



children's
defense fund
minnesota

The A, B, Cs of MFIP

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) is the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or welfare-to-work program. Children in families accessing MFIP live in or near deep poverty (defined as roughly \$12,000 per year for a family of four) and are some of the state's most vulnerable to consequences of economic instability that can have long-term effects on their health, development, and academic outcomes.

It's often overlooked that an overwhelming majority of the people accessing MFIP are children and that the cash grant hasn't been increased since 1986. At \$532 per month for a family of three, the grant hardly covers half of the market rents across the state, let alone the total cost of basic needs and access to opportunities that help children learn, grow and explore.

As you consider proposals to increase the MFIP cash grant, remember the A, B, Cs of MFIP:

A

As little as a \$1,000 increase in annual income in early childhood can have long-term positive effects on academic outcomes, including improving math and reading outcomes later in life.

B

Babies under age one make up 10 percent of the total Minnesotans accessing MFIP.

C

Children make up 71 percent of Minnesotans accessing MFIP. More than half of all families accessing MFIP have a young child under age 6.

Increasing family income, especially for young children, results in long-term improvements to their outcomes reducing the chances of the need for more costly interventions later on.



Your support of a significant MFIP cash grant increase would be a long overdue investment in children and families that will pay off in improved outcomes for children in our lowest income working families.