MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Minnesota Family Investment Program
An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency: Minnesota Family Investment Program.
Series Title: Records.
Abstract: Records documenting both the trial phase (1987-1998) and statewide implementation (1998-) of this welfare reform program designed to help families work their way out of poverty.
Quantity: 2.2 cu. ft. (3 boxes).
Location: See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

The Minnesota Family Investment Program [MFIP], Minnesota’s welfare reform program, began in January 1998. It helps families work their way out of poverty by expecting, supporting and rewarding work. MFIP, which replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children entitlement program combines cash assistance, food support, and employment services to eligible families with children.

In 1989, the Human Services Department obtained approval from the United States Congress to test MFIP in a five year field trial. Details, procedures and approval from the Minnesota Legislature delayed the start of field trials in seven counties until April 1994. Those seven counties included the metropolitan counties of Hennepin, Anoka and Dakota and the rural counties of Sherburne, Morrison, Mille Lacs and Todd. Ramsey County was added in July 1996. An outside firm, Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation of New York, evaluated MFIP’s effectiveness and issued reports in 1995, 1997, and 2000. Those reports showed MFIP was effective in reaching its goals, and thus, on July 1, 1998, the pilot phase of the program ended and MFIP was established statewide.
Eligible families must be citizens or qualified noncitizens, have income and assets below limits set by the legislature, and include at least one minor child or pregnant woman and the child's parent or stepparents. Recipients are expected to meet hourly work requirements. The program provides supports to make work possible (including child care assistance) and imposes sanctions for noncompliance. It is funded by the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] and state appropriations. The legislature sets benefits levels, which include cash and food assistance portions. With some exceptions, the program is provided for no more than 60 months.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

The subject files include eligibility and case management manuals, local intervention grants for self-sufficiency, newsletters and clippings, implementation memos, research materials, and documents detailing the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation and United States General Accounting Office’s role in the program.

The publications and reports include print and near-print items of or about the program, including federal implementation applications, reports to the state legislature, progress reports, and the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation’s periodic evaluation reports.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE RECORDS

The records are divided into two sections: alphabetical subject files (1987-2002) and chronological publications and reports (1988-2000).

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:
Family services—Minnesota.
Human services—Minnesota.
Poor families—Minnesota.
Public welfare—Minnesota.
Welfare recipients—Training of—Minnesota.

Organizations:
Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation.
Minnesota. Dept. of Human Services.
United States. General Accounting Office.
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota Family Investment Program. Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives. See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Accession Information:
Accession number(s): 2006-53

Processing Information:
Processed by: Rich Arpi, April 2006
Catalog ID No.: 6267977

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

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<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>General information, brochures, etc., 1989-1998.</td>
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<td>Assorted analyses, 1989.</td>
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<td>Career Exploration and Skill Building Workshop, [undated]. 2 folders.</td>
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<td>Local Intervention Grants for Self-Sufficiency, [undated], 2000. 26 folders.</td>
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<td>Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency.</td>
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<td>News clippings and magazine articles, [undated], 1989-1998. 5 folders. [0.2 cu. ft. full, legal]</td>
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Location | Box  
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102.F.19.4F | 2

General information, 1995-1996.  
Services for families assigned to the E2 research group, 1995-1996.  
Testimony, United States House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition, July 11, 1989.  

Arranged in chronological order.  
Longitudinal Studies of Minnesota AFDC Case Duration: Early Results from a Second Multi-Year Study, July 1989.  
MFIP as an Investment Decision: Rewards and Risks, May 1990.  
First Year Progress Report, June 1995.  
Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation.  
The Experience of MFIP: The First Two Years, May 15, 1996.  
STRIDE Conference presentation.  
Minnesota Planning publication.
Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation.

Minnesota Department of Human Services, Program Assessment and Integrity Division.

Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation.

Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation.

Volume 1: Effects on Adults.
Volume 2: Effects on Children.