

# Position Statement

2019

## Support Real Time Employment Eligibility Authorizations through the Work Number

### Proposal

**Issue:**

The Work Number (TWN)/Equifax is a company that provides wage and employment verifications for over 50,000 companies nationwide. Previously, TWN offered a free standard service that allowed eligibility workers to verify employment and an express service that offered real time information with a cost for each inquiry. In 2019, TWN will no longer offer the free standard service and will only allow for employment verifications for the real time contracted service which is estimated to be \$6.40 per verification. The express service through TWN is utilized when the participant is unable to provide this information, employers are unwilling to provide employment information, and to help support State established processing timelines. The use of TWN also allows counties to provide better customer service and to ensure program integrity.

**Implementation Strategy:**

Legislative action is required to support the cost of allowing counties to access real time employment information through TWN.

### Systemic Priority Alignment (check all that apply and explain why)

- Equity       Service Integration       Fiscal Framework

**Comments:**

It is estimated that over 200,000 employment background checks will need to be verified through The Work Number in State Fiscal Year 2020 at a cost of \$6.40 per hit. This is approximately \$1,358,000 for State Fiscal Year 2020 while SFY 2021 is projected to have a cost of \$1,412,075. This cost is eligible for Federal Financial Participation (FFP). Due to TWN's change in business practice, this cost is currently not built into the Department of Human Services or County budgets. Therefore, full state funding is being sought to pay for this service.

### Operational Priority Alignment (check all that apply and explain why)

- Behavioral Health       Case Management       Child Well Being       Community Based Settings & Services  
 Health Care       Housing & Transportation       Modernization       Self Sufficiency

**Comments:**

This position statement supports the use of a tool that provides time savings to county financial workers while ensuring program integrity.

### Rationale/Background:

Minnesota's SNAP and cash programs are state-supervised and county-administered. In order to ensure accurate and timely benefits administration that meets state processing guidelines, counties need access to available eligibility tools. TWN express service allows county eligibility workers to quickly determine if applicants are eligible for program benefits, thus ensuring that program benefits are extended to only qualifying participants who are unable to receive verifications through another method.

### Additional Information:



Submitted by: Brad Thiel, Anoka County and Barb Dahl, Scott County  
Approved on:

