

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Family Investment Program/PROMISE JOBS

Family Investment Program

The Family Investment Program (FIP) is administered by the [Department of Human Services](#) (DHS) and is Iowa's cash assistance program under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. The Program provides cash assistance to low-income families with children and provides services that are designed to help those families become self-sufficient. To be eligible for the FIP Program, individuals must meet all income and asset requirements, be a resident of Iowa, and be a U.S. citizen or legally qualified noncitizen (such as refugees). A parent with two children must be earning less than \$426 per month or \$5,112 annually to qualify for FIP. The Program has a 60-month lifetime benefit limit with exceptions in cases of hardship. The average family receives FIP for 21 months.

PROMISE JOBS

The PROMISE JOBS Program or "Promoting Independence and Self Sufficiency through Employment" provides work and training services to FIP participants. All FIP applicants must participate in the Program unless they are exempt. The DHS contracts with Iowa Workforce Development to administer the Program via 16 regional sites throughout the state. For FY 2016, 6,231 FIP families received PROMISE JOBS assistance.

Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program

Also funded under this budget unit, the Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Program provides a more intensive set of services to families that are at risk of long-term welfare dependency. The FaDSS Program is contracted to the Department of Human Rights and is administered by the Division of Community Action Agencies.

Population Served and Benefits Received

In FY 2016, 67.0% of the FIP recipients were one-parent families, 6.0% of families had both parents, and the remaining 27.0% of households were providing care to children of relatives. The typical FIP family has a single Caucasian mother between 20 and 29 years of age and two children under the age of six. The average annual benefit per FIP recipient is \$1,572 per year, and the average annual cost of services per person in the PROMISE JOBS Program is \$1,490. The maximum annual FIP amount paid to a family of three is less than 31.0% of the federal poverty level.

Enrollment

With the exception of an enrollment increase for one year during the most recent recession, enrollment in FIP has continued a declining trend since the Program was redesigned in 1996. For FY 2016, enrollment in the Program was approximately 10,525 families. This is less than half the original enrollment in the Program in 1996.

Funding

Funding for this budget unit has remained relatively unchanged over the past five years, with average appropriations of \$48.7 million. As caseloads continue to decline, the state continues to use more General Fund appropriations to fund the FIP and PROMISE JOBS Program and shifts TANF dollars to fund child care expenditures for TANF eligible families.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [239B](#)
[441](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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More Information

DHS Family Investment Program website: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/cash-assistance>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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