

## How SNAP and MFIP treat young people's earned income from jobs or internships: A Resource for Youth employment services providers

	<b>SNAP</b>	<b>MFIP</b>
<b>Children younger than 18</b> Attending school (Attendance can be self-verified.)	Earnings from wages do NOT count if the young person is both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enrolled at least half-time in school and</li> <li>living with a parent or another responsible adult</li> </ul> The eligibility worker will need to know about all of these earnings even if they will not count	Earnings do NOT count if the young person is enrolled <u>full-time</u> in school.
<b>Someone 18 years old</b>	Earnings from wages DO count:  SNAP counts the earnings of people 18 and older regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in school.	Earnings do NOT count if the young person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>does not have a high school diploma, <u>and</u></li> <li>is a fulltime student in secondary school or is pursuing a fulltime secondary level course</li> </ul>
<b>A young person who is a parent</b>	SNAP does not have any special policies for young parents.	Earnings do NOT count if the young person is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a parent, and</li> <li>younger than 20; and</li> <li>enrolled at least half time in a secondary program.</li> </ul>
<b>In kind income</b> ( examples: gift cards for specific purchases or at certain retailers; shelter; or clothing)	In-kind income does NOT count if a person of any age does not have a choice between cash or in-kind payment.	MFIP does not count in-kind income for people of all ages.
<b>Earnings funded by WIOA or Disability Employment Initiative</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Job Corps</li> <li>Summer Youth Employment (WIOA funded)</li> <li>Minnesota Migrant Council</li> <li>YouthBuild</li> </ul>	Earnings do NOT count (for a person of any age).	Earnings at or below the state's minimum wage do NOT count (for people of any age.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any portion of earnings above the minimum wage do count.</li> </ul> MFIP does NOT count reimbursements for training or work related expenses (such as child care or transportation) as income.
<b>Earnings from the Minnesota Youth Program</b>	Earnings do NOT count	See row above.

## Not all earnings count dollar for dollar against benefits

Program	What percentage of earnings from work are disregarded when figuring out benefits
SNAP	20% of income earned as wages is not counted, per wage earner
MFIP	The first \$65 and then half of the remaining earnings per wage earner

## What happens when a young person turns 18 or 19

MFIP (*MFIP provides combined cash and food benefits.*)

**A young person is no longer a minor for MFIP purposes when she or he:**

- Turns 18 with a high school diploma or
- Turns 19 with or without a high school diploma. (*The family continues to get cash benefits for the young person between their 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> birthdays if the young person does not have a high school diploma but is attending school fulltime to get a high school diploma or GED or is in a trade school.*)

**When a young person is no longer considered a minor**

- The young person is no longer counted for calculating how much assistance the family gets.
- But that young person will now get their own SNAP benefits.
- The young person's earnings income:
  - Will not affect the family's cash benefits.
  - Will affect their own SNAP benefits.

## SNAP

**If a young person turns 18 while still enrolled in high school at least half time:**

- Their SNAP benefits continue uninterrupted.
- Any earned income counts as it did when they were younger than 18.

**If a young person turns 18 and is NOT in school:**

- SNAP considers people age 18 and older "adults".
- If the young person IS identified as an *able bodied adult without dependents*:
  - If the young person is NOT in participating in allowed work activities, the family will not receive SNAP benefits for that young person after three months.
    - If the young person is working, SNAP will count the earnings with a 20% earned income disregard.

## **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents**

- **Are only eligible for 3 months of SNAP benefits in a 36-month period.**
  - For each month that participants work or participate in work activities for an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours per month), they “earn” additional months of SNAP benefits.
  - Countable work or work program activities are:
    - Working in a paid job (including self-employment)
    - Participating in WIOA or Trade Adjustment Act services
    - Participating in SNAP Employment and Training activities. (Job search hours have to be less than half the hours to count.)
    - Doing unpaid Work Experience. (*It might not have to be an average of 20 hours a week.*)
    - Unpaid, volunteer work or work paid through in-kind benefits
    - A combination of all the above
  
- **Adults are considered *Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents* and are subject to work requirements and time limits if:**
  - the adult is not responsible for a child younger than 6 Or
  - The adult does not have a condition that would result in not being designated “able bodied.” The conditions that prevent someone from being designated able bodied include:
    - Receiving a temporary or permanent disability benefits issued by the government or private sources;
    - Being obviously mentally or physically unfit as determined by the state agency;
    - Providing a statement that they are physically or mentally unfit for employment from
      - a physician,
      - physician’s assistant,
      - nurse,
      - nurse practitioner,
      - designated representative of a physician’s office,
      - a licensed or certified psychologist,
      - a social worker, or
      - any other medical personnel the state agency determines appropriate
    - Being homeless, meaning lacking both a fixed, regular nighttime residence and lacking access to work-related necessities such as a shower

or laundry facilities. (A temporary housing situation does not count as a fixed, regular nighttime residence.)

**Who decides that if someone is mentally and physically fit for employment?**

Both the provider and the county or tribal eligibility worker can ask the client questions about their mental and physical situation to learn if there is underlying medical issue that may hinder a person to be fit for work. The eligibility worker will follow up with the client to request any verifications that may be needed. The eligibility worker has the responsibility to determine if the person is eligible or not as an able-bodied adult.

If someone believes he or she has been determined to be able-bodied incorrectly, he or she can appeal that decision.

**Students can receive SNAP benefits if they meet ONE of the following conditions:**

- Younger than 18.
- A single parent enrolled in higher education fulltime and responsible for a child younger than 12
- Physically or mentally unable to work.
- Attending a school or a program that is not an institution of higher education.
- Attending an institution of higher learning less than half time.
- Attending an institution of higher learning either:
  - as assigned through WIOA, or the Trade Adjustment Act or SNAP E & T; or
  - participating in WIO, Trade Adjustment Act or SNAP E & T while attending the institution of higher learning.
- Working in a paid job for at least 20 hours a week – *including on-the-job training and paid internships or apprenticeships.*
- Working in a work study job.
- Responsible for caring for children 11 or younger in the household (if adequate child care is not available).

## When a young adult (over 18 years of age) family member is disabled:

**If a parent is the legal guardian of their adult child, how do MFIP and SNAP treat that situation?**

**SNAP:** Any person under age 22, regardless of disability, will be included in the assistance unit<sup>1</sup> with the parents and other mandatory household members. Legal guardianship is not considered in these situations.

If the disabled person is age 22 or older, they may be certified as a separate assistance unit. The county or tribal eligibility worker will ask additional questions to make this determination.

**MFIP:** MFIP combines cash and SNAP food benefits for families. The SNAP food benefits families receive through MFIP follow some different rules than regular SNAP benefits. See the chart below for what policies apply in different circumstances:

The disabled adult child's particular circumstances	How that affects the family's MFIP benefits
The adult child is on SSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFIP does not count that person when figuring out how much cash assistance the family qualifies for</li> <li>• The disabled adult child will receive SNAP food benefits through MFIP.</li> <li>• The adult child's SSI benefits do not affect how much MFIP cash assistance the rest of the family receives.</li> </ul>
The adult child is not on SSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFIP does not count that person when figuring out how much cash assistance the family qualifies for</li> <li>• The disabled adult child will receive SNAP food benefits through MFIP.</li> </ul>
The parent is needed in the home to care for the disabled adult child	The parent is exempt from MFIP's work requirements
The adult child qualifies for waived services or home-based services through Medical Assistance	The parent may qualify for assistance beyond the 5 year lifetime limit.

<sup>1</sup> "Assistance unit" is the word for the members of a household that together share eligibility for a program, in this case SNAP.