



Children, Minnesota Family Investment Program and SNAP

Deborah Schlick | manager in Economic Assistance and Employment
Supports Division

Minnesota Family Investment Program

1935-1996

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

1996

Congress replaces the federal program with a block grant to states –
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

- Set 60-month limit on receipt of benefits
- Put in place work requirements

MFIP provides income support and employment services to families with children in deep poverty



Impacts of Poverty on Children

Children growing up in poverty are highly likely to:

- Fall behind in school
- Experience poor health
- Have diets lacking in important nutrients
- Have chronic illnesses and shortened lifespans as adults

- In 2019 an average of 28,901 families a month received assistance through MFIP.
 - 72% of the people receiving MFIP are children.
 - The average number of children per family is 2.
 - Two thirds of the families have a child younger than six.

The circumstances in which families turn to MFIP

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

Low wage workers and MFIP

More than two-thirds of the parents turning to MFIP have just lost or left a job.

The majority of those jobs are in the following industries:

- Hotel/restaurant
 - Retail
 - Health care
 - Temp agencies
- These industries have the highest turn over of workers in Minnesota.
 - Pre-COVID: these industries have the among the lowest proportion of workers who receive Unemployment Insurance. *Temp agencies are the exception to the*

Pregnant women or parents or others with custody of minor children

To be eligible, income has to be below:

- \$23,000/year for a family of 2
- \$29,000/year for a family of 3
- \$34,600/year for a family of 4

Asset limit \$10,000

Major MFIP policies

- Most families cannot receive more than five years of assistance over their lifetime.
- Parents are subject to work requirements.
- A special services track offers more flexible services for families in which significant barriers, such as mental illness, low IQs, incapacitating illness make work difficult: *Family Stabilization Services*

Time limits: 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 in MFIP

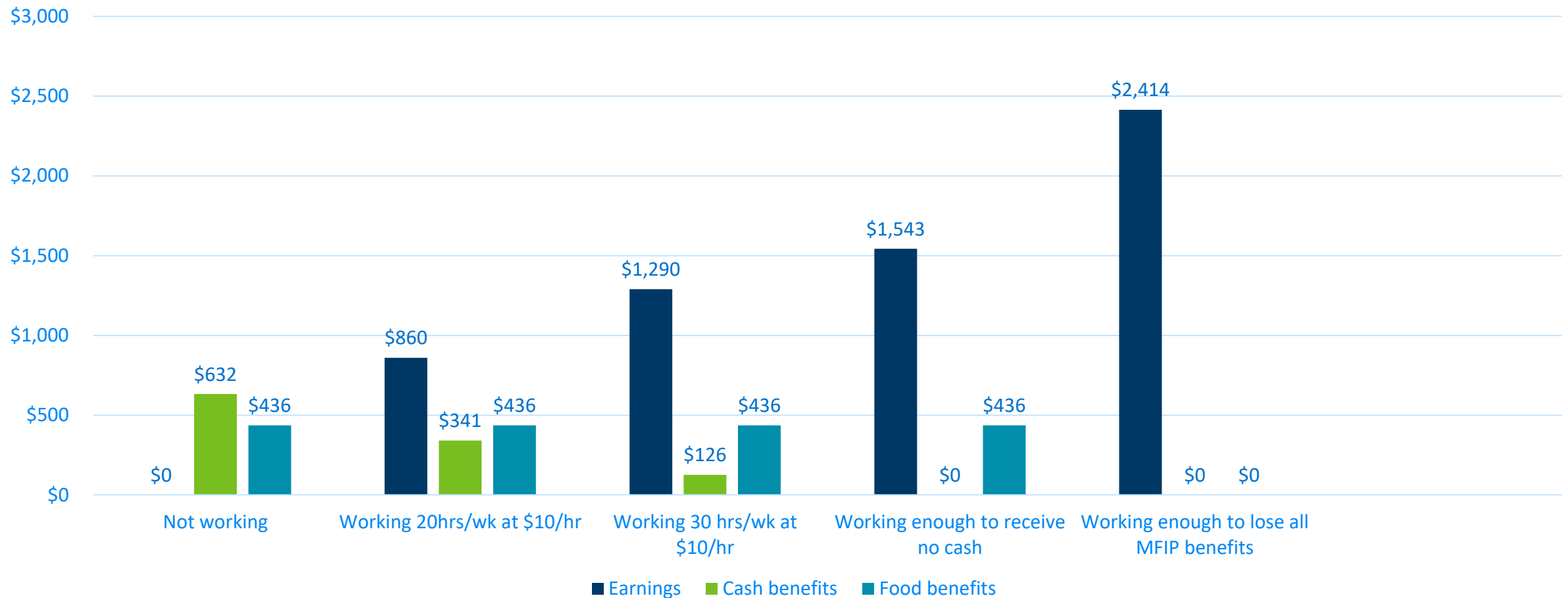
- Parents receiving MFIP assistance must develop and sign an employment plan.
- Parents must have a job or participate in activities and services to prepare them for a job.
- If they do not comply with these requirements, they and their children lose part or all of their benefits: *sanctions*.

MFIP monthly maximum benefits

Household size	Cash benefit	Food benefit	Monthly income at Federal poverty line
1	\$350	\$165	\$1,005
2	\$537	\$304	\$1,353
3	\$632	\$436	\$1,701
4	\$721	\$557	\$2,050
5	\$797	\$673	\$2,398

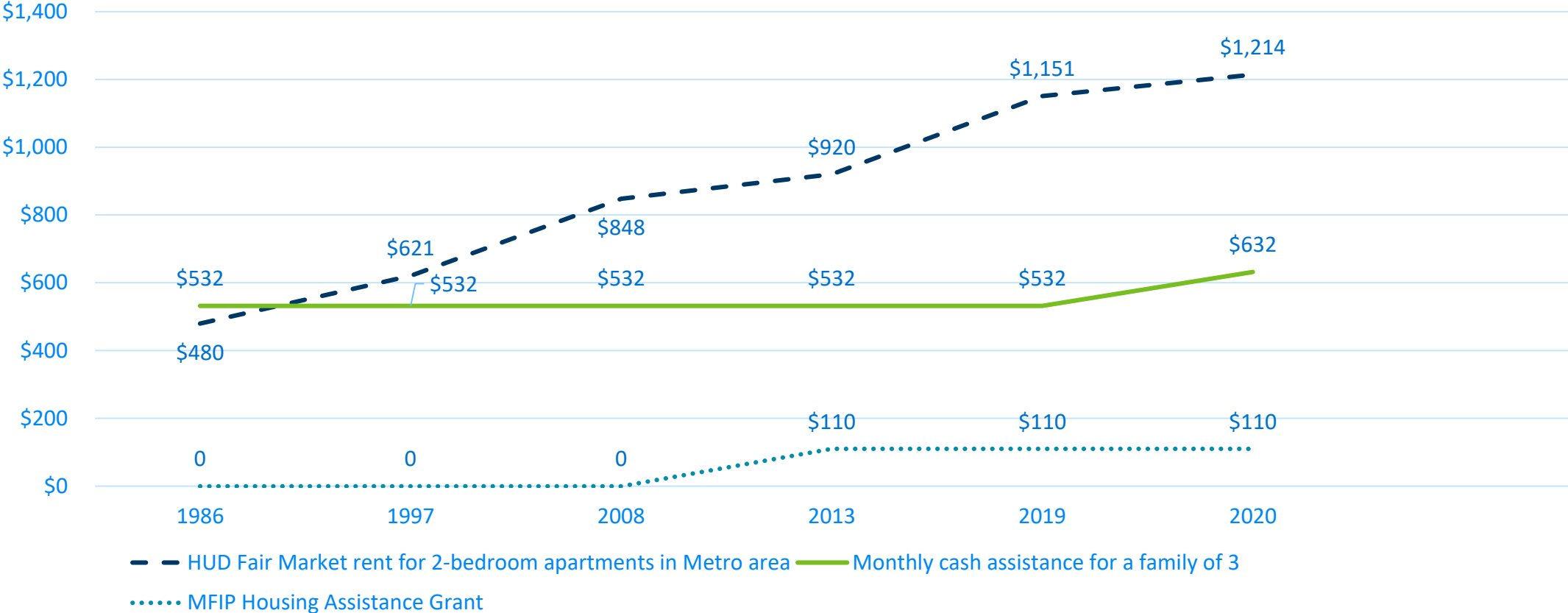
As income increases, benefits decrease

Example using monthly earnings and benefits for a family of 3



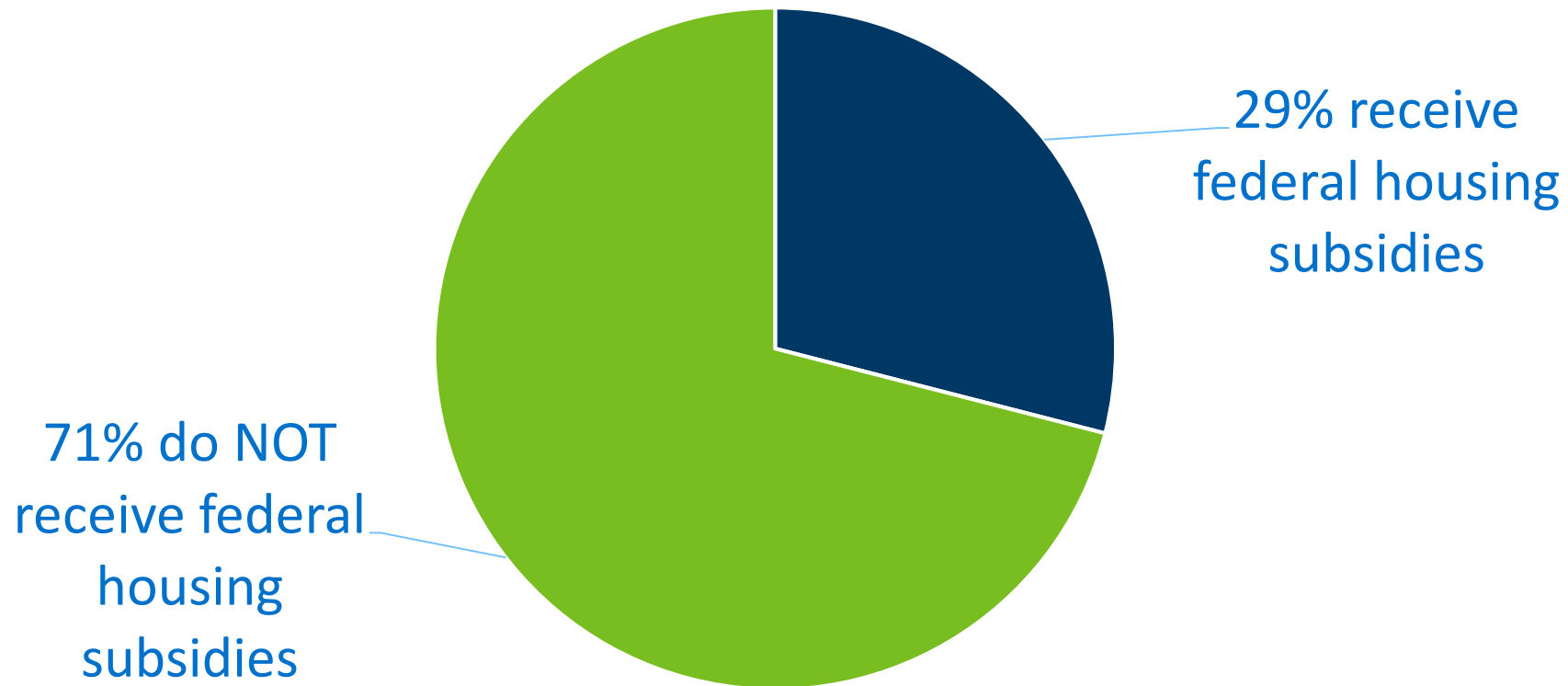
MFIP benefits and Housing costs

Cost of rent and MFIP benefits

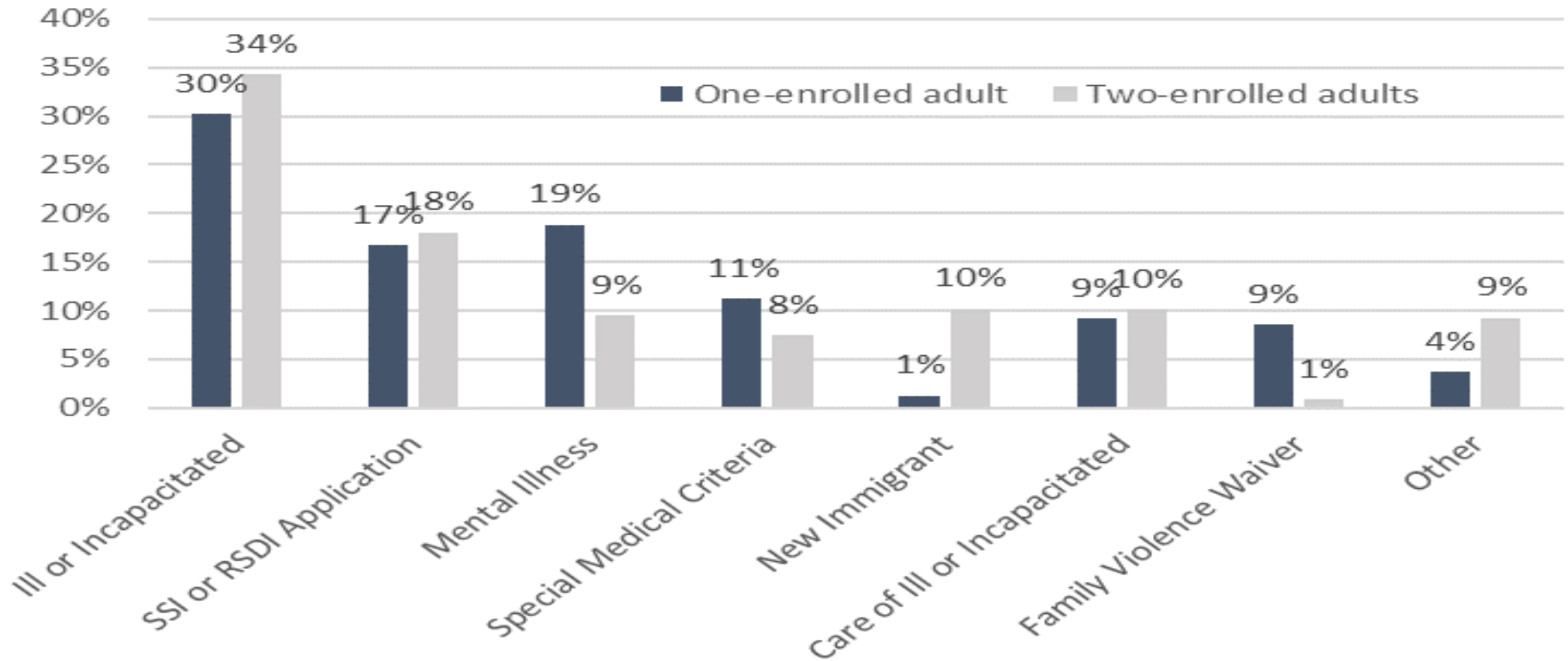


Most MFIP families do not get housing subsidies

Proportion of MFIP Families Receiving Federal Housing Subsidies



Family Stabilization Services



Children and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- This used to be called the Food Stamp Program.
- Now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- It helps people with low incomes buy food.
- It is a federally funded program with policies set by Congress and overseen by the United States Department of Agriculture.
- In Minnesota, counties and some tribes administer the program under the supervision of the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

A third of households receiving SNAP have a minor child in the household.

22% of the families with children receiving SNAP have at least one person in the household who is disabled.

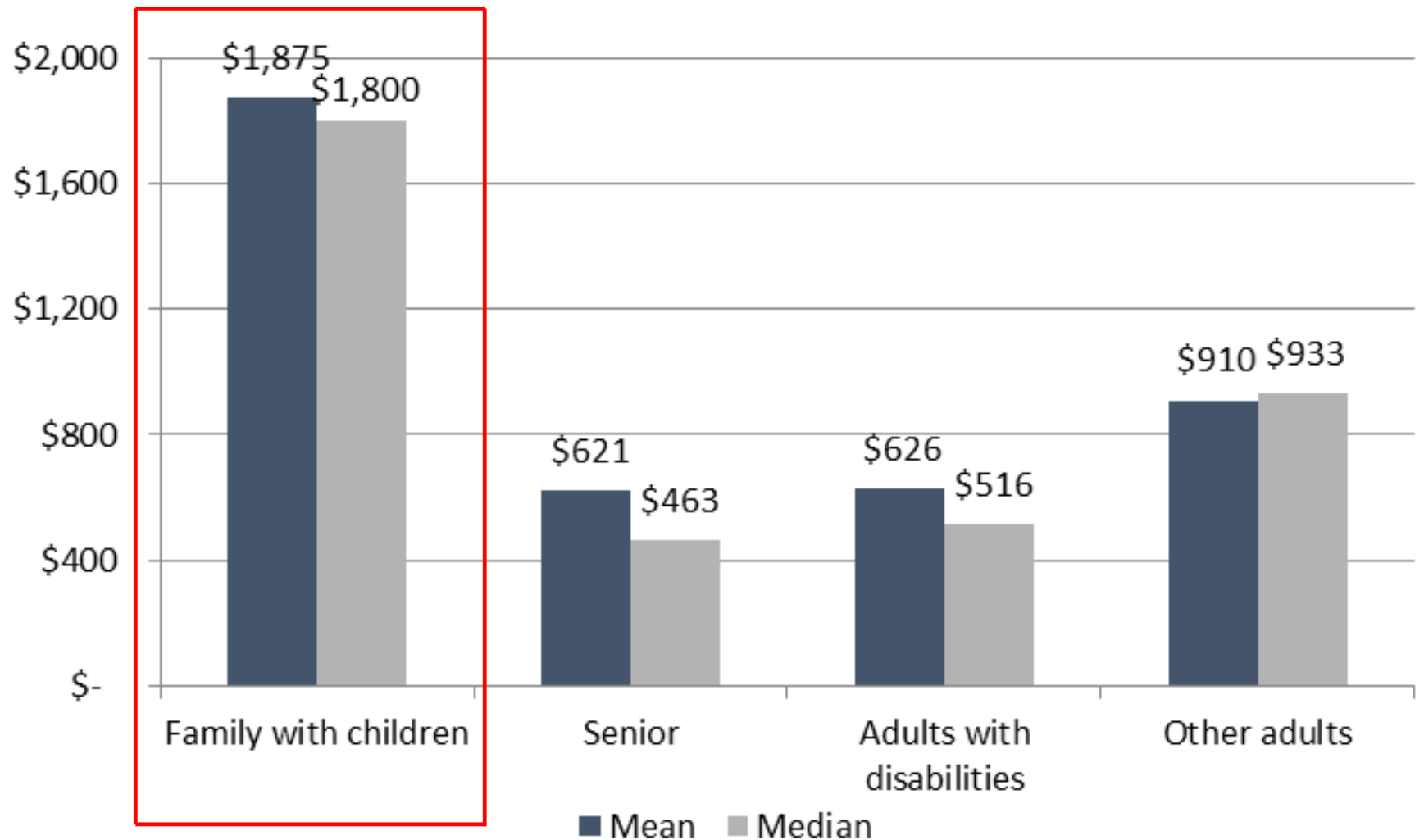
Almost 40% of the people served through SNAP are children.

- A third of those children are younger than 6.

Most families with children work while receiving SNAP

- 64% of families with children have earned income.
- The majority work in the following industries:
 - Hotel/restaurant
 - Retail
 - Health Care
 - Temp Agencies
- These industries have the highest turn-over of workers and the greatest concentration of part-time and low-wage positions.

Families with children have the highest average monthly earnings



Employment and training services

Minnesota receives federal funds to provide employment and training services to adults receiving food assistance through SNAP.

- We received an allocation of \$1.85 million a year.
- We can also earn partial federal reimbursement for state or local dollars.
- The Department has a no-cost proposal for SNAP E&T with a goal to:
 - allow tribes to receive these funds,
 - support local agencies in capturing more federal reimbursement,
 - enhance services for training for higher paid jobs, not just job search,
 - focus services on those seeking help to improve their employment status, not just childless adults held to work requirements.

Questions?

Who turns to SNAP?

In December 2018

346,022 people
received stand-alone SNAP benefits



- Children (39%)
- Adults with children (20%)
- Seniors (16%)
- Adults with a disability (16%)
- Other adults, working (2%)
- Other adults, not working (7%)

Characteristics of People and Cases on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

December 2018

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-5182M-ENG>