income assistance to eligible low-income families. MFIP is the state's response to the 1996 federal welfare reform law, which replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a block grant program to states.

The MFIP grant is based on a transitional standard that increases with family size. For example, a family of three's standard benefit in 2018 was \$984 per month; a family of four's monthly standard was \$1,198. For families without earnings, the monthly grant equals the transitional standard. For families with earnings, the monthly grant equals the "family wage level" (110 percent of the transitional standard minus the family's net earned income).

The MFIP grant is composed of a cash portion and a food portion, both of which are issued by counties in electronic debit card form. The cash portion of the grant has not been increased since 1986. The food portion is adjusted annually when adjustments are made to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Findings.</p> <p>Lays out findings including: (1) the state has had a long-standing commitment to assisting people unable to work in meeting basic needs; (2) the level of financial assistance provided under MFIP has not increased in more than three decades; and (3) significant increases in MFIP grants would ease the burden of poverty and help children grow up healthier and better able to thrive in school.</p>

Section	Description
2	MFIP transitional standard. Amends § 256J.24, subd. 5. Increases the MFIP transitional standard by \$300 per household effective July 1, 2019.



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