HENNEPIN COUNTY MINNESOTA

2026 -2027
Minnesota Family
Investment Program
Biennial
Service Agreement

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Background

Under Minnesota Statutes, section 142G.76, subdivision 4, Tribal Nations, counties, and consortia are required to submit a Biennial Service Agreement (BSA) to be approved by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to receive consolidated funds for the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). The purpose of the BSA is to provide DCYF with information about services and strategies intended to meet program measures with the goal of increasing the economic stability of low-income families on MFIP. The different sections of the BSA gather information about program strengths and service delivery gaps. The BSA will give a comprehensive assessment of current efforts, insight into what type of assistance is needed, and information on new strategies to better serve participants. We want to ensure that people served through MFIP are equipped to obtain and sustain gainful employment that will ultimately lead to greater self-sufficiency.

How this information will be used

State DCYF staff from MFIP program will use information collected to help gather information about the program strengths and service delivery gaps. This is a comprehensive assessment of current efforts which will help provide insights into what type of assistance is needed. Results will help provide information that will help support the development of new strategies to better serve participants who are utilizing MFIP support. Responses will also help to inform ongoing efforts to continually improve the MFIP program so that it works better for children, youth and families in Minnesota.

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Identify challenges in **financial assistance** that are prohibiting you from properly serving Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) families in your community.

Inconsistent policy implementation: Eligibility workers face heavier caseloads, leading to burnout and reduced effectiveness. DCYF provides limited training and guidance on new policies and alternative practices. The MAXIS system's programming capabilities have proven inadequate in addressing known issues, often requiring ongoing training for staff. Eligibility workers may overlook opportunities to facilitate financial orientation during subsequent interactions needed to address the sanction. There are numerous instances of cases being sanctioned for not completing financial orientation, and these cases are not always resolved promptly because residents often remain unaware of the source of the sanction. These challenges negatively impact effective communication with residents, processing timely, and determining accurate benefits.

Programming Access: Program participants often come from communities affected by generational poverty and persistent underinvestment. They often experience high mobility, making it challenging to obtain and maintain the essential documents necessary for accessing benefits. This lack of documentation frequently prevents them from:

- securing benefits, they are eligible for,
- accessing public health home visiting or case management services, and
- returning to their education, as the urgent need to address basic financial requirements often outweighs educational pursuits.

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Identify challenges in **employment services** that are prohibiting you from properly serving MFIP families in your community.

Inadequate resources paired with overwhelming caseloads create significant challenges, impacting access to housing, mental health support, services for immigrants and refugees, technological resources, support for justice-involved residents, and transportation solutions. By addressing these concerns, we can enhance service delivery and create a more supportive environment for families in need.

Key Challenges

Training: Insufficient training in critical areas such as supporting FSS-eligible participants, mental health interventions, Motivational Interviewing techniques, and guidance on SSI/RSDI cases related to social security. The lengthy onboarding process for new staff creates a disparity in service delivery for residents. We are requesting more timely access to DCYF New Worker Training.

Lack of training in key areas, such as: serving FSS eligible participants; mental health training; Motivational Interviewing Training; SSI/RSDI cases training – resources related to social security.

Participant Engagement: Difficulty in engaging residents, many of whom exhibit reluctance to collaborate with ESPs due to a deep-seated distrust of government systems

Lack of Resources: A combination of resource scarcity and high caseloads that encompasses essential services, including housing, mental health aid, support for immigrants and refugees, access to technology and the internet, assistance for individuals with justice-involved backgrounds, and transportation options.

Income Disregard Policies: The financial constraints associated with program administration limit opportunities for comprehensive training aimed at helping families overcome economic hardships and attain long-term stability. This focus diverts necessary attention away from Employment Services to address persistent barriers that families face, underscoring the need for specialized training to tackle these root causes effectively. Specifically, young student parents encounter a dual benefits cliff, firstly at age 20, when the MFIP wage disregard ceases, resulting in their earned income being counted against their grant. This transition often compels young parents to leave school before earning their diploma or GED, thrusting them into precarious, low-wage employment that offers few opportunities for advancement and financial stability. Such circumstances contribute to cyclical poverty and elevated dropout rates among this demographic.

Socio-economic Conditions: Impact families experiencing poverty and trauma. An additional layer of challenges residents experience is when the household includes dynamics of managing on-going mental health symptoms that can profoundly impact residents enrolled in Family Stabilization Services. Some participants serve as the primary caregiver for another with extension criteria of 'Needed in the Home' or they may be enrolled in a 'Family Violence Waiver' as part of Domestic Violence support programming. Staff in Employment Services are provided training on vocational-based services components, without the integral knowledge and training on how socio-economic conditions impact people, specialized mental health training, managing budgets, decision making, and how communities can thrive.

Overhead Costs: The overhead cost of managing the program does not allow the expenses of more extensive trainings to truly support the elevation of households to move beyond budget constraints, healthy living resources, and long-term stability. This shifts the focus from Employment Services to resolving new and ongoing barriers the family is experiencing, without the proper specialized training in supporting the root cause barriers.

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Identify resources in your community that benefit MFIP families.

Beneficial resources that are available in our community for program participants:

Child Care Services: Many families struggle with finding affordable childcare options, which is a significant challenge for MFIP families.

Employment Services: Local employers may offer rotating shift jobs, but there is often a lack of childcare options for working parents.

Community Organizations: Organizations like the Family Safety Network and local employment service providers can assist MFIP families in accessing job opportunities and training. Within our MFIP network, we have agencies that specialize in serving culturally specific populations, offering education and training (including Pathways programs), and supporting families with a multitude of community supports such as onsite access to food shelves or resources to meet basic needs.

Transition Age Youth: Teen HOPE supports young people who are pregnant or parenting as they work toward their education and employment goals. Unlike many traditional home visiting programs, Teen HOPE is specifically tailored to meet the unique developmental and psychosocial needs of young parents. Office of Housing Supports: Ensuring affordable housing is crucial for MFIP families, as housing costs can be a major barrier to employment.

Supportive Programming: Hennepin County's service model is person-centered. Programming is incorporated with community providers as well as across Hennepin County departments, reflecting a strategic commitment to addressing the needs of residents. Hennepin County continues to build strong, enduring partnerships across various County departments, mitigating service delivery gaps for residents, case managers, and nurses. This direct coordination enables staff to provide a comprehensive, integrated approach to addressing participant needs.

Harm-Reduction Approach for Family Violence Waivers: We have established a framework that trains experienced employment counselors to serve as Family Violence Specialists.

Engagement Standards: Hennepin County has integrated engagement standards into policy, providing training and consistent oversight to monitor compliance with individualized engagement expectations.

Employment Services Model: We provide ongoing support to program participants for 60 days following the conclusion of MFIP eligibility, offering continued employment services and access to support resources. All contracted providers are required to spend 10% of their contract amount on support services Continuity of Services: Residents are not assigned to providers based solely on case coding; instead, all cases pre-60 months are served by any provider, with those post-60 months transitioned into one of two designated providers.

Intensive Monitoring and Data Utilization: Hennepin County, along with contracted ESPs case management focus on fostering relationships and delivering individualized services tailored to each resident's unique circumstances. By adopting a 2-gen approach, offering a wide range of community resources, including partnerships with employers, educational training, job placement assistance, and support for parenting, child development, housing, and financial wellness.

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Identify resources that are not available in your community that would benefit MFIP families.

Immediate Access Programming: While Hennepin County offers various programs to supplement families' incomes, we have limited presumptive eligibility programming. These benefits highlight the importance of presumptive eligibility in providing timely and accessible public assistance to those in need.

Reduced Administrative Burden: Programming collaboration can help families gather the necessary documents to complete the full application process, thereby reducing the administrative burden on states to obtain missing information. Increased Enrollment: Increase access and approval timelines reducing barriers to accessing timely issued benefits. This is particularly beneficial for individuals who may not have the means to apply.

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Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP)

What strategies do you use for hard-to-engage participants? Check all that apply.
 ✓ Home visits ✓ Off-site meeting opportunities ✓ Virtual Appointments ✓ Workforce One Connect App ✓ Sanction outreach services
What type of job development do you do? Check all that apply.
 Sector job development Individual job development
Do you have an ongoing job development partnership or sector base with community employers to help participants with employment?
For example, some of these activities could include, but are not limited to: Interview opportunities, job skills training, job placement, job shadowing, on-site job training, work experience, helping to plan training programs, other.
NoYes

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Please check all activities community employers provide to help participants with employment.

Interview opportunitiesJob skills trainingJob placement

Do you provide the following services to prepare participants for work?

For example, some of these services could include, but are not limited to: Transportation, soft skills training, financial planning, mentoring, other.



When it comes to the services provided to help prepare participants for work, please check all activities that are provided.

- Transportation
- Soft Skills Training
- Financial Planning
- Other, please specify in text box below
- Support career exploration and personal choice throughout employment services.
- Guide participants through career planning processes which include setting career goals; setting realistic expectations; planning for incremental progress; and obtaining jobs with family-sustaining wages.
- Utilize labor market information and other workforce development tools available to provide participants with facts which inform career planning decisions.
- Support job seekers through access to resource rooms, promotion of job openings, job readiness trainings, and assistance with resumes, online applications, communication strategies, etc.
- Facilitate job placement through agency connections with employers and the promotion of career fairs.
- Support employed participants through job retention and advancement services including ongoing coaching, soft skills development, assistance to work through barriers to maintaining employment, career laddering assistance, financial planning, etc.

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Do you provide job retention services for employed participants?

	xample, some of these service could include, but are not limited to: Assist with issues that develop on the job portation, financial planning, soft skill training, mentoring, personal contact with employee and how often, other	
•	No Yes	
When	it comes to job retention services for employed participants, please check all that apply.	
✓	Available to assist with issues that develop on the job	
✓	Transportation	
✓	Financial planning	
✓	Soft skills training	
	Mentoring	
	Personal contact with the employee and how often:	
	Other, please specify in the text box below	
How I	ong do you provide job retention services?	
()	Up to 3 months	
0	6 months	
\bigcirc	12 months	
0	Other (please specify)	

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Do you provide job advancement services to employed participants?

For example, some of these services could include, but are not limited to: career laddering, coaching / mentoring education / training, networking, ongoing job search, other],
NoYes	
When it comes to job advancement services for employed participants, please check all that apply.	
Career laddering Coaching/mentoring Education/training Networking Ongoing job search Other	
Coaching/mentoring; education/training; Networking; Ongoing job search	
Do you utilize any career pathways programs or skill assessment and credentialing programs for your participant For example, some of these programs include, but are not limited to: Pathways to Prosperity, Work Keys, National Career Readiness Certificate No Yes	

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When it comes to t	he programs	that you	utilize for	career	pathway,	skills	assessment,	or	credentialing,	please	check all
that apply.											

✓	Pathways to Prosperity (P2P)
	Work Keys
	National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
	Other

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Family Stabilization Services (FSS)

Do you have qualified professionals available to assist with FSS cases in your service area who meet the licensure and accreditation requirements?

accreditation requirements?
For example, qualified professionals could include, but are not limited to: licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, licensed social worker, licensed psychologist, certified school psychologist, mental health professional, certified psychometrist, other)?
No Yes
When it comes to having qualified professionals available to assist with FSS cases in your area who meet the licensure and accreditation requirements, please check all that apply.
Licensed physician
Advanced practice registered nurse
Occupational therapist
Licensed psychologist
Mental health professional
Physician assistant
Physical therapist
✓ Licensed social worker
Certified school psychologist
Certified psychometrist
Other
Do you make referrals for children of FSS participants?
○ No
● Yes

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When it comes to making referrals for children of FSS participants, please check all that apply.

Children's Mental Health Services	
Child Wellness Check-ups	
Follow Along Program	
Public Health Nurse home visiting services	
Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)	
Other	
Are any of these services for children offered to non-FSS families? No Yes	
Services for families under 200% of Federal Poverty Guideline (FP	'G)
Do you provide services to families who have exited MFIP/DWP or families at risk of receiving MFIP or the Diversion Work Program (DWP), but are under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG)?	nary
For example, this could include, but is not limited to: child care, GED, job posting, support services, job retention services, Adult Basic Education (ABE) / English Language Learning (ELL) classes, computer lab access, transportation vehicle repair, other.	
No Yes	

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Do you provide services to Non-Custodial Parents (NCPs) that are under 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG)?

For example, this could include, but is not limited to: child care, GED, job posting, support services, job retention services, ABE / ELL classes, computer lab access, transportation / vehicle repair, other.

No Yes					
Minnocoto	Family Investment	Drogram	(METD)	Convicos	for Toor

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Services for Teen Parents

Are there specialized workers who work primarily with teen parents?

O No			
Yes			

Please indicate the specialized workers for each age group, check all that apply for each age group.

	Minors (Under age 18)	Age 18 / 19	Not Applicable (N/A)
Financial Worker	✓	✓	
Employment Services Worker	✓	✓	
Social Worker	✓	✓	
Public Health Nurse	✓	✓	
Child Care Worker	✓	✓	
Child Protection Worker		✓	
Other job role (please specify)			✓

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When it comes to Teen parents who are considered minors (participants who are under age 18), please indicate if there a single point of contact for teen parents, that is, one staff with primary responsibility for keeping in contact with the teen, working with the teen, and making connections to other services?

Responses are for staff positions whose primary responsibility is for working with Teen Parents who are considered minors (under age 18), if yes, check the one position / position(s) that serves this function for this specific age group of MFIP Teen Parents.

	YES, for Minors (under age 18)	NO, not for Minors (under age 18)	Not Applicable (N/A)
Financial worker	~		
Employment Services Worker	✓		
Social Worker (Social Services)	✓		
Public Health Nurse	✓		
Child Care Worker	✓		
Child Protection Worker			✓
Other job role			

When it comes to **Teen Parents who are age 18 - 19**, please indicate if there a single point of contact for teen parents, that is, one staff with primary responsibility for keeping in contact with the teen, working with the teen, and making connections to other services?

Responses are for staff positions whose primary responsibility is for working with Teen Parents who are **age 18 - 19**, if yes, check the one position / position(s) that serves this function for this specific age group of MFIP Teen Parents.

		YES, for ages 18 - 19	NO, not for ages 18 - 19	Not Applicable (N/A)
	Financial worker	✓		
	Employment Services Worker	✓		
	Social Worker (Social Services)	✓		
-	Public Health Nurse	✓		
-	Child Care Worker	✓		
	Child Protection Worker	~		

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Other job role		✓

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Does your Tribal Nation / County have an active partnership with local public health agency to get teen parents enrolled and engaged in public health nurse home visiting services? Please select one option for each age group.

	Yes, mandatory	Yes, voluntary	No
Minors (under age 18)	✓		
Age 18 / 19		✓	
Describe how you are ensuring	your services are <i>inclusive</i> 1	for all.	
,			
Hennepin County is committed Recognizing the diverse need background, trauma history, them.	ds of residents—including the	hose related to parenting, s	ystem involvement, cultural
Joint and Interagency Pla Economic Supports, and Offic community expanding resour sufficiency. By weaving toget participants income self-suffi	ce of Housing Stability Dep rces for residents to find jo ther funding and resources	artments we link resident so bs, housing, and education , we provide broader access	ervices, programming, and towards income self-
Program participants hav			
 Cultural Background: two providers the serve all per 			all pre-60-month cases, and cific background needs.
 Language Accessibilit 	y: We offer services in mul	tiple languages to accommo	odate residents who may not

Describe how you are ensuring your services are *accessible* for all.

be fluent in the dominant language.

Hennepin County focuses on accessibility, ensuring residents, regardless of their ability or background, receives a quality of service on an individual level. We offer flexible engagement options to reduce barriers, including inperson, virtual, and community-based meetings. Our staff are trained in trauma-informed and culturally responsive practices, ensuring that participants feel seen, respected, and supported regardless of their background or circumstances. For young parents, we partner with public health nurses to provide holistic care and individualized support. We also prioritize language access, transportation assistance, and consistent communication to build trust and remove obstacles to participation.

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How are you working to advance equity in service delivery in your Tribal Nation / County?

Hennepin County provides training to staff for addressing racial equity and community disparities to inform staff of evolving community needs and how we can provide resources and referrals that meet individualized needs that are culturally appropriate and inclusive for families being served.

Hennepin County Department of Workforce Development uses a set of targeted outcomes with our contracted providers that emphasis long term successful outcomes for participants versus emphasizing participation requirements. These outcomes guide service delivery to ensure equity in program delivery across the county. We use a data-driven approach to monitor service delivery, and ensure participants are being actively engaged.

We collaborate closely across county departments, including Public Health and Education, to align supports and reduce duplication or gaps in services. Internally, we continuously assess our practices to ensure they are reflective of the communities we serve and adjust as needed based on staff feedback, participant voice, and outcome data. By investing in wraparound supports and focusing on long-term success, we are contributing to more equitable outcomes.

Additionally, we ensure that participant feedback is incorporated into service delivery through contracted expectations to collect participant feedback using two different collection mechanisms, as well as an expectation for annual continuous improvement initiatives that enhance service delivery and experience. Our program centers equity in both design and delivery. Our services support participants who have historically faced systemic barriers—such as young parents and justice-involved youth—by providing equitable access to education, resources, and opportunity. Working to disrupt the cycle of disconnection by offering all participants individualized plans that reflect each participant's strengths, goals, and lived experience.

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Do you provide trainings to prepare your staff to work effectively with people from various backgrounds and perspectives?



(a) Yes, mandatory. If yes, provide the title of the training and how often it is provided.

Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health department require all employees to take a minimum of four hours of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training annually. Employees have the option to choose which trainings they would like to attend, whether offered by the County or an external agency or institution. Employment Service Provider Avivo offers Intercultural Development Inventory Training along with strongly encouraged quarterly follow up trainings: • Creating a Brave Space & Introducing the Conditions for Belonging • Understanding Intercultural Differences: Navigating Communication Styles • Understanding Intercultural Differences: Navigating Conflict Styles • Leading Through Responsive & Accountability Practices.

Do you have culturally specific employment services for different racial / ethnic groups?

Yes, please describe.

African Immigrant; Hispanic/Latino; Hennepin County contracts with culturally specific providers, our referral model allows for participant choice.

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Workforce One Connect App

Does y	our Tribal Nation / County have the Workforce One Connect app available to participants?	
0	No, please explain	
•	Yes	
-	you indicated "yes" in making Workforce One Connect app available to participants, please indicate which of t ing groups are utilizing the app features in Workforce One:	he
✓	Employment Services	
	Financial Workers	
	Childcare Workers	
	Other (please specify)	
MAX	KIS	
Do you	u limit the number of employment services staff that have MAXIS access?	
	MN Department of Children, Youth, and Families does not limit the number of employment services staff that MAXIS access.	can
	No	
O	Yes, please explain	

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Describe the process your service area uses to identify and resolve discrepancies between MAXIS and Workforce One data in areas such as Family Stabilization Services coding, employment / hours, sanction status, etc.

Referral Support: There is a specialty team designated to support referrals to Employment Services from Maxis and available to address extension case needs for cases that have discrepancies between WF1 and Maxis. The specialty team members have COFFR level access to WF1 and full production access to Maxis to be able to holistically review case information, documents, and resolve and case discrepancies between systems. This is instrumental in addressing any FSS coding needed, employment status with work hours, and to update sanction status on cases in both systems.

Sanction Engagement and Assessment: Hennepin County Department of Workforce Development (DWD) require increased engagement efforts and an assessment of the case prior to issuing a sanction. DWD staff review employment services sanctions monthly to ensure no cases are incorrectly sanctioned, and to ensure that we are actively addressing sanctions on cases that are transferred into HC in sanction. We have also worked to identify and forward on cases to Economic Supports that have been coded as FSS Unemployable as an exemption from DWP that should be removed after MFIP approval. Clean-up of these cases continues to be a work in progress. Workforce Development has recently partnered with the HC appeals team to identify gaps in our processes that are leading to missed work items and overpayments. We have re-emphasized the importance of ESPs sending timely status update communications to the eligibility team reporting changes to employment status to ensure accurate budgeting to prevent future over payments and subsequent resident appeals.

Child Care Assistance Program

What strategies does your agency use that involve MFIP and / or Employment Services staff to support timely and consistent receipt of childcare assistance through the Child Care Assistance Program? Select all that apply.

	Shared electronic document management system
~	Regular case consultation meetings
	Workers with dual MFIP and CCAP role
	Workers with dual Employment Services and CCAP role
~	MFIP and / or Employment Services workers have MEC2 Inquiry access
~	MFIP and / or Employment Service workers receive training related to CCAP
	Specific CCAP workers process MFIP child care cases Use of agency-developed forms or documents
	Communications with CCAP worker via phone, email or fax MFIP and / or Employment Services workers assist families with completing CCAP paperwork (for example: the CCAP application) Other, please specify

TeenHOPE, Youth Eligibility Team, and Child Care Assistance collaboration

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What barriers prevent timeliness?

- Not being assigned an Employment Service Agency quickly once they have approved for MFIP.
- Not being able to meet with their Employment Counselor quickly once they have been assigned an Employment Service Agency.
- Child Care Worker not receiving the Child Care Plan with the application.
- Child Care Plan incomplete or contradictory-- example, no indication of childcare provider, activity of parent is missing, amount of care child needs does not match the need of parent.
- Child Care area not being informed the family has a need for childcare.
- Parent/participant lack of working with their assigned employment counselor to obtain the appropriate needed care.

Does your Tribal Nation / County provide emergency shelter or crisis services from your Consolidated Fund?

O No

Yes

A copy of our Emergency Assistance policy is attached

HENNEPIN COUNTY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HCEAP)
Program Plan: 4-21-2025

Note: State law allows this plan to be amended at any time.

Legal Authority: § 256J.626 Subd. 2 (a) (1)

MFIP Consolidated Fund – Allowable Expenditures

Section 1. General Provisions

- 1.1. Hennepin County Emergency Assistance (Emergency Assistance) as defined in this plan will serve families with a minor child or a pregnant woman experiencing an emergency.
 - 1.1.1 An emergency is defined as a sudden and unexpected set of circumstances that requires immediate action and if not resolved will result in severe hardship or pose a direct, immediate threat to the physical health or safety of a child.
- 1.2 Income, assets, and current living expenses of each household member will be considered in determining eligibility for Emergency Assistance.

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- 1.3 Issuance of Emergency Assistance funds must be anticipated to produce long-term (6-month) resolution of the emergency.
- 1.4 Issuance of Emergency Assistance funds must be deemed cost-effective.
 - 1.4.1 Cost-effectiveness is defined as the determination that alternative remedies necessary to resolve the client's immediate crisis would lead to a greater expenditure of public funds.
- 1.5 Hennepin County will issue Emergency Assistance only when and to the extent that funding for the assistance is available through the portion of the MFIP Consolidated Fund, established by Hennepin County, designated for Emergency Assistance.
- 1.6 Hennepin County may apportion annual funding over the year by establishing quarterly expenditure limits. Emergency Assistance is available to the extent funding remains in the quarter's allocation from which issuance is being drawn. The availability of funding will be at the sole determination and discretion of Hennepin County.
- 1.7 Jodi Wentland, Human Services Director in the Health and Human Services Department, may adjust the quarterly distributions or eligibility factors dependent upon expenditure patterns. Unallotted funds at the end of the quarter may be carried forward to the next quarter. Unallotted funds at any time may be transferred to another allowable program area under the MFIP Consolidated Fund.

Section 2. <u>Program Provisions</u>

To be eligible a family unit must meet ALL of the following conditions:

- 2.1 At least one child or caregiver must have resided in Minnesota for at least 30 days.
- 2.2 A child that meets the MFIP definition of a child must live with a caregiver on the date of application or must be anticipated to live with the caregiver within 30 days of the date of application.
 - 2.2.1 For the definition of caregiver see: DHS Combined Manual: Chapter 14, Section 03.03.
 - 2.2.2 For definition of a child that meets the MFIP minor child see: DHS Combined Manual Chapter 4 Section 41
- 2.3 All members of the family unit must not have used Emergency Assistance funds in Minnesota in the last 12 months through the MFIP Consolidated Fund.
- 2.4 No member of the family unit can be under any sanctions, which include but are not limited to employment sanctions, child support sanctions and food support sanctions.
- 2.5 No member of the family unit may have refused employment or training without good cause.

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- 2.5.1 Good cause is defined as a situation or circumstance beyond an individual's control, which would meet criteria under MFIP for retroactive sanction removal.
- 2.6 All resources available to the family unit must be used to resolve the emergency.
 - 2.6.1 To allow for 50% of net income from date of app to date of determination needs to be applied towards emergency. Determine eligibility once all verifications have been received. Don't hold up determination in anticipation of future checks.
 - 2.6.2 Basic needs are defined as the minimum personal requirements of subsistence restricted to shelter, utilities, food, and other items the loss of or lack of is determined by Hennepin County to pose a direct, immediate threat to the physical health or safety of a member of the family unit.
- 2.7 At least one child or pregnant woman must meet MFIP citizenship requirements.
- 2.8 Payment in combination with other available resources must be able to resolve the emergency, not just delay it.
- 2.9 The family unit must be unable to resolve its emergency by combining liquid assets, available income, and other funds for which they are eligible.
- 2.10 Total family unit income must be less than 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
 - 2.10.1 Current month's income will be used to determine income eligibility.
- 2.11 Emergency Assistance is available for one 30-day period in a 12-month consecutive period.
 - 2.11.1 An additional 30 days of assistance may be issued if the emergency continues beyond the initial 30 day period, but will be resolved for at least 12 consecutive months.

Additional days, as needed, of assistance will be allowed, if an emergency continues beyond the initial 30 day eligibility period **and** the family is in a Hennepin County contracted shelter.

2.11.2 A second issuance of assistance will be allowed during a 12 month period if the second emergency during the 12 month period was due to a need for financial assistance to cover the expense for the family to reside in Hennepin County contracted shelter **or** if the second emergency during the 12 month period was due to a need for financial assistance to exit a Hennepin County contracted emergency shelter. Payments will be limited to damage deposit, rent, moving expense, utility bills, bus tickets and other expenses deemed to be necessary by Hennepin County to stabilize the families living arrangement.

Emergency Assistance will not be available again until twelve months from the date of the second issuance.

2.11.2 Special diets are exempted from this provision.

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Section 3: <u>Application Process</u>

- 3.1 An application for Emergency Assistance will be provided to a caregiver upon request. The application must be completed and signed by a caregiver in the household. The date of application is the date the signed application is received by Hennepin County.
- 3.2 An in-person or phone interview is required.
- 3.3 The county will notify the family unit in writing within five (5) working days of receipt of their application indicating that their application was approved, denied or pended.
- 3.4 If notice is sent that an application was pended, the county agency will notify the family unit within 14 calendar days of the receipt of all requested verifications whether their application was approved or denied.

Section 4: <u>Verification Requirements</u>

- 4.1 An applicant for emergency assistance is required to verify items deemed necessary by the county agency to determine eligibility. Those items include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Identity
 - (b) State and county residency
 - (c) Social Security number
 - (d) The emergency and the cost to alleviate the emergency
 - (e) Income
 - (f) Deductions from countable income
 - (g) Assets
 - (h) Relationship to child (ren)
 - (i) Immigration status, if applicable.
 - (i) Pregnancy, if applicable
 - (k) Rent and utility payments made in past 12 months
- 4.2 Failure to provide requested verifications will result in denial of the Emergency Assistance application.

Section 5: Covered Services

- 5.1 Payment eligibility assumes family unit meets all eligibility criteria listed in this document and funding is determined to be available. See: Section 1.5, 1.6, & 1.7 of this document.
- 5.2 Covered services include foreclosure prevention, shelter, home repairs, moving expenses, utility bills and transportation for homeless families.

5.2.1 Foreclosure Prevention:

(a) The family unit must own, occupy, and maintain the home.

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- (b) The total Emergency Assistance payment must not exceed an amount of \$5,000
- (c) Anticipated family unit income must be sufficient to pay housing costs over the next 12 months.
- (d) The Emergency Assistance payment along with other payments must be accepted as full payment of all arrearage.

5.2.2 Shelter:

- (a) Emergency sheltering of families experiencing homelessness
- (b) Damage deposits and or rental assistance for families without permanent housing to assist them in securing permanent housing. The maximum assistance for damage deposits and /or rent will be limited to the equivalent of 2 months' rent.
 - (c) Applications received prior to April 21, 2025: Rental assistance to prevent the loss of rented shelter if the family's income is sufficient to meet on going rent and utility costs of that rented unit and that the monthly rental costs are deemed reasonable by the county agency. The maximum assistance for damage deposits and /or rent will be limited to the equivalent of 2 months' rent. Effective with applications received on or after April 21, 2025, assistance with past due rent will no longer be eligible under the Emergency Assistance (EA) program, due to the availability of assistance with past due rent available through RentHelp Hennepin programs administered through the County's office of Housing Stability.

5.2.3 Home Repairs:

- (a) The family unit must own and live in the home.
- (b) Authorization must be made by the county agency before repair begins.
- (c) The need for the requested repair must be documented and the cost deemed reasonable by the county agency.
- (d) Repairs are limited to roof, foundation, wiring, heating system, or water and sewer system.

5.2.4 Moving Expenses:

Payment must be determined by the county agency to resolve the emergency and must be deemed both reasonable and cost-effective.

5.2.5 Utility Bills:

Effective applications received on or after April 21, 2025, Hennepin County's Emergency Assistance (EA) program will only provide assistance for utility services that are in disconnection status. Past due utility bills that are not at risk of disconnection will no longer be eligible under the EA program.

- (a) Emergency Assistance eligible utilities include municipal water and sewer, wood, electric, gas service and fuel oil.
- (b) Payment may only be made if the utility vendor verifies a utility disconnect to restore service based on the Emergency Assistance payment. Rent payments must be current to be considered eligible for utility assistance.

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- (c) Total assistance is limited to \$5,000
- 5.2.6 Transportation
- (a) Applicant must have no available resources and be seeking residence in another city.
- (b) A place to reside and financial support at the destination requested must be verified.
- (c) Emergency Assistance (EA) will be issued for the cost of a bus ticket or gasoline only.
- (d) Emergency Assistance (EA) issued for gasoline will not exceed the cost of a bus ticket to the same location.
- (e) Applicant must verify ownership of the vehicle and provide a valid Driver's License for EA to be issued for gasoline.
- (f) All provisions in section 2.6 of the HCEAP plan also apply.

Section 6: Determining the Amount of the Emergency Assistance Payment

- 6.1 Hennepin County will determine the amount of Emergency Assistance potentially available to resolve the applicant's emergency situation in the following manner:
 - (a) The minimum amount needed to resolve the family unit's emergency will be determined.
 - (b) The amount of income and assets the family unit has or will have that can apply toward the emergency will be determined. All income will be counted.
 - (c) Assets the family unit can convert in time to resolve the emergency, excluding personal effects and essential household goods.
 - (d) The availability of other public or private aid will be determined.
 - (e) The available amount of resources determined above will be added together.
 - (f) That amount, determined in (e), will then be subtracted from the amount determined to resolve the emergency in (a).

Section 7: Method of Payment

7.1 All emergency Assistance payments will be made in the form of vendor payments.

Section 8: Right to Appeal

See: Minnesota Statutes, Section 256.045 and 256.0451.

Section 9: Special Diets

- 9.1 Hennepin County may issue Emergency Assistance to MFIP or DWP families when a licensed physician prescribes the need for special diets or dietary items.
- 9.2 The costs for a special diet will be determined as the percentage of the allotment

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for a one-person household under the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture.

- 9.3 Types of diets and percentage of TFP that are covered are as follows:
 - (a) High protein diet, at least 80 grams daily, 25 percent of TFP
 - (b) Controlled protein diet, 40 to 60 grams and requires special products, 100 percent of TFP
 - (c) Low cholesterol diet, 25 percent of TFP
 - (d) High residue diet, 20 percent of TFP
 - (e) Pregnancy and lactation diet, 35 percent of TFP
 - (f) Gluten-free diet, 25 percent of TFP
 - (g) Lactose-free diet, 25 percent of TFP
 - (h) Antidumping diet, 15 percent of TFP
 - (i) Hypoglycemic diet, 15 percent of TFP
 - (j) Ketogenic diet, 25 percent of TFP
- 9.4 Individuals receiving Emergency Assistance funding for special diets or dietary items are eligible to receive Emergency Assistance for other covered emergency services, if otherwise eligible.

Section 10: Amendments to Hennepin County Emergency Assistance Plan

- 10.1 Amendments to this plan can be made at any time. Amendments along with an updated budget, if applicable will be submitted to the DHS MFIP Program Consultant via email, followed by a paper copy.
- 10.2 Changes to the plan will be implemented following the email submission of the amended plan to DHS in accordance with the effective date designated in the amendment.
- 10.3Unless otherwise specified in the plan amendment, Emergency Assistance applications filed after the date the amended plan is submitted to DHS are subject to provisions of the newly amended plan.

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What strategies and action steps for each of the groups below the disparities reference line do you plan to implement for the coming biennium to reduce these disparities.

The following groups are below the disparities reference line:

All Adults: MFIP Employment Services must demonstrate culturally appropriate service delivery, which includes the following:

- •Deliver all services in a manner which is respectful and culturally appropriate to the participant. Culturally appropriate is defined as services that are delivered to reflect the unique individual needs of the participant, such as language, racial/ethnic background and social/religious background.
- •Make reasonable efforts to ensure staff delivering services reflect the diversity of the population served and seek ongoing input from individuals who reflect non-represented cultures; and
- •Comply with county's Limited English Proficiency Plan and provide participants with access to interpreter services on demand and at no personal cost.

African American: We serve a disproportionately high number of African American residents in MFIP Employment Services, YTD 63% of our MFIP participants identify as African American as compared to 13% of the county's total population. As such, Hennepin County intentionally selects community-based providers to provide MFIP Employment Services who are strategically located to serve this population. We have a strong presence of MFIP ESPs in North Minneapolis, South Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, and Brooklyn Park. This community-based approach, combined with our flexible service delivery requirements, is tailored to address the specific needs of the African American community through connections to specialized supports and relevant resources in the community.,

American Indian: Hennepin County allocates property tax revenue to assist residents facing employment barriers who are receiving public assistance, with a specific emphasis on outreach to Native American individuals through the Helping Hands program initiative. This comprehensive employment services initiative provides tailored support to participants through a range of personalized services, including recruitment, assessment, career development, education, training, and job placement in high-demand sectors, all designed to promote long-term economic self-sufficiency.

Grounded in a human-centered design approach, the program adapts to the unique strengths, challenges, and aspirations of each individual. Additionally, flexible support funds are available to meet essential needs such as transportation, digital access, childcare, and milestone incentives, ensuring that participants have the necessary resources to overcome obstacles and succeed in their goals.

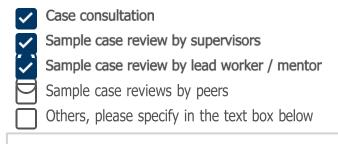
What procedures are in place to ensure that program funds are being used appropriately as directed by law? Check all

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that apply.

~	Budget control procedures for approving expenditures
✓	Cash management procedures for ensuring program income is used for permitted activities
✓	Internal policies around use of funds (i.e., participant support services)
	Other, please specify in the text box below

What procedures are in place to ensure program policies are followed and applied accurately? Check all that apply.



The following section will be collecting information on your current employment service providers. Please select one the

Current Employment Service Providers

In this section, you will have an opportunity to list all of your current employment services provider(s).

ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number Email

African Community Services

1305 East 24th Street Minneapolis, MN 55404

Samira Noor

612-721-9984

Snoor@africancs.org

Please check the respective box to indicate which population is served by African Community Services

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MFIP ES	
DWP ES	
✓	
Teen Parents	
200% FPG	
Other	
ES Provider Name	Avivo
Address	7888 12 Ave South Bloomington, MN 55425
Contact Person	Julie Kizlik
Phone Number	612-752-8500

julie.kizlik@avivomn.org

Email

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Please check the respective box to indicate which population is served by Avivo

✓ MFIP ES	
DWP ES	
✓ FSS	
Teen Parents	
200% FPG	
Other	
Other	
EC Dooridoo Nomo	
ES Provider Name Address	CLUES
Contact Person	777 East Lake Street Minneapolis, MN 55407 Zonia Holub
Phone Number	612-746-3500
Email	zholub@clues.org
Please check the respective bo	ox to indicate which population is served by CLUES
MFIP ES	
DWP ES	
✓ FSS	
Teen Parents	
200% FPG	
Other	
ES Provider Name	Emerge
Address	1834 Emerson Avenue North Minneapolis, MN 55411
Contact Person	Sherry Glanton
Phone Number	612-529-9267
Email	GLANTONS@EMERGE-MN.ORG

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Please check the respective box to indicate which population is served by Emerge

✓ MFIP ES ✓ DWP ES ✓ FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	
ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number Email	Goodwill - Easter Seals (Greenway Office Building) 2801 21st Avenue South, Suite 140 Minneapolis, MN 55407 Nicole Hilgendorf 612-286-8600 NMHilgendorf@gesmn.org
Please check the respective b MFIP ES DWP ES FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	ox to indicate which population is served by Goodwill - Easter Seals
ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number Email	HIRED North Loop 217 Fifth Ave N Minneapolis, MN Mayko Sadler 612-808-9462 mayko.sadler@hired.org

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Please check the respective box to indicate which population is served by HIRED

✓ MFIP ES ✓ DWP ES ✓ FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	
ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number	Jewish Family and Children Services 5905 Golden Valley Road Golden Valley, MN 55422 Leah Temkin 952-546-0616
Please check the respective bo MFIP ES DWP ES FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	ox to indicate which population is served by Jewish Family and Children Services
ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number	Lutheran Social Services 2400 Park Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55404 Liberty Mickelson 612-879-5372
MFIP ES DWP ES FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	ox to indicate which population is served by Lutheran Social Services

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ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number Please check the respective bo	NorthPoint Health & Wellness Inc. 2220 Plymouth Ave N, Suite 1600 Minneapolis, MN 55411 Linda Bryant 612-767-9500 ox to indicate which population is served by NorthPoint Health & Wellness Inc.
MFIP ES DWP ES FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	
ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number Email Please check the respective bo	Project for Pride in Living 1021 East Franklin Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55404 Sonya Lewis 612-455-5100 Sonya.lewis@ppl-inc.org ox to indicate which population is served by Project for Pride in Living
MFIP ES DWP ES FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	
ES Provider Name Address Contact Person	Hennepin County Teen HOPE/Pathways program n/a Bobby Morrow

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Phone	Number
Email	

612-217-3119	
bobby.morrow@hennepin.us	

Please check the respective bo program	x to indicate which population is served by Hennepin County Teen HOPE/Pathways
MFIP ESDWP ESFSS✓ Teen Parents200% FPGOther	
ES Provider Name Address Contact Person Phone Number Email	Hennepin MFIP Operated (Post 60) na Charlita Holley 612-348-7130 charlita.holley@hennepin.us
Please check the respective be	ox to indicate which population is served by Hennepin MFIP Operated (Post 60)
MFIP ES DWP ES FSS Teen Parents 200% FPG Other	
Does your Tribal Nation / Cou Have at least two empl	nty (select one): oyment and training service providers.

Have a CareerForce center that provides multiple employment and training services, offers multiple services options under a collaborative effort, and can document that participants have choice among

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employment and training services designed to meet specialized needs.

O Intend to submit a financial hardship request. See following question.

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Budget

20	26 Budget Line Items		
В	udgeted Amount	Percent	2026 Budget Line Items
\$	330,000	0.95%	Employment Services (DWP)
	\$24,335,927	69.98%	Employment Services (MFIP)
	\$2,500,000	7.19%	Emergency Services/Crisis Fund
	\$2,608,048	7.50%	Administration (cap at 7.5% or up to 15% with an approved administrative cap waiver)
	\$5,000,000	14.38%	Income Maintenance Administration
	0	0	Incentives (include the total amount of funds budgeted for participant incentives but don't include support services here)
Click	or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Under 200% Services
	0	0	Capital Expenditures
	0	0	Other - Intensive Services (PFS)
	\$34,773,975	100%	Total

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2027 Budget Line Items

Budgeted Amount	Percent	2027 Budget Line Items
0	0	Employment Services (DWP)
\$24,665,927	70.93%	Employment Services (MFIP)
\$2,500,000	7.19%	Emergency Services/Crisis Fund
\$2,608,048	7.50%	Administration (cap at 7.5% or up to 15% with an approved administrative cap waiver)
\$5,000,000	14.38%	Income Maintenance Administration
0	0	Incentives (include the total amount of funds budgeted for participant incentives but don't include support services here)
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Under 200% Services
0	0	Capital Expenditures
0	0	Other
\$34,773,975	100%	Total

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Assurances

It is understood and agreed by the 2026-2027 board that funds granted pursuant to this service agreement will be expended for the purposes outlined in Minnesota Statutes, section 142G; that the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (hereafter department) has the authority to review and monitor compliance with the service agreement, that documentation of compliance will be available for audit; that the Tribal Nation/County make reasonable efforts to comply with all MFIP requirements, including efforts to identify and apply for available state and federal funding for services within the limits of available funding; and that the Tribal Nation/County agrees to operate MFIP in accordance with state law and federal law and guidance from the department.

Tribal Nations and Counties may use the funds for any allowable expenditures under <u>Minnesota Statute</u>, <u>142G.76.2</u>, including case management outlined in <u>Minnesota Statutes</u>, <u>section 142G</u>.

This allocation is funded with 8% state funds and 92% federal TANF funds and paid quarterly.

Federal funds. Payments are to be made from federal funds. If at any time such funds become unavailable, this CONTRACT shall be terminated immediately upon written notice of such fact by STATE to Tribal Nation/County. In the event of such termination, Tribal Nation/County shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed. An amendment must be executed any time any of the data elements listed in 2 CFR 200.332 and this clause, including the Assistance Listing number, are changed, such as additional funds from the same federal award or additional funds from a different federal award. STATE has determined that Tribal Nation/County is a "contractor" and not a "subrecipient" pursuant to 2 C.F.R section 200.331.

Pass-through requirements. Tribal Nation/County acknowledges that, if it is a subrecipient of federal funds under this CONTRACT, Tribal Nation/County may be subject to certain compliance obligations. Tribal Nation/County can view a table of these obligations in the <u>Health and Human Services Grants Policy Statement</u>,[1] Exhibit 3 on page II-3, in addition to specific public policy requirements related to the federal funds here. To the degree federal funds are used in this contract, STATE and Tribal Nation/County agree to comply with all pass-through requirements, including each Party's auditing requirements as stated in 2 C.F.R. § 200.332 (Requirements for pass-through entities) and <u>2 C.F.R.</u> §§ 200.501-521 (Subpart F – Audit Requirements).[2]

Tribal Nation / County Name (Must match the name associated with the Unique Entity Identifier) 2026-2027

Tribal Nation / County Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): Effective April 4, 2022, the Unique Entity Identifier is the 12 character alphanumeric identifier established and assigned at <u>SAM.gov</u> to uniquely identify business entities and must

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match Tribal Nation / County name.

Hennepin County	
Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN): 2601MNTANF and 2701MNTANF	

Federal Award Date: October 1, 2025 (projected) (The date of the award to the MN Dept. of Children, Youth, and

Families.)

Budget period start and end date: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027

Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN): 2601MNTANF and 2701MNTANF

Federal Award Date: October 1, 2025 (projected) (The date of the award to the MN Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families.)

Period of Performance (please use words and numbers, for example: May 23, 2025)

Start Date January 1, 2026

End Date December 31, 2027

Budget period start and end date: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027

Amount of federal funds:

A. Total Amount Awarded to DCYF for this project: \$103,290,000 (projected)

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B. Total Amount Awarded by DCYF for this project to Tribal Nation / County named above:

\$31,992,057

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Federal Award Project description: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Federal Awarding Agency: Administration for Children and Families

Name

MN Dept. of Children, Youth, Contact information of DHS's a	and Families (DCYF) awarding official: Jovon Perry, <u>Jovon.perr</u> y@ <u>state.mn.us</u> .
	Name (formerly known as CFDA No.): Payments are to be made from federal funds Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) No.:
Number	93.558
Title	TANF
Total amount made available at time of disbursement	31,992,057
Is this federal award related t	to research and development?
No Yes	

Indirect Cost Rate for this federal award is: up to 15% (including if the de minimis rate is charged)

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Checking this box certifies that this 2026 - 2027 MFIP Biennial Service Agreement has been prepared

SERVICE AGREEMENT CERTIFICATION

as required and approv Statutes, section 142G.	red by the Tribal Nation / County board(s) under the provisions of Minnesota
State the name of the chair of address and the name of the	the Tribal Nation / County board of commissioners or authorized designee, their mailing Tribal Nation / County.
Name (chair or designee)	Irene Fernando
Mailing Address	Government Center A2400 300 South 6th Street Minneapolis, MN 55487
Tribal Nation / County	Hennepin County
If your Tribal Nation / County agency is unable to complete your BSA by October 15th, 2025, you will need to request arextension by emailing <u>Jonathan.Hausman@ state.mn.us</u> . Please provide additional information about why you were not able to compete this form.	
DATE OF CERTIFICATION (please use words and numbers, for example: September 23, 2025)	

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This content will change closer to the date

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You are about to see a summary of your responses on the next page when you click "Next." This is a spot to review your answers to your questions and to help prepare a PDF summary of your answers for the 30-day Public Comment Period.

Once you click "Next" and are taken to the following page, please do **NOT** click "next" or "submit" on the next page at this stage in the process. Your responses to the PDF summary need to be posted for 30 days prior to your submission of your answers and responses. Once you have had 30 days for public review and comment on BSA responses entered here, then you can log back in on the link that was provided in your original email and access the survey to submit for completion of the 2026-2027 BSA.

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