

## ARTICLE 11

## ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

Section 1. [142F.103] CAMPUS-BASED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

Subdivision 1. Designation. (a) Within six months of the effective date of this section, the Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities must, and the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota is requested to, submit an application to the commissioner of human services verifying whether each of its institutions meets the requirements to be a campus-based employment and training program that qualifies for the student exemption for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility, as described in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 7, section 273.5(b)(11)(iv).

(b) An institution of higher education must be designated as a campus-based employment and training program by the commissioner of human services if that institution meets the requirements set forth in the guidance under subdivision 3. The commissioner of human services must maintain a list of approved programs on its website.

Subd. 2. Student eligibility. A student is eligible to participate in a campus-based employment and training program under this section if the student is enrolled in:

(1) a public two-year community or technical college and received a state grant under section 136A.121, received a federal Pell grant, or has a student aid index of \$0 or less;

(2) a Tribal college as defined in section 136A.62 and received a state grant under section 136A.121, received a federal Pell grant, or has a student aid index of \$0 or less; or

(3) a public four-year university and received a state grant under section 136A.121, received a federal Pell grant, or has a student aid index of \$0 or less.

Subd. 3. Guidance. Within three months of the effective date of this section and annually thereafter, the commissioner of human services, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education, must issue guidance to counties, Tribal Nations, Tribal colleges, and Minnesota public postsecondary institutions that:

(1) clarifies the state and federal eligibility requirements for campus-based employment and training programs for low-income households;

(2) clarifies the application process for campus-based employment and training programs for low-income households including but not limited to providing a list of the supporting documents required for program approval;

2.1 (3) clarifies how students in an institution of higher education approved as a campus-based  
2.2 employment and training program for low-income households qualify for a SNAP student  
2.3 exemption; and

2.4 (4) clarifies the SNAP eligibility criteria for students that qualify for a SNAP student  
2.5 exemption under this section.

2.6 Subd. 4. **Application.** Within three months of the effective date of this section, the  
2.7 commissioner of human services, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education,  
2.8 must design an application for institutions of higher education to apply for a campus-based  
2.9 employment and training program designation.

2.10 Subd. 5. **Notice.** At the beginning of each academic semester, an institution of higher  
2.11 education with a designated campus-based employment and training program must send a  
2.12 letter to students eligible under this section to inform them that they may qualify for SNAP  
2.13 benefits and direct them to resources to apply. The letter under this subdivision shall serve  
2.14 as proof of a student's enrollment in a campus-based employment and training program.

2.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective upon federal approval. The commissioner  
2.16 of human services must notify the revisor of statutes when federal approval is obtained.

2.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 256E.35, subdivision 2, is amended  
2.18 to read:

2.19 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

2.20 (b) "Eligible educational institution" means the following:

2.21 (1) an institution of higher education described in section 101 or 102 of the Higher  
2.22 Education Act of 1965; or

2.23 (2) an area vocational education school, as defined in subparagraph (C) or (D) of United  
2.24 States Code, title 20, chapter 44, section 2302 (3) (the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and  
2.25 Applied Technology Education Act), which is located within any state, as defined in United  
2.26 States Code, title 20, chapter 44, section 2302 (30). This clause is applicable only to the  
2.27 extent section 2302 is in effect on August 1, 2008.

2.28 (c) "Family asset account" means a savings account opened by a household participating  
2.29 in the Minnesota family assets for independence initiative.

2.30 (d) "Fiduciary organization" means:

2.31 (1) a community action agency that has obtained recognition under section 256E.31;

- 3.1 (2) a federal community development credit union;
- 3.2 (3) a women-oriented economic development agency;
- 3.3 (4) a federally recognized Tribal Nation; or
- 3.4 (5) a nonprofit organization as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
- 3.5 Code.
- 3.6 (e) "Financial coach" means a person who:
- 3.7 (1) has completed an intensive financial literacy training workshop that includes
- 3.8 curriculum on budgeting to increase savings, debt reduction and asset building, building a
- 3.9 good credit rating, and consumer protection;
- 3.10 (2) participates in ongoing statewide family assets for independence in Minnesota (FAIM)
- 3.11 network training meetings under FAIM program supervision; and
- 3.12 (3) provides financial coaching to program participants under subdivision 4a.
- 3.13 (f) "Financial institution" means a bank, bank and trust, savings bank, savings association,
- 3.14 or credit union, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance
- 3.15 Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration.
- 3.16 (g) "Household" means all individuals who share finances and use of a dwelling unit as
- 3.17 primary quarters for living and eating separate from other individuals. Sharing finances
- 3.18 does not include situations in which a person is living in the same dwelling unit as others
- 3.19 without sharing any other financial arrangements.
- 3.20 (h) "Permissible use" means:
- 3.21 (1) postsecondary educational expenses at an eligible educational institution as defined
- 3.22 in paragraph (b), including books, supplies, and equipment required for courses of instruction;
- 3.23 (2) acquisition costs of acquiring, constructing, or reconstructing a residence, including
- 3.24 any usual or reasonable settlement, financing, or other closing costs;
- 3.25 (3) business capitalization expenses for expenditures on capital, plant, equipment, working
- 3.26 capital, and inventory expenses of a legitimate business pursuant to a business plan approved
- 3.27 by the fiduciary organization;
- 3.28 (4) acquisition costs of a principal residence within the meaning of section 1034 of the
- 3.29 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which do not exceed 100 percent of the average area purchase
- 3.30 price applicable to the residence determined according to section 143(e)(2) and (3) of the
- 3.31 Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

- 4.1 (5) acquisition costs of a personal vehicle only if approved by the fiduciary organization;
- 4.2 (6) contributions to an emergency savings account; and
- 4.3 (7) contributions to a Minnesota 529 savings plan.

4.4 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256E.35, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

4.5 Subd. 5. **Household eligibility; participation.** (a) To be eligible for ~~state or TANF~~  
 4.6 ~~matching funds in~~ the family assets for independence initiative, a household must ~~meet the~~  
 4.7 ~~eligibility requirements of the federal Assets for Independence Act, Public Law 105-285,~~  
 4.8 ~~in Title IV, section 408 of that act~~ have maximum income that is equal to or less than the  
 4.9 greater of:

4.10 (1) 50 percent of the area median income as determined by the United States Department  
 4.11 of Housing and Urban Development; or

4.12 (2) 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

4.13 (b) To be eligible for state matching funds under this section, a household must meet  
 4.14 the requirements of this section.

4.15 ~~(b)~~ (c) Each participating household must sign a family asset agreement that includes  
 4.16 the amount of scheduled deposits into its savings account, the proposed use, and the proposed  
 4.17 savings goal. A participating household must agree to complete an economic literacy training  
 4.18 program.

4.19 ~~(e)~~ (d) Participating households may only deposit money that is derived from household  
 4.20 earned income or from state and federal income tax credits.

4.21 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 256E.38, subdivision 4, is amended  
 4.22 to read:

4.23 Subd. 4. **Eligible uses of grant money.** An eligible applicant that receives grant money  
 4.24 under this section shall use the money to purchase diapers and wipes and may use up to  
 4.25 ~~four~~ ten percent of the money for administrative costs.

4.26 Sec. 5. **TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES.**

4.27 The responsibilities for the campus-based employment and training program for students  
 4.28 enrolled in higher education under Minnesota Statutes, section 142F.103, must transfer from  
 4.29 the commissioner of human services to the commissioner of children, youth, and families.  
 4.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 142F.103, is incorporated into the transfer of duties and

- 5.1 responsibilities in Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 12, section 30, and the commissioner shall
- 5.2 give the notices of when the transfer is effective as required by Laws 2023, chapter 70,
- 5.3 article 12, section 30, subdivision 1.