
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

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, 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 a refugee). A parent with two children must be earning less than \$426 per month or \$5,112 annually to qualify for the FIP. The Program has a 60-month lifetime benefit limit with exceptions in cases of hardship. The average family receives FIP assistance for 22 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 PROMISE JOBS unless they are exempt. The DHS contracts with Iowa Workforce Development to administer the program via 16 regional sites throughout the State. For FY 2019, an average of 3,876 FIP families received PROMISE JOBS assistance each month.

Population Served and Benefits Received

Approximately 61.0% of FIP recipients are one-parent families, 35.0% of households provide care to children of relatives, and the remaining 4.0% of families include both parents. The typical FIP family consists of a single Caucasian mother with a high school diploma, who is between 20 and 29 years of age and has two children under the age of six. The average annual benefit per FIP recipient is \$1,643 per year, and the average annual cost of services per person in the PROMISE JOBS program is \$2,706. The maximum annual FIP amount paid to a family of three is less than 24.0% of the federal poverty level.

Family Self-Sufficiency Grant (FSSG) Program

The DHS contracts with Iowa Workforce Development to administer the FSSG program. The program provides up to \$1,000 per family per year to pay for work-related goods and services (e.g., car repair, clothing, and employment-related certification requirements). An average of 92 FIP families a month received this grant in FY 2019, and the average grant per family was \$611.

More Information

DHS Family Investment Program: dhs.iowa.gov/cash-assistance
LSA Staff Contact: Jess R. Benson (515.281.4611) jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov

Family Development and Self-Sufficiency Program

The Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) program assists FIP families with significant or multiple barriers to reach self-sufficiency. Participation in FaDSS is a voluntary option for families receiving FIP benefits. Eligible families are identified and referred to the program primarily by the PROMISE JOBS program. The FaDSS program is provided to families in all 99 Iowa counties through a network of 17 community action and nonprofit social services agencies. Utilizing a strength-based approach, the program is delivered to families through home visits by certified Family Development Specialists. Core services include assessment and screening, family-driven goal setting, referrals to community resources and supports, and advocacy and self-empowerment.

Tax Preparation Assistance to Low-Income Iowans

The FIP budget includes funding for Iowa-based nonprofit organizations to provide tax preparation assistance to low-income Iowans for the express purpose of expanding use of the federal and State earned income tax credit (EITC). State funds are available only to Iowa nonprofit organizations that are awarded federal funds under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) grant program.

Parenting Program

The DHS contracts with the YMCA of Greater Des Moines to administer the allocation for the Parenting Program. The Program is designed to help strengthen parental skills and involvement of parents with their children. Ongoing weekly classes are held for fatherhood, motherhood, and co-parenting at YMCA locations including the John R. Grubb YMCA and the South Suburban YMCA. The classes offer support in such areas as health and nutrition, effective communication, being a positive role model, co-parenting, financial education, and community resources.

Funding

The FIP is funded approximately 39.0% by the General Fund, 54.0% by federal funds, and 7.0% by other funding sources such as child support recovery collections that are used to offset public assistance.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [239B](#)
Iowa Code section [216A.107](#)
[441 IAC ch. 40, 93](#)

Budget Unit Number

4130N010001

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