



# Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program

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# Diversionary Work Program (DWP)

DWP is a four-month program for families with children in poverty to help parents find work.

- Most parents who have not received cash assistance in the previous 12 months are eligible for DWP.
- Program provides income support and employment services.
- Same eligibility criteria as MFIP.

# Diversionary Work Program (DWP)

- Parents must develop and sign an employment plan before being approved for the program.
- If parents do not comply with employment services, their benefits end.
- After four months, if their employment crisis has not been resolved, families may be eligible for additional assistance from MFIP.
- Time in DWP does not count toward MFIP's 60-month lifetime limit on receiving cash assistance.

# Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

MFIP provides income support, food benefits, and employment services to families with children in poverty.



In 2022, an average of about 28,000 families per month received assistance through MFIP and DWP.

- 72% of the people receiving assistance are children.
  - An average of about 55,000 children per month in 2022.
- The average number of children per family is 2.
- Two thirds of MFIP families have a child younger than six.

# Circumstances in which families turn to MFIP

- Low wage workers
- Parents with significant impairments to work – mental illness, low IQs, or incapacitating illness
- Recently arrived refugees with children

# Low Wage Workers and MFIP

More than 2/3 of the parents turning to MFIP are low wage workers who are unemployed or underemployed. The majority work in the following industries:

- Retail
  - Hospitality
  - Food service
  - Health care
  - Temp agencies
- These industries have the highest turnover of workers in Minnesota.



Must be pregnant or have minor children.

Income has to be below:

- \$13,380/year for a family of 2
- \$17,232/year for a family of 3
- \$20,724/year for a family of 4

Asset limit is \$10,000.



- Most families cannot receive more than five years of assistance over their lifetime.
- Parents are subject to work requirements.
- A special track offers more flexible services for families with significant barriers to work, such as mental illness, low IQ, and incapacitating illness (Family Stabilization Services).

- Most families don't rely on benefits for a long time.
- 42% of all new applicants use MFIP once for 12 months or less.
- About 7% of all families served since MFIP was launched in 1998 have reached the 60 month time limit.

# Work Requirements

- Parents receiving MFIP must develop and sign an employment plan.
- Parents must have a job or participate in activities and services to prepare them for a job.
- If they do not comply with these requirements, they and their children lose part or all of their benefits (sanctions).

# Employment Services

There are 302 employment services provider sites across the state.

The most common areas of study in post-secondary education for MFIP/DWP participants are:

- Health Care (Nursing Assistant/PCA, LPN, RN)
- Human services/Social work
- Business/Accounting
- Cosmetology
- Teaching

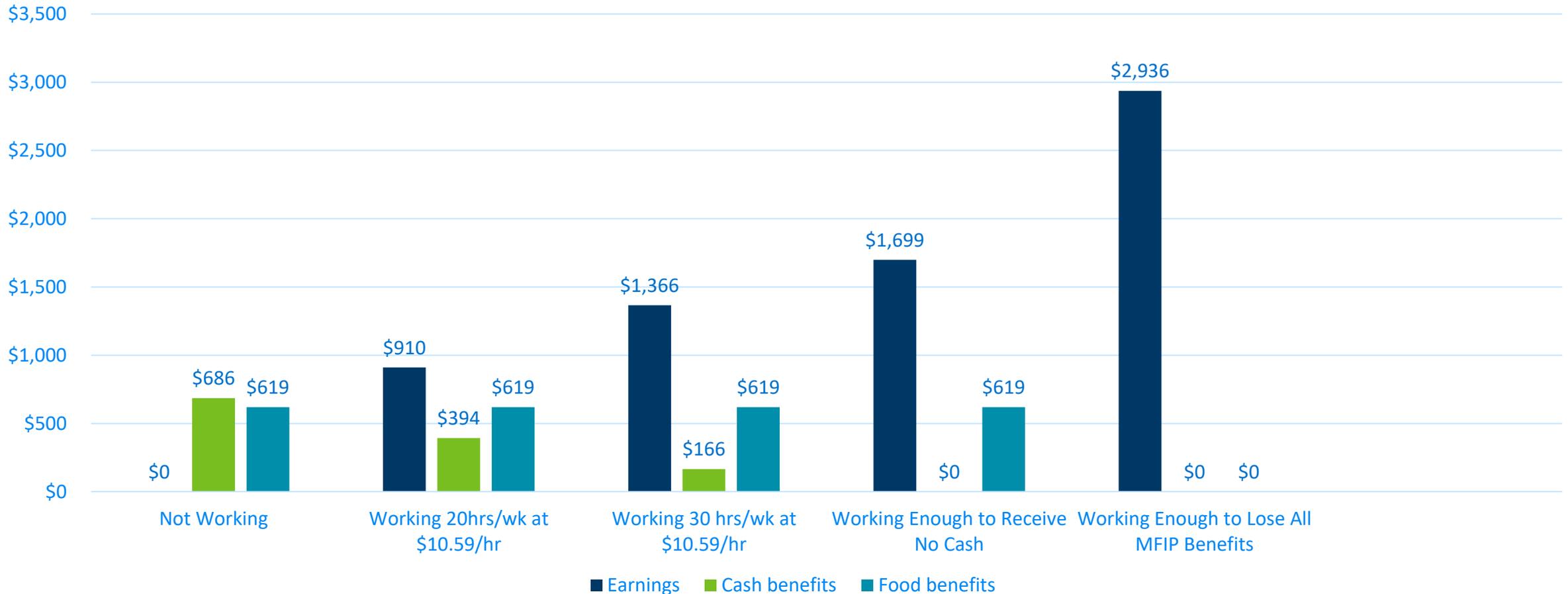


# MFIP Monthly Benefits

Household size	Max Cash benefit per month	Max Food benefit per month	Total per month	Federal Poverty Line
2	\$583	\$431	\$1,014	\$1,526
3	\$686	\$619	\$1,305	\$1,920
4	\$782	\$788	\$1,570	\$2,313
5	\$865	\$945	\$1,810	\$2,706

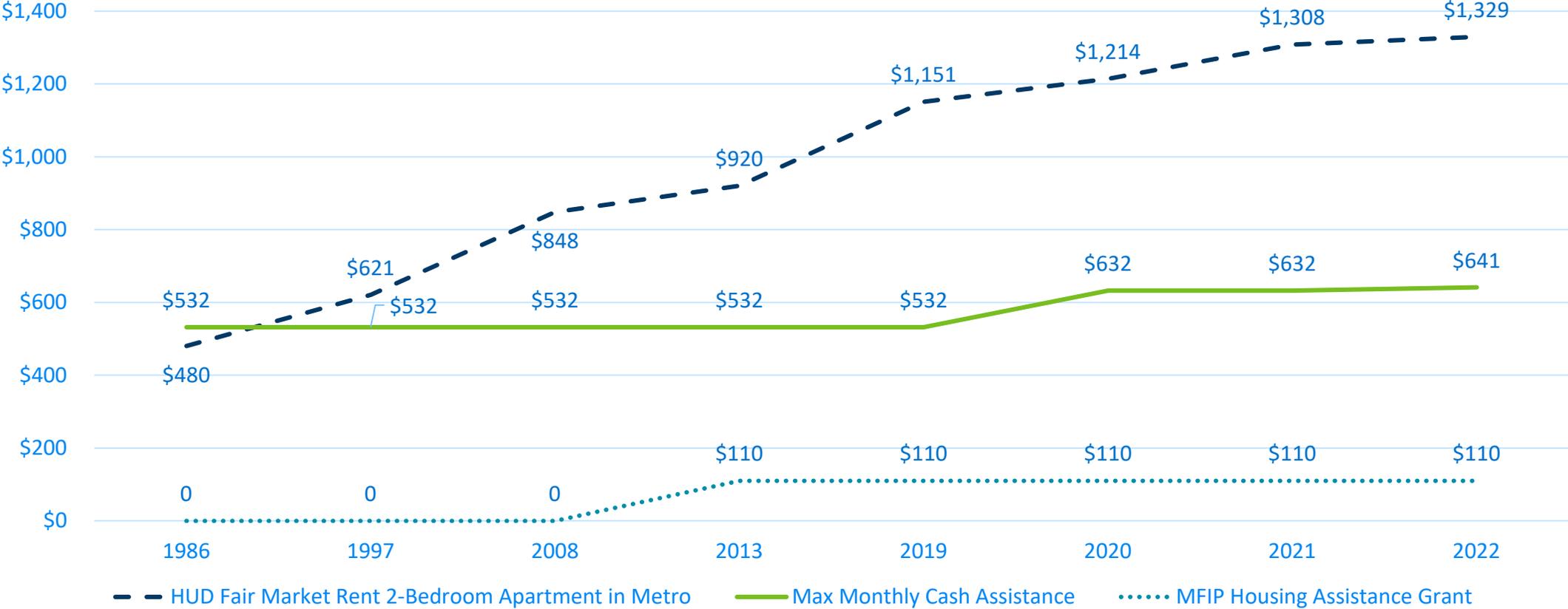
# As Income Increases, Benefits Decrease

## Example Using Monthly Earnings and Benefits for a Family of 3



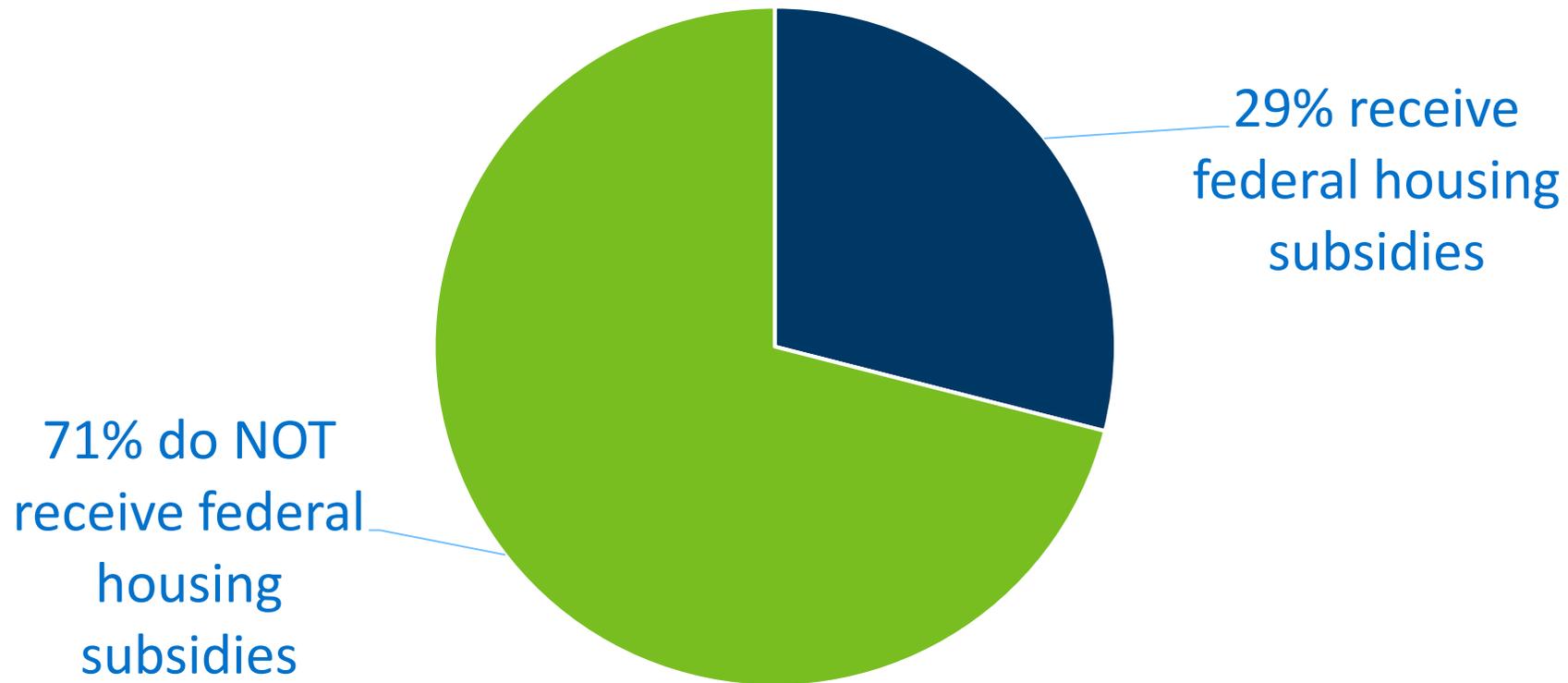
# MFIP Benefit and Housing Costs

### Cost of Rent and MFIP Benefits for a Family of 3



# Most MFIP Families Do Not Get Housing Subsidies

Proportion of MFIP Families Receiving Federal Housing Subsidies



# Questions?