

## Diversionsary Work Program: Emphasizing employment

The Diversionsary Work Program is a four-month program that aims to help parents quickly find work so they do not need to go on the Minnesota Family Investment Program. Families with children who apply for cash benefits and have not received cash public assistance in the previous 12 months enter the Diversionsary Work Program and receive intensive services focused on immediate employment.

The Diversionsary Work Program was repealed during the 2023 legislative session, effective March 1, 2026. When the change occurs, families eligible for the Diversionsary Work Program can apply for the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

### Short term

- Families can only participate in the program for four consecutive months within a 12-month period.
- After four months in the program, families may be eligible for additional assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program.
- Time in the Diversionsary Work Program does not count toward the Minnesota Family Investment Program's 60-month lifetime limit on receiving cash assistance.
- Analysis from the Minnesota Department of Human Services shows that five months after starting in the Diversionsary Work Program, less than 30% of households were receiving assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program. After one year, less than 43% of households were receiving assistance.

### Work focus

With a few exceptions, all adults in the family must focus on immediate employment.

- Before receiving cash benefits through the Diversionsary Work Program, families must develop an employment plan with a job counselor.
- If families do not comply with employment services, their cash benefits end.
- Benefits will resume if and when families comply with program requirements.

## Job supports

Families may receive cash benefits to meet critical needs and services to move quickly to work.

- Benefits are based on families' housing, utility costs and personal needs – up to a maximum based on the number of people in each family. The county directly pays landlords and utility companies.
- Most families can also receive food, child care and health care benefits.
- Once participants begin work, cash benefits remain unchanged up to the end of the four-month period.

For more information, visit the department's [Diversionary Work Program webpage](#).



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