2019 TANF Youth Innovation Project
Eligibility and Income Information for Youth Workers

The TANF Youth Innovation Project is similar to, but NOT an authorized WIOA program.

The Youth Counselor, MFIP Employment Counselor and MFIP Eligibility worker should communicate and cooperate to provide the best service and outcomes for each family. Youth Counselors should encourage participants to communicate information about their earnings and student status to the family's MFIP Eligibility worker and/or MFIP Employment Counselor, as appropriate, to ensure proper application of any income exclusions (see below).

Basis of Eligibility for TANF Youth Innovation Project

Participants must be one of the following:

- Teen Parent/Pregnant Teen, ages 16-24, on the grant in an MFIP household (counted member)
- Youth, ages 14-18, on the grant in an MFIP household (counted member), including MFIP child-only cases

Teen parents/youth on DWP are NOT eligible for this program

Confirm Eligibility

In order to be paid for the employment services provided to the youth, the participant's eligibility must be confirmed. Payment is only approved for eligible participants. Confirmation of eligibility can be done either through MAXIS Inquiry Access (instructions below), or by contacting Lynn Douma, DEED representative (lynn.douma@state.mn.us or 651-259-7536)

DHS will also be checking eligibility status prior to approving payment.

Confirming via MAXIS Inquiry Access

1. Participant is on the MFIP grant as a counted member, in the project start month
2. Participant meets age requirement
3. Participant is a parent/pregnant, if participating as a Teen Parent

(See examples below)
1. Participant is on the MFIP grant as a counted member, in the project month

ELIG/MFIP - Must view last “approved version”, and the participating member shows “counted” e.g. Ref Nbr 04, Rocco, shows “counted”

Footer month must be the same as the project start month
e.g. if project start month is Oct 2017, the footer month must be 10/17

2) Participant meets age requirement

Check STAT/MEMB to confirm age in project start month
e.g. if project start month is Oct 2017, check youth’s age
3) Participant is a parent/pregnant, if participating as a Teen Parent

Check STAT/PARE or STAT/PREG to confirm member is a parent or pregnant; if the participant is not member 01 you’ll need to enter the reference number on the middle Command line.

How the TANF Youth Innovation Project Income affects the family’s MFIP benefits

No earned income counts in the following situations:

- Earned income of a minor child age 6 or older who is enrolled **full-time** in school.
- Earned income of a caregiver under 20 who is enrolled at least **half-time** in school.

If school status was not verified, income will be counted. Many youth on MFIP may not have school status verified. Have the participant send verification of school attendance (you may use **DHS-2883**) to their Eligibility/Financial worker when starting in the employment services program.

If the TANF Youth Innovations participant is younger than 20 and not meeting school attendance requirements or is older than 20, their income will reduce the family’s MFIP benefits using the following calculations:

- MFIP will not count the first $65 that the young person earns in a month and will count only half of the rest of their earnings. This is the amount that the MFIP grant will be reduced.