

MFIP Child Only Assistance

Answers for grandparents and other relatives raising a relative's child

The Minnesota Department of Human Services has assistance programs available to help kinship families support children they care for. This brochure answers some frequently asked questions relatives have about the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

What is MFIP?

MFIP is a monthly cash and food assistance program for low-income families with children. It covers children who are either less than 18 years of age or under 19 years of age if the child is a full-time high school student.

Can a grandparent or other relative caregiver receive MFIP Child Only Assistance?

Relatives may apply for “child only” cash and food assistance for relative's children they are raising. Along with the cash portion of MFIP, the relative will also receive Food Support (FS) Program benefits for the child.

Can a relative caring for a child get foster care benefits instead of MFIP?

Relatives who accept a child placed by the county for foster care are eligible for foster care payments. Foster care payments are higher than MFIP payments. A relative cannot get both MFIP and foster care.

What are the income and resource limits for MFIP Child Only Assistance?

With a “child only” grant only the assets and income of the children are counted. The earned income of children who are in school at least half-time is not counted. Income received on behalf of the child, such as Social Security or child support, is counted. The income and assets of the relative are not counted.

Which relative caregivers can apply for MFIP?

Caregivers must be related to or have legal custody of the children they care for. A relative caregiver (who is not the parent or stepparent of a child) is defined as any of the following individuals:

- Grandfather
- Grandmother
- Brother
- Sister
- Half-brother or half-sister
- Legal custodian or guardian
- “Great”, “great-great” or “great-great-great” relatives
- Uncle
- Aunt
- Nephew
- Niece
- Stepbrother or stepsister
- First cousin or first cousin once removed

Also a spouse of any person named in the above group even after the marriage ends by death or divorce.

A caregiver must be an adult and live with and provide care and support to the child. The child's parent or parents or stepparents cannot live in the same home.

You must provide proof of relationship if you do not have an order of custody. Proof could be birth or marriage certificates or a Recognition of Parentage form.

Do I need to help get child support for the child I am raising?

One or both parents may be legally required to pay child support. You must cooperate with the county Child Support Enforcement Agency, unless you are granted good cause. If you get child support directly from either parent, you must report it to your financial worker.

Can the relative caring for the child get assistance for themselves?

Very low-income caregivers may be eligible for an MFIP grant for themselves and the children they care for. If you are applying for aid for the first time, you may own up to \$2,000 in property and one car with a loan value of \$15,000 or less. Your home and other property may be excluded. Income of the caregivers and children must be within MFIP standards. MFIP standards vary according to household size. Relative caregivers who receive MFIP for themselves are expected to work.

If you have questions or want to apply for MFIP

Contact your county human service office for more information or to get an application. To get your county address and phone number, call the Department of Human Services (DHS) at (651) 431-2670 or (800) 657-3739 or search the DHS Web site at www.dhs.state.mn.us

Your right to privacy

Most of the time, the facts asked for by the human services office are called "private." This means that you can see the facts about yourself, but they are not open to the public. Some other government agencies may also be allowed to see them. 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 question a decision about your benefits

If you disagree with an action taken or feel the agency did not act on your request for assistance, you may appeal. You must appeal **within 30 days** from the date you receive the notice by writing to the county agency, or directly to the

State Appeals Office
Minnesota Department of Human Services,
PO Box 64941,
St. Paul, MN 55164-0941

If you have good cause for not appealing with 30 days, you may appeal within 90 days.



Brochures that may answer your questions:

Ask your worker if you want any of the following brochures:

- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) (DHS-3179)
- Relative Custody Assistance – Help for people who accept custody of a child through juvenile court (DHS-4769)
- Family Matters, Information for relatives considering becoming foster care parents (DHS-4672)

These forms are available online through the “eDocs” search engine at www.dhs.state.mn.us

Resources for Relative Caregivers

- Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association (651) 917-4640, www.mkca.org
- AARP Grandparent Information Center (202) 434-2277, www.aarp.org/grandparents
- American Bar Association, Kinship Care Legal Research Center www.abanet.org/child/kinshipcare.shtml
- Disabilities LinkAge Line (866) 333-2466
- MinnesotaHelp.info www.minnesotahelp.info/public/
- Brookdale Foundation www.brookdalefoundation.org

If you have other questions about raising a relative’s child write them below and contact your human services agency or one of the resources listed above.

Attention. If you want free help translating this information, ask your worker or call the number below for your language.

ملاحظة: إذا أردت مساعدة مجانية في ترجمة هذه المعلومات، فاسأل مساعدك في مكتب الخدمة الاجتماعية أو اتصل على الرقم 1-800-358-0377.

កំណត់សំគាល់ បើអ្នកចង់បានជំនួយបកប្រែព័ត៌មាននេះដោយមិនគិតថ្លៃ សូមសួរអ្នកកាន់សំណុំរឿងរបស់អ្នក ឬ ទូរស័ព្ទទៅលេខ 1-888-468-3787 ។

Pažnja. Ako vam je potrebna besplatna pomoć za prevod ove informacije, pitajte vašeg radnika ili nazovite 1-888-234-3785.

Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, nug koj tus neeg lis dej num (worker) lossis hu 1-888-486-8377.

ໂປຼດຊາບ. ຖ້າຫາກທ່ານຕ້ອງການການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອໃນການແປຂໍ້ຄວາມດັ່ງກ່າວນີ້ຟຣີ, ຈົ່ງຖາມນຳພານັກງານຊ່ວຍວຽກຂອງທ່ານຫຼືໂທ 1-888-487-8251.

Hubaddhu. Yoo akka odeeffannoon kun sii hiikamu gargaarsa tolaa feeta ta'e, hojjataa kee gaafaddhu ykn lakkoofsa kana bilbili 1-888-234-3798.

Внимание: если вам нужна бесплатная помощь в переводе этой информации, обратитесь к своему социальному работнику или позвоните по следующему телефону: 1-888-562-5877.

Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in laga kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la'aan ah, weydii hawl-wadeenkaaga ama wac lambarkan 1-888-547-8829.

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, consulte a su trabajador o llame al 1-888-428-3438.

Chú Ý. Nếu quý vị cần dịch thông-tin này miễn phí, xin gọi nhân-viên xã-hội của quý vị hoặc gọi số 1-888-554-8759.

LB2-0001 (1-08)

This information is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling your county worker. TTY users can call through Minnesota Relay at (800) 627-3529. For Speech-to-Speech, call (877) 627-3848. For additional assistance with legal rights and protections for equal access to human services benefits, contact your agency's ADA coordinator.

(agency)



Minnesota Department of Human Services

444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155