



Economic Assistance Department

January 6, 2023

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Income Maintenance: The Income Maintenance unit determines eligibility for multiple public assistance programs, including Cash Assistance, Emergency Assistance/Emergency General Assistance, Child Care Assistance, Food Support/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Health Care/Medical Assistance.

Child Support: The Child Support unit locates non-custodial parents, establishes parentage, establishes, enforces and modifies child support orders, and collects on current and past due support.

Employment & Training: The Employment & Training unit helps individuals secure employment through career counseling, skills assessment, training, work experience and other services. Programs serve youth, seniors, low-income adults and families, and dislocated workers.

Fraud Prevention: The Fraud Prevention unit reviews, evaluates and conducts investigations of suspected violations of public assistance program fraud. This includes public assistance applicants and recipients. Scott County is the Regional Administrative Agency for a 3-county region that includes Carver and McLeod.

WHO WE ARE

The Economic Assistance staffing complement includes the following:

34 Eligibility Specialists * 4 Eligibility Specialist – Lead Workers * 1.5 Administrative Specialists * 1 Eligibility Navigator * 2 Child Care Assistance Specialists * 4 Eligibility Supervisors * 2.5 Child Support Case Aides * 10 Child Support Officers * 1 Child Support Lead Worker * 1 Child Support Supervisor * 1 Employment & Training Case Aide * 4 Employment & Training Counselors * 1 Employment & Training Supervisor * 1 Fraud Investigator * 1 Economic Assistance Director

Total staff = 70

FUNDING

	Revenue Sources
Income Maintenance	Expenses are reimbursed federally at a Federal Financial Participation (FFP) rate that is determined based on results from a random moments time study. Other revenue includes administrative funds for certain programs and incentive funds for collecting on overpayments.
Child Support	All expenses are reimbursed federally at a 66% Federal Financial Participation (FFP) rate. Other revenue includes fees collected in addition to Federal and State quarterly incentive payments.
Employment & Training	There are nine programs with various Federal and State funding sources, all which flow through DEED and DHS. They include Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), MFIP (TANF) consolidated fund and allocation from the MN legislature.
Fraud Prevention	The MN legislature allocates funds to DHS to reimburse counties for program administration costs. Scott County's annual allocation is \$100,000.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In SFY 2020, families with children made up 65% of total **Medical Assistance** enrollment but only 23% of total spending; people 65 or older or with disabilities made up 16% of total enrollment but 61% of total spending; and adults without children accounted for 19% of total enrollment and 16% of total spending
- The average monthly **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** benefit payment in state fiscal year 2021 was \$190.28 per person.
- In the **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)**, about 72% of the individuals served by the program are children, and about 7% of the adults who have turned to the program since its implementation in 1998 have reached their five-year time limit on benefits
- The majority of **Child Support** cases (85-90%) are families that are not receiving any form of public assistance
- All families receiving **Child Care Assistance** that earn at least 75% of the federal poverty guideline must make payments towards the child care costs based on their annual family income (*example: for a family of 4, this is an annual income of \$20,812*)
- Public assistance benefits and child support payments do not run through the county budget – DHS is the centralized payment center for all counties in the state
- Applicants must be documented to be eligible for public assistance