
Sponsor: Workforce Solutions

Meeting Date: 10/14/2025

Title: Minnesota Family Investment Program Biennial Service Agreement for 2026-2027

File Number: 2025-320

Background and Rationale:

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions administers the employment services portion of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF) through the state's Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP). Employment Services are provided through Workforce Solutions staff as well as by contracted community-based providers. Emergency and Crisis Services, Eligibility and Childcare Administration are provided by Ramsey County's Financial Assistance Services department.

MFIP and DWP are intended to help parents meet their family's basic needs and move toward financial stability through pursuing upward mobility opportunities and family sustaining employment. MFIP and DWP are funded by the formula based MFIP Consolidated Fund, which is 8% state funded and 92% federally funded. To receive the funds, Ramsey County is required to submit a Biennial Service Agreement (BSA) every two years to the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Family (DCYF). The BSA summarizes the services available to families and strategies intended to meet program measures with the goal of increasing the economic stability of low-income families.

The Consolidated Funds will provide funding for the following services, as further described in the BSA:

- Diversionary Work Program (repealed effective March 1, 2026).
- MFIP employment services (60-month limit).
- Extension Services, post 60-month MFIP.
- Emergency and Crisis Services.
- Financial Assistance Services and Childcare Administration.
- Support Services.
- Paid and unpaid work experience.
- Career coaching and training.
- Incorporation of culturally specific services.
- Motivation driven, family-centered service delivery model.

Minnesota Statutes Section 256J.626, subdivision 4(d) requires that counties or nation/tribes must allow a period of at least 30 days for public comments on the contents of the BSA before approval. A proposed BSA was shared for public comment on August 21, 2025. No verbal or written comments were received by the deadline of September 21, 2025.

The 2026-2027 BSA is due to DCYF by October 15, 2025. Upon DCYF approval, Workforce Solutions will receive the consolidated funds allocation of \$18,534,057 annually for program year 2026 and 2027. The potential exists for additional funding to be received. For example, MFIP/TANF supplemental funds, work experience funds, and MFIP/TANF funds targeted for innovations.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the 2026-2027 County Biennial Service Agreement for Minnesota Family Investment Program to the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Family for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant.
2. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Family for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 in the amount of \$18,534,057 annually.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement as revised and approved by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.
5. Authorize the County Manager to apply for and accept additional grant funds from the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth and Family for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027.
6. Authorize the County Manager to sign the agreement as revised and approved by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.
7. Authorize the County Manager to make temporary transfers, as needed, from the County General Fund to Workforce Solutions to cover program expenses until program funds are received, with repayment to be made upon receipt of the funds.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McMurtrey, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, and Ortega

Excused: - 1: Xiong

By: 
Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board