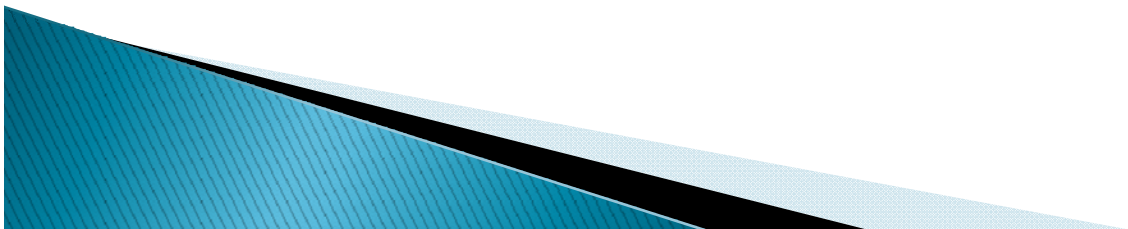


The Purpose

- ▶ Ramsey County Workforce Solutions Policy (WS 2014-04) outlines the full procedure for the extension packet development, information exchange/transfer, extension review and communicating decision regarding extension of MFIP benefits beyond the 60-month time limit.

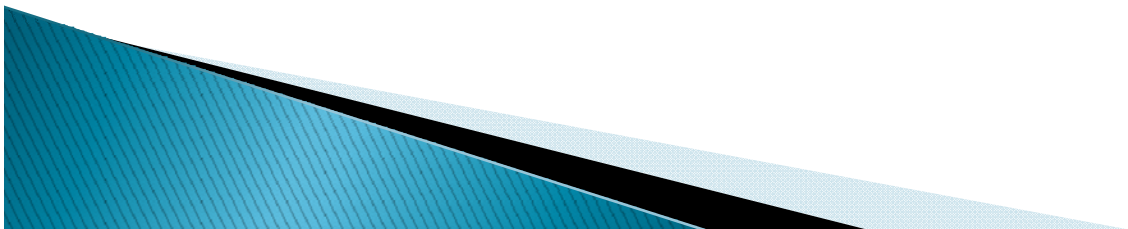
Definition

- ▶ Federal rules limit public assistance eligibility for caregivers to 60 months in their lifetime. Minnesota began counting months toward the 60-month lifetime limit 7-1-97.
- ▶ Financial workers use the STAT/TIME panel in MAXIS to record the history of a caregiver's receipt of assistance toward the 60-month limit. This tracking triggers MAXIS to mail person-specific notices regarding the limits.
- ▶ The 1st notice is sent to participants in the 48th month of cash assistance.



Extension Fun Facts

- ▶ The first extension were granted in 2002
- ▶ There are approximately 1 100 participants extended in Ramsey County
- ▶ The Extension Services Unit reviews approximately 250 current extensions monthly



What qualifies as an extension?

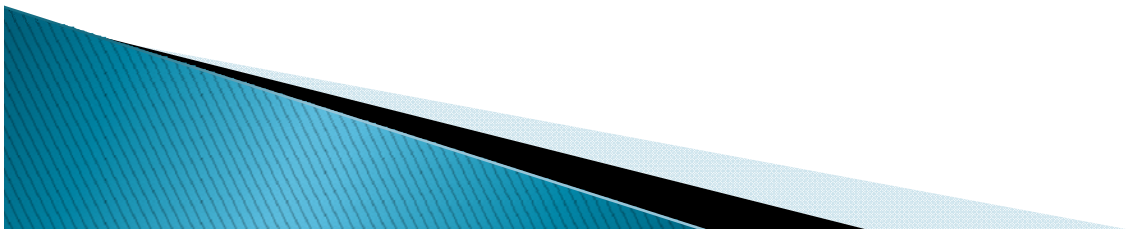
▶ Hardship Extensions Categories

- 1. Ill/Injured Incapacitated 11.19%
 - Illness, Injured or Incapacity for more than 30 days
 - Needed in the home
 - Special Medical Criteria 21.07%
- 2. Hard to Employ 52.71%
 - Developmental Disabilities
 - Mental Illness 47.13%
 - IQ below 80
 - Learning Disability
 - Unemployable
- 3. Employed 9.35%
 - Employed Single
 - Employed Two Parent
 - Employed Reduced Hours



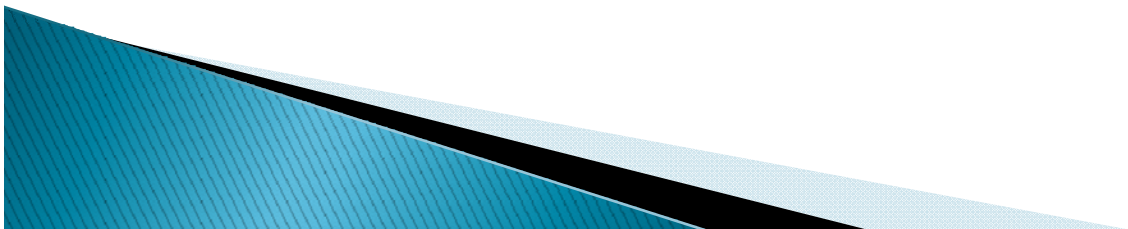
Employment Services Expectations

- ▶ Same exemptions in pre-60 MFIP cases apply to extension cases
- ▶ All Extended case are mandatory and required to participate.
- ▶ MOF and medical documentation is a means of determining eligibility, but we want the participant to guide the Employment Plan



Employment Services (con't)

- ▶ The Extension process begins during a participant's final year of MFIP eligibility.
- ▶ Employment Services activities should continue and the efforts to assist a participant obtain employment should be the first priority.
- ▶ Extension are used only as a last option



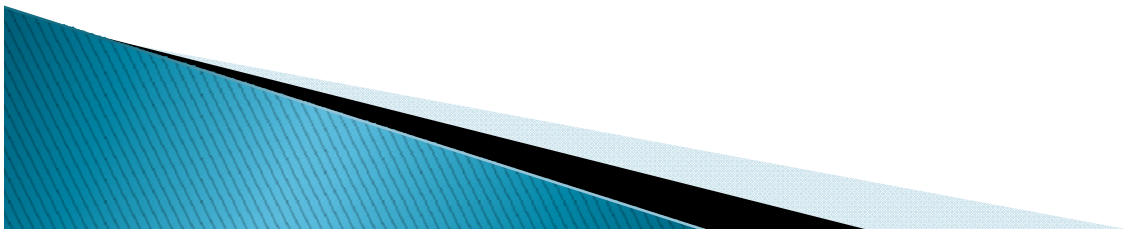
Employment Services (con't)

MFIP Providers can help carry a message forward to the participants.

Although a participant has applied for an extension, it does not guarantee an extension

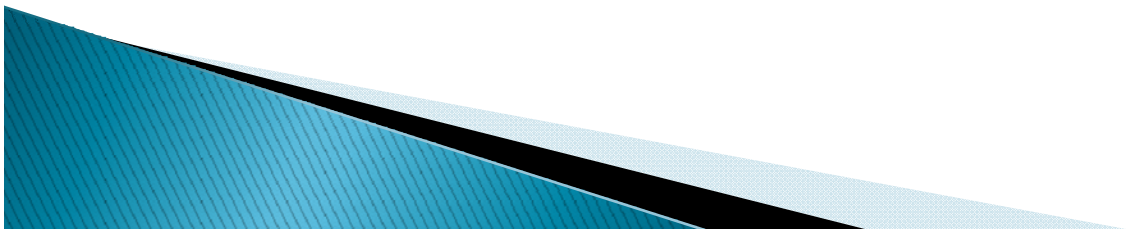
Extensions are TEMPORARY

If a participant is extended the same Employment Services rules, regulations and expectations still apply



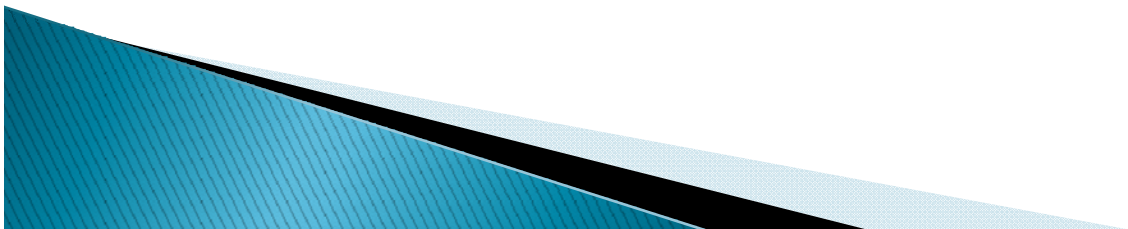
Employment Services

- ▶ Same exemptions apply in pre-60 MFIP cases apply to extension cases
- ▶ All Extended case are mandatory and required to participate.
- ▶ MOF and medical documentation is a means of determining eligibility, but we want the participant to guide their own Employment Plan



Process

- ▶ Agency initiates 48 month checklist
- ▶ Face to Face interview completed between 54th and 59th month
- ▶ Extension packet sent to the Extension Review Team (ERT) no later than the 5th day of the 59th month
- ▶ ERT decision made by the end of the 59th month
- ▶ If Extension is approved – case is transferred to EXS after the 60th month
- ▶ If Extension is denied – close case at agency after 30 days

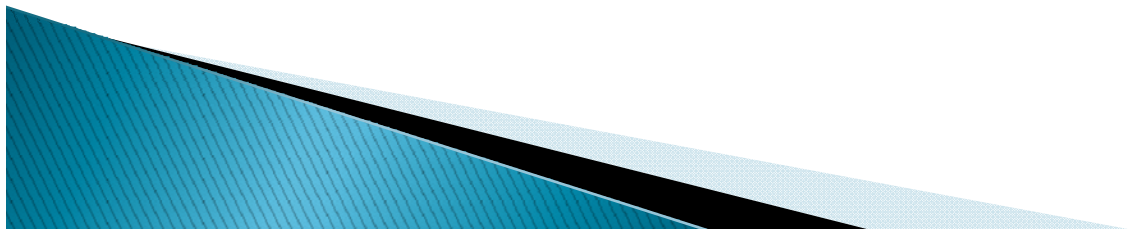


Procedures

See Ramsey County MFIP-ES Policy Memo
(WS2014-04)

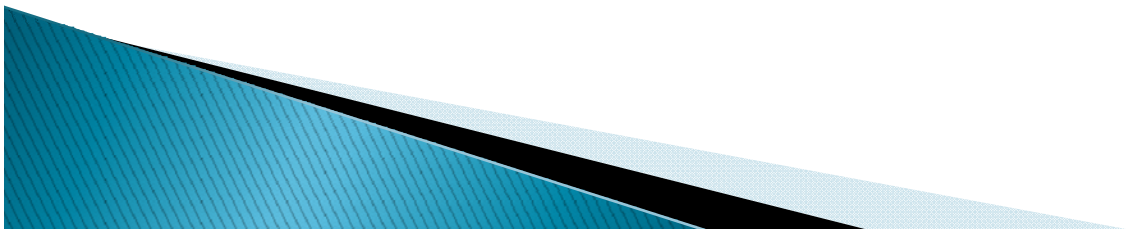
Allowable Documentation

- ▶ MOF's
 - Needed in the Home (family member)
 - Severe Emotional Disturbance
 - SPMI
- ▶ Vocational Assessment/Psychological Evaluations
- ▶ Other – anything which documents a person's hardship, documentation and work restrictions less than 20 hours per week



Extension Packet Review Process and Decision

- ▶ The agency Data Specialist sends the hard copy of the Extension Review Packet to the EXS Supervisor in the 59th month
- ▶ Packet includes
 - ▶ Extension Decision form
 - ▶ Signed Release
 - ▶ 48-month check list
 - ▶ Face to Face form
 - ▶ All unexpired supporting
 - ▶ All documents showing documentations



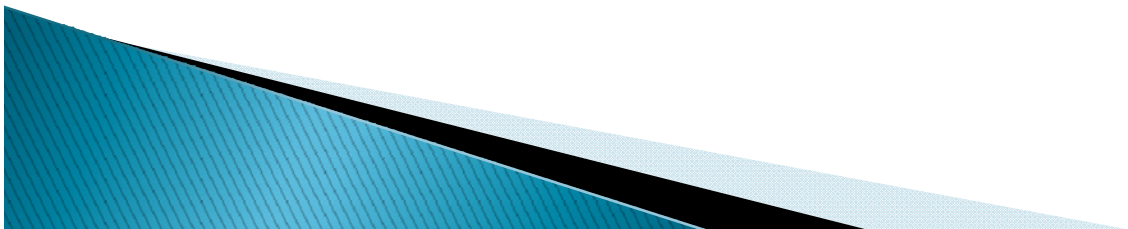
Extension Decision Process

- ▶ Extension Packet arrives to ERT by the 5th day of the month
- ▶ ERT member determines a decision by the end of the 59th month
- ▶ WFS agency alert Financial Worker and the provider agency of the decision
- ▶ For cases denied, the Agency JC closes the case at the end of the 60th month

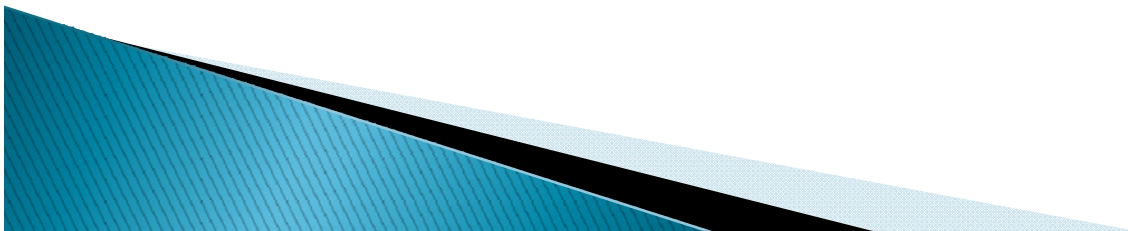


Financial Worker Procedure

- ▶ Extension Decision Form received by the 10th day of the 60th month
- ▶ NOTE – Extension is not complete or approved until the Financial Worker reviews case.
- ▶ Financial Worker reviews case looking to see if extension is correct for household
 - Examples:
 - Is the MFIP case still open
 - Has the case reached the 60th month
 - Needed in the home– is the person who is listed as being needed in the home for been reported/listed as being in the home to the financial worker
 - Employed – Do the hours meet the criteria for an employed extension
 - Special Medical Criteria – Are there BANKED MONTHS involved
- ▶ Financial Worker codes MAXIS based on the recommendation of the ERT and their review of the case for approval or denial



- ▶ Cases approved, should be transferred to the EXS unit by the end of the 60th month.



Questions

▶ ??

