



July 10, 2020

Sen. Jim Abeler, Chair
Human Services Reform Finance and Policy
3215 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Tina Liebling, Chair
House Health and Human Services Finance Division
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Sen. Abeler and Rep. Liebling:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Intercounty Association, and the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators, representing all of the Minnesota's 87 county governments, **we write to express support for extending the ability for counties to interview applicants to the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).**

The waivers extended by the Department of Human Services (DHS) have been absolutely critical for counties to continue to provide human services during COVID-19. Counties thank you for your leadership in extending many of these waivers during the most recent special session.

Like the waivers the Legislature recently approved that will be extended to June 2021, the ask to extend this MFIP waiver (called "CV03" on DHS list of waivers) is rooted in protecting the health of staff and clients as we continue to respond to COVID-19. Completing applications over the phone is an additional flexibility that also provides efficiencies for both clients and staff.

This extension does not change the program and eligibility requirements or any of the verification processes that counties conduct. Further, counties are calling for ongoing program integrity by only seeking to extend the ability to conduct remote interviews and by asking that only electronic signatures would be allowed.

Counties appreciate your consideration and support for this waiver and continue to look forward to ongoing conversations on long-term innovations in service delivery as we learn lessons during this unique time.

Sincerely,

Rich Sve, Lake County Commissioner
President, Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association

Becky Secore, Beltrami County HHS
Director
*President, Minnesota Association of County
Social Service Administrators*