

CHAPTER 256D

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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| <p>256D.01 Declaration of policy; citation.
 256D.02 Definitions.
 256D.03 Responsibility to provide general assistance.
 256D.04 Duties of the commissioner.
 256D.05 Eligibility for general assistance.
 256D.051 Work readiness program.
 256D.052 Literacy training for recipients.
 256D.06 Amount of assistance.
 256D.065 General assistance and work readiness payments for new residents.
 256D.07 Time of payment of assistance.
 256D.08 Exclusion from resources.
 256D.09 Form of payment; vendor payments.
 256D.091 Grant diversion.
 256D.10 Hearings prior to reduction; termination; suspension of general assistance grants.
 256D.101 Failure to comply with work requirements; notice.
 256D.111 Registration for work; termination.
 256D.113 Employment experience program.
 256D.13 Mandamus to compel payment of general assistance.
 256D.14 Violations.
 256D.15 Relative's responsibility.
 256D.16 General assistance to be allowed as claim in probate court.
 256D.17 Data processing procedures.</p> | <p>256D.19 Abolition of township system of poor relief.
 256D.20 Transfer of town employees.
 256D.21 Continuation of retirement system for former Minneapolis employees.
 <div style="text-align: center;">MINNESOTA
SUPPLEMENTAL AID ACT</div> 256D.33 Citation.
 256D.34 Policy.
 256D.35 Definitions.
 256D.36 State participation.
 256D.37 Nursing home recipients; standard of assistance.
 256D.385 Residence.
 256D.395 Application procedures.
 256D.405 Verification and reporting requirements.
 256D.415 Residence; county of financial responsibility.
 256D.425 Eligibility criteria.
 256D.435 Income.
 256D.44 Standards of assistance.
 256D.45 Payment period.
 256D.46 Emergency Minnesota supplemental aid.
 256D.47 Payment methods.
 256D.48 Protective payments.
 256D.49 Payment correction.
 256D.50 Notice.
 256D.51 Appeals.
 256D.52 Fraud.
 256D.53 Duties of the commissioner.
 256D.54 Application for other benefits.</p> |
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256D.01 DECLARATION OF POLICY; CITATION.

Subdivision 1. **Policy.** The objectives of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21 are to provide a sound administrative structure for public assistance programs; to maximize the use of federal money for public assistance purposes; to provide an integrated public assistance program for all persons in the state without adequate income or resources to maintain a subsistence reasonably compatible with decency and health; and to provide work readiness services to help employable and potentially employable persons prepare for and attain self-sufficiency and obtain permanent work.

It is declared to be the policy of this state that persons unable to provide for themselves and not otherwise provided for by law and who meet the eligibility requirements of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21 are entitled to receive grants of general assistance necessary to maintain a subsistence reasonably compatible with decency and health. Providing this assistance is a matter of public concern and a necessity in promoting the public health and welfare.

Subd. 1a. **Standards.** (a) A principal objective in providing general assistance is to provide for persons ineligible for federal programs who are unable to provide for themselves. The minimum standard of assistance determines the total amount of the general assistance grant without separate standards for shelter, utilities, or other needs.

(b) The commissioner shall set the standard of assistance for an assistance unit consisting of an adult recipient who is childless and unmarried or living apart from children and spouse and who does not live with a parent or parents or a legal custodian. When the other standards specified in this subdivision increase, this standard must also be increased by the same percentage.

(c) For an assistance unit consisting of a single adult who lives with a parent or parents, the general assistance standard of assistance is the amount that the aid to fami-

lies with dependent children standard of assistance would increase if the recipient were added as an additional minor child to an assistance unit consisting of the recipient's parent and all of that parent's family members, except that the standard may not exceed the standard for a general assistance recipient living alone. Benefits received by a responsible relative of the assistance unit under the supplemental security income program, a workers' compensation program, the Minnesota supplemental aid program, or any other program based on the responsible relative's disability, and any benefits received by a responsible relative of the assistance unit under the social security retirement program, may not be counted in the determination of eligibility or benefit level for the assistance unit. Except as provided below, the assistance unit is ineligible for general assistance if the available resources or the countable income of the assistance unit and the parent or parents with whom the assistance unit lives are such that a family consisting of the assistance unit's parent or parents, the parent or parents' other family members and the assistance unit as the only or additional minor child would be financially ineligible for general assistance. For the purposes of calculating the countable income of the assistance unit's parent or parents, the calculation methods, income deductions, exclusions, and disregards used when calculating the countable income for a single adult or childless couple must be used.

(d) For an assistance unit consisting of a childless couple, the standards of assistance are the same as the first and second adult standards of the aid to families with dependent children program. If one member of the couple is not included in the general assistance grant, the standard of assistance for the other is the second adult standard of the aid to families with dependent children program.

(e) For an assistance unit consisting of all members of a family, the standards of assistance are the same as the standards of assistance that apply to a family under the aid to families with dependent children program if that family had the same number of parents and children as the assistance unit under general assistance and if all members of that family were eligible for the aid to families with dependent children program. If one or more members of the family are not included in the assistance unit for general assistance, the standards of assistance for the remaining members are the same as the standards of assistance that apply to an assistance unit composed of the entire family, less the standards of assistance for a family of the same number of parents and children as those members of the family who are not in the assistance unit for general assistance. In no case shall the standard for family members who are in the assistance unit for general assistance, when combined with the standard for family members who are not in the general assistance unit, total more than the standard for the entire family if all members were in an AFDC assistance unit. A child may not be excluded from the assistance unit unless income intended for its benefit is received from a federally aided categorical assistance program or supplemental security income. The income of a child who is excluded from the assistance unit may not be counted in the determination of eligibility or benefit level for the assistance unit.

(f) An assistance unit consisting of one or more members of a family must have its grant determined using the policies and procedures of the aid to families with dependent children program. However, the standard of assistance must be determined according to paragraph (e), the first \$50 of total child support received by an assistance unit in a month must be excluded and the balance counted as unearned income, and nonrecurring lump sums received by the family must be considered income in the month received and a resource in the following months.

Subd. 1b. Rules. The commissioner may adopt emergency rules and shall adopt permanent rules to set standards of assistance and methods of calculating payment to conform with subdivision 1a. The minimum standards of assistance shall authorize the payment of rates negotiated by county agencies for recipients living in a room and board arrangement according to sections 256I.01 to 256I.06. When a recipient is a resident of a regional treatment center, or a residence with a negotiated rate, the recipient is not eligible for a full general assistance standard. The state standard of assistance for those recipients is the personal needs allowance authorized for medical assistance recipients under section 256B.35.

Subd. 1c. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 1d. [Repealed, 1988 c 411 s 9]

Subd. 1e. **Rules regarding emergency assistance.** In order to maximize the use of federal funds, the commissioner shall adopt rules, to the extent permitted by federal law, for eligibility for the emergency assistance program under aid to families with dependent children, and under the terms of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21 for general assistance, to require use of the emergency program under aid to families with dependent children as the primary financial resource when available. The commissioner shall adopt rules for eligibility for general assistance of persons with seasonal income and may attribute seasonal income to other periods not in excess of one year from receipt by an applicant or recipient. General assistance payments may not be made for foster care, child welfare services, or other social services. Vendor payments and vouchers may be issued only as authorized in sections 256D.05, subdivision 6, and 256D.09.

Subd. 2. Sections 256D.01 to 256D.21 may be cited as the general assistance act.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 1; 1974 c 297 s 1; 1980 c 536 s 1; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 31,54; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 4 s 22; 1983 c 312 art 1 s 27; 1983 c 312 art 8 s 3; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 26; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 55,56; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 197 s 5; 1987 c 333 s 18; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 27; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 185; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 42-44; 1990 c 426 art 2 s 1; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 20,21

NOTE: Subdivision 1c was also amended by Laws 1989, chapter 282, article 5, section 45, to read as follows:

"Subd. 1c. **General assistance payments.** (a) The commissioner shall authorize the payment of rates negotiated by local agencies for recipients living in a room and board arrangement. Except for payments made to a secure crisis shelter under section 256D.05, subdivision 3, monthly general assistance payments for rates negotiated by a local agency on behalf of recipients living in a room and board, boarding care, supervised living, or adult foster care arrangement may not exceed the limits established under the Minnesota supplemental aid program. No payments under this paragraph may be made to a facility licensed after August 1, 1987, that has more than four residents with a diagnosis of mental illness unless the facility is specifically licensed to serve persons with mental illness. The commissioner of health shall monitor newly-licensed facilities and shall report to the commissioner of human services facilities that are not in compliance with this section.

(b) In order to maximize the use of federal funds, the commissioner shall adopt rules, to the extent permitted by federal law, for eligibility for the emergency assistance program under aid to families with dependent children, and under the terms of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21 for general assistance, to require use of the emergency program under aid to families with dependent children as the primary financial resource when available.

(c) The commissioner shall adopt rules for eligibility for general assistance of persons with seasonal income, and may attribute seasonal income to other periods not in excess of one year from receipt by an applicant or recipient.

(d) General assistance payments may not be made for foster care, child welfare services, or other social services.

(e) Vendor payments and vouchers may be issued only as authorized in sections 256D.05, subdivision 6, and 256D.09."

256D.02 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For purposes of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them unless otherwise provided or indicated by the context.

Subd. 2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services or a designee.

Subd. 3. "Department" means the department of human services.

Subd. 4. **General assistance.** "General assistance" means cash payments to persons unable to provide themselves with a reasonable subsistence compatible with decency and health and who are not otherwise provided for under the laws of this state or the United States.

Subd. 4a. "General assistance medical care" means payment of all or part of the cost of medical care and services approved by the commissioner pursuant to section 256D.03, subdivision 3, for individuals whose income and resources are insufficient to meet the cost of care.

Subd. 5. "Family" means the applicant or recipient and the following persons who reside with the applicant or recipient:

(1) the applicant's spouse;

(2) any minor child of whom the applicant is a parent, stepparent, or legal custodian, and that child's minor siblings, including half-siblings and step-siblings;

(3) the other parent of the applicant's minor child or children together with that parent's minor children, and, if that parent is a minor, his or her parents, stepparents, legal guardians, and minor siblings; and

(4) if the applicant or recipient is a minor, the minor's parents, stepparents, or legal guardians, and any other minor children for whom those parents, stepparents, or legal guardians are financially responsible.

A "family" must contain at least one minor child and at least one of that child's natural or adoptive parents, stepparents, or legal custodians.

Subd. 6. "Child" means an adult or minor child of an individual.

Subd. 7. "Childless couple" means two individuals who are married to each other, live in a place of residence maintained by them as their own home, and are either childless or living apart from their children.

Subd. 8. "Income" means any form of income, including remuneration for services performed as an employee and net earnings from self-employment, reduced by the amount attributable to employment expenses as defined by the commissioner. The amount attributable to employment expenses shall include amounts paid or withheld for federal and state personal income taxes and federal social security taxes.

Income includes any payments received as an annuity, retirement, or disability benefit, including veteran's or workers' compensation; old age, survivors, and disability insurance; railroad retirement benefits; unemployment benefits; and benefits under any federally aided categorical assistance program, supplementary security income, or other assistance program; rents, dividends, interest and royalties; and support and maintenance payments. Such payments may not be considered as available to meet the needs of any person other than the person for whose benefit they are received, unless that person is a family member or a spouse and the income is not excluded under section 256D.01, subdivision 1a. Goods and services provided in lieu of cash payment shall be excluded from the definition of income, except that payments made for room, board, tuition or fees by a parent, on behalf of a child enrolled as a full-time student in a post-secondary institution, and payments made on behalf of an applicant or recipient which the applicant or recipient could legally demand to receive personally in cash, must be included as income. Benefits of an applicant or recipient, such as those administered by the Social Security Administration, that are paid to a representative payee, and are spent on behalf of the applicant or recipient, are considered available income of the applicant or recipient.

Subd. 8a. [Repealed, 1983 c 312 art 8 s 18; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 78 subd 1]

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1981 c 360 art 2 s 52]

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1981 c 360 art 2 s 52]

Subd. 11. "State aid" means state aid to county agencies for general assistance and general assistance medical care expenditures as provided for in section 256D.03, subdivisions 2 and 3.

Subd. 12. "County agency" means the agency designated by the county board of commissioners, human services boards, county welfare boards in the several counties of the state or multicounty welfare boards or departments where those have been established in accordance with law.

Subd. 12a. **Resident.** For purposes of eligibility for general assistance under section 256D.05, and work readiness payments under section 256D.051, a "resident" is a person living in the state with the intention of making the person's home here and not for any temporary purpose. All applicants for these programs are required to demonstrate the requisite intent and can do so in any of the following ways:

(1) by showing that the applicant maintains a residence at a verified address, other than a place of public accommodation. An applicant may verify a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license, a state identification card, a voter registration card, a rent receipt, a statement by the landlord, apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address, or other form of verification approved by the commissioner;

(2) by providing written documentation that the applicant came to the state in response to an offer of employment;

(3) by providing verification that the applicant has been a long-time resident of the state or was formerly a resident of the state for at least 365 days and is returning to the state from a temporary absence, as those terms are defined in rules to be adopted by the commissioner; or

(4) by providing other persuasive evidence to show that the applicant is a resident of the state, according to rules adopted by the commissioner.

Subd. 13. "Suitable employment" means an appropriate income producing job including, but not limited to, all publicly subsidized jobs procured through the services administered by or coordinated with the commissioner of jobs and training.

Subd. 14. [Repealed, 1983 c 312 art 8 s 17]

Subd. 15. "Full-time student" means a student at a post-secondary institution who attends training for a minimum of 25 hours per week if the training does not involve shop practice and for a minimum of 30 hours per week if the training involves shop practice, or who registers for and attends a minimum of 12 semester hours per semester or 12 quarter hours per quarter.

Subd. 16. "Single adult" means an individual 18 years or older who is childless and unmarried or living apart from the individual's children and spouse.

Subd. 17. **Professional certification.** "Professional certification" means:

(1) a statement about a person's illness, injury, or incapacity that is signed by a licensed physician, licensed psychological practitioner, or licensed psychologist, qualified by professional training and experience to diagnose and certify the person's condition; or

(2) a statement about an incapacity involving a spinal subluxation condition that is signed by a licensed chiropractor qualified by professional training and experience to diagnose and certify the condition.

Subd. 18. **Group health plan.** "Group health plan" means any plan of, or contributed to by, an employer, including a self-insured plan, which provides health care directly or otherwise to the employer's employees, former employees, or the families of the employees or former employees, and includes continuation coverage pursuant to title XXII of the Public Health Service Act, section 4980B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or title VI of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Subd. 19. **Cost-effective.** "Cost-effective" means that the amount paid by the state for premiums, coinsurance, deductibles, other cost-sharing obligations under a health insurance plan, and other administrative costs is likely to be less than the amount paid for an equivalent set of services by general assistance medical care.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 2; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1976 c 2 s 81; 1977 c 301 s 1,2; 1978 c 772 s 62; 1980 c 536 s 2-7; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 32,33; 1983 c 312 art 8 s 4,5; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 27-29,58; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 28; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 28,29; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 186,187; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 46-48; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 22-24,84; 1990 c 611 s 2; 1991 c 255 s 19; 1992 c 513 art 7 s 125,126; art 8 s 16

256D.03 RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. Every county agency shall provide general assistance to persons residing within its jurisdiction who meet the need requirements of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21. General assistance shall be administered by the county agencies according to law and rules promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to sections 14.001 to 14.69.

Subd. 2. After December 31, 1980, state aid shall be paid for 75 percent of all general assistance and work readiness grants up to the standards of sections 256D.01, subdivision 1a, and 256D.051, and according to procedures established by the commissioner, except as provided for under section 256.017. Benefits shall be issued to recipients by the state or county and funded according to section 256.025, subdivision 3.

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties according to the payment schedule in section 256.025 for the county share of county agency expenditures made under this subdivision from January 1, 1991, on. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017.

Subd. 2a. County agency options. Any county agency may, from its own resources, make payments of general assistance and work readiness assistance: (a) at a standard higher than that established by the commissioner without reference to the standards of section 256D.01, subdivision 1; or (b) to persons not meeting the eligibility standards set forth in section 256D.05, subdivision 1, or 256D.051 but for whom the aid would further the purposes established in the general assistance or work readiness program in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to the administrative procedure act. The Minnesota department of human services may maintain client records and issue these payments, providing the cost of benefits is paid by the counties to the department of human services in accordance with sections 256.01 and 256.025, subdivision 3.

Subd. 3. General assistance medical care; eligibility. (a) General assistance medical care may be paid for any person who is not eligible for medical assistance under chapter 256B, including eligibility for medical assistance based on a spend-down of excess income according to section 256B.056, subdivision 5, and:

(1) who is receiving assistance under section 256D.05 or 256D.051; or

(2)(i) who is a resident of Minnesota; and whose equity in assets is not in excess of \$1,000 per assistance unit. Exempt assets, the reduction of excess assets, and the waiver of excess assets must conform to the medical assistance program in chapter 256B, with the following exception: the maximum amount of undistributed funds in a trust that could be distributed to or on behalf of the beneficiary by the trustee, assuming the full exercise of the trustee's discretion under the terms of the trust, must be applied toward the asset maximum; and

(ii) who has countable income not in excess of the assistance standards established in section 256B.056, subdivision 4, or whose excess income is spent down pursuant to section 256B.056, subdivision 5, using a six-month budget period, except that a one-month budget period must be used for recipients residing in a long-term care facility. The method for calculating earned income disregards and deductions for a person who resides with a dependent child under age 21 shall be as specified in section 256.74, subdivision 1. However, if a disregard of \$30 and one-third of the remainder described in section 256.74, subdivision 1, clause (4), has been applied to the wage earner's income, the disregard shall not be applied again until the wage earner's income has not been considered in an eligibility determination for general assistance, general assistance medical care, medical assistance, or aid to families with dependent children for 12 consecutive months. The earned income and work expense deductions for a person who does not reside with a dependent child under age 21 shall be the same as the method used to determine eligibility for a person under section 256D.06, subdivision 1, except the disregard of the first \$50 of earned income is not allowed; or

(3) who would be eligible for medical assistance except that the person resides in a facility that is determined by the commissioner or the federal health care financing administration to be an institution for mental diseases.

(b) Eligibility is available for the month of application, and for three months prior to application if the person was eligible in those prior months. A redetermination of eligibility must occur every 12 months.

(c) General assistance medical care is not available for a person in a correctional facility unless the person is detained by law for less than one year in a county correctional or detention facility as a person accused or convicted of a crime, or admitted as an inpatient to a hospital on a criminal hold order, and the person is a recipient of general assistance medical care at the time the person is detained by law or admitted on a criminal hold order and as long as the person continues to meet other eligibility requirements of this subdivision.

(d) General assistance medical care is not available for applicants or recipients who do not cooperate with the county agency to meet the requirements of medical assistance.

(e) In determining the amount of assets of an individual, there shall be included any asset or interest in an asset, including an asset excluded under paragraph (a), that was given away, sold, or disposed of for less than fair market value within the 30 months preceding application for general assistance medical care or during the period of eligibility. Any transfer described in this paragraph shall be presumed to have been for the purpose of establishing eligibility for general assistance medical care, unless the individual furnishes convincing evidence to establish that the transaction was exclusively for another purpose. For purposes of this paragraph, the value of the asset or interest shall be the fair market value at the time it was given away, sold, or disposed of, less the amount of compensation received. For any uncompensated transfer, the number of months of ineligibility, including partial months, shall be calculated by dividing the uncompensated transfer amount by the average monthly per person payment made by the medical assistance program to skilled nursing facilities for the previous calendar year. The individual shall remain ineligible until this fixed period has expired. The period of ineligibility may exceed 30 months, and a reapplication for benefits after 30 months from the date of the transfer shall not result in eligibility unless and until the period of ineligibility has expired. The period of ineligibility begins in the month the transfer was reported to the county agency, or if the transfer was not reported, the month in which the county agency discovered the transfer, whichever comes first. For applicants, the period of ineligibility begins on the date of the first approved application.

Subd. 3a. Claims; assignment of benefits. Claims must be filed pursuant to section 256D.16. General assistance medical care applicants and recipients must apply or agree to apply third party health and accident benefits to the costs of medical care. They must cooperate with the state in establishing paternity and obtaining third party payments. By signing an application for general assistance, a person assigns to the department of human services all rights to medical support or payments for medical expenses from another person or entity on their own or their dependent's behalf and agrees to cooperate with the state in establishing paternity and obtaining third party payments. The application shall contain a statement explaining the assignment. Any rights or amounts assigned shall be applied against the cost of medical care paid for under this chapter. An assignment is effective on the date general assistance medical care eligibility takes effect. The assignment shall not affect benefits paid or provided under automobile accident coverage and private health care coverage until the person or organization providing the benefits has received notice of the assignment.

Subd. 3b. Cooperation. General assistance medical care applicants and recipients must cooperate by providing information about any group health plan in which they may be eligible to enroll. They must cooperate with the state and local agency in determining if the plan is cost-effective. If the plan is determined cost-effective and the premium will be paid by the state or local agency or is available at no cost to the person, they must enroll or remain enrolled in the group health plan. Cost-effective insurance premiums approved for payment by the state agency and paid by the local agency are eligible for reimbursement according to subdivision 6.

Subd. 4. General assistance medical care; services. (a) For a person who is eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (3), general assistance medical care covers:

- (1) inpatient hospital services;
- (2) outpatient hospital services;
- (3) services provided by Medicare certified rehabilitation agencies;
- (4) prescription drugs and other products recommended through the process established in section 256B.0625, subdivision 13;
- (5) equipment necessary to administer insulin and diagnostic supplies and equipment for diabetics to monitor blood sugar level;

- (6) eyeglasses and eye examinations provided by a physician or optometrist;
- (7) hearing aids;
- (8) prosthetic devices;
- (9) laboratory and X-ray services;
- (10) physician's services;
- (11) medical transportation;
- (12) chiropractic services as covered under the medical assistance program;
- (13) podiatric services;
- (14) dental services;
- (15) outpatient services provided by a mental health center or clinic that is under contract with the county board and is established under section 245.62;
- (16) day treatment services for mental illness provided under contract with the county board;
- (17) prescribed medications for persons who have been diagnosed as mentally ill as necessary to prevent more restrictive institutionalization;
- (18) case management services for a person with serious and persistent mental illness who would be eligible for medical assistance except that the person resides in an institution for mental diseases;
- (19) psychological services, medical supplies and equipment, and Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductible payments; and
- (20) medical equipment not specifically listed in this paragraph when the use of the equipment will prevent the need for costlier services that are reimbursable under this subdivision.

(b) For a recipient who is eligible under subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2), general assistance medical care covers the services listed in paragraph (a) with the exception of special transportation services.

(c) In order to contain costs, the commissioner of human services shall select vendors of medical care who can provide the most economical care consistent with high medical standards and shall where possible contract with organizations on a prepaid capitation basis to provide these services. The commissioner shall consider proposals by counties and vendors for prepaid health plans, competitive bidding programs, block grants, or other vendor payment mechanisms designed to provide services in an economical manner or to control utilization, with safeguards to ensure that necessary services are provided. Before implementing prepaid programs in counties with a county operated or affiliated public teaching hospital or a hospital or clinic operated by the University of Minnesota, the commissioner shall consider the risks the prepaid program creates for the hospital and allow the county or hospital the opportunity to participate in the program in a manner that reflects the risk of adverse selection and the nature of the patients served by the hospital, provided the terms of participation in the program are competitive with the terms of other participants considering the nature of the population served. Payment for services provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be as provided to medical assistance vendors of these services under sections 256B.02, subdivision 8, and 256B.0625. For payments made during fiscal year 1990 and later years, the commissioner shall consult with an independent actuary in establishing prepayment rates, but shall retain final control over the rate methodology.

(d) The commissioner of human services may reduce payments provided under sections 256D.01 to 256D.21 and 261.23 in order to remain within the amount appropriated for general assistance medical care, within the following restrictions.

For the period July 1, 1985, to December 31, 1985, reductions below the cost per service unit allowable under section 256.966, are permitted only as follows: payments for inpatient and outpatient hospital care provided in response to a primary diagnosis of chemical dependency or mental illness may be reduced no more than 30 percent; payments for all other inpatient hospital care may be reduced no more than 20 percent. Reductions below the payments allowable under general assistance medical care for the

remaining general assistance medical care services allowable under this subdivision may be reduced no more than ten percent.

For the period January 1, 1986, to December 31, 1986, reductions below the cost per service unit allowable under section 256.966 are permitted only as follows: payments for inpatient and outpatient hospital care provided in response to a primary diagnosis of chemical dependency or mental illness may be reduced no more than 20 percent; payments for all other inpatient hospital care may be reduced no more than 15 percent. Reductions below the payments allowable under general assistance medical care for the remaining general assistance medical care services allowable under this subdivision may be reduced no more than five percent.

For the period January 1, 1987, to June 30, 1987, reductions below the cost per service unit allowable under section 256.966 are permitted only as follows: payments for inpatient and outpatient hospital care provided in response to a primary diagnosis of chemical dependency or mental illness may be reduced no more than 15 percent; payments for all other inpatient hospital care may be reduced no more than ten percent. Reductions below the payments allowable under medical assistance for the remaining general assistance medical care services allowable under this subdivision may be reduced no more than five percent.

For the period July 1, 1987, to June 30, 1988, reductions below the cost per service unit allowable under section 256.966 are permitted only as follows: payments for inpatient and outpatient hospital care provided in response to a primary diagnosis of chemical dependency or mental illness may be reduced no more than 15 percent; payments for all other inpatient hospital care may be reduced no more than five percent. Reductions below the payments allowable under medical assistance for the remaining general assistance medical care services allowable under this subdivision may be reduced no more than five percent.

For the period July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1989, reductions below the cost per service unit allowable under section 256.966 are permitted only as follows: payments for inpatient and outpatient hospital care provided in response to a primary diagnosis of chemical dependency or mental illness may be reduced no more than 15 percent; payments for all other inpatient hospital care may not be reduced. Reductions below the payments allowable under medical assistance for the remaining general assistance medical care services allowable under this subdivision may be reduced no more than five percent.

There shall be no copayment required of any recipient of benefits for any services provided under this subdivision. A hospital receiving a reduced payment as a result of this section may apply the unpaid balance toward satisfaction of the hospital's bad debts.

(e) Any county may, from its own resources, provide medical payments for which state payments are not made.

(f) Chemical dependency services that are reimbursed under chapter 254B must not be reimbursed under general assistance medical care.

(g) The maximum payment for new vendors enrolled in the general assistance medical care program after the base year shall be determined from the average usual and customary charge of the same vendor type enrolled in the base year.

(h) The conditions of payment for services under this subdivision are the same as the conditions specified in rules adopted under chapter 256B governing the medical assistance program, unless otherwise provided by statute or rule.

Subd. 5. Certain county agencies to pay state for county share. The county agencies that contract with the commissioner of human services for state administration of general assistance medical care payments shall make payment to the state for the county share of those payments in the manner described for medical assistance advances in section 256B.041, subdivision 5.

Subd. 6. Division of costs. The state share of county agency expenditures for general assistance medical care shall be 90 percent and the county share shall be ten per-

cent. Payments made under this subdivision shall be made in accordance with sections 256B.041, subdivision 5 and 256B.19, subdivision 1. In counties where a pilot or demonstration project is operated for general assistance medical care services, the state may pay 100 percent of the costs of administering the pilot or demonstration project. Reimbursement for these costs is subject to section 256.025.

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties according to the payment schedule in section 256.025 for the county share of costs incurred under this subdivision from January 1, 1991, on. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, beginning July 1, 1991, the state shall pay 100 percent of the costs for centralized claims processing by the department of administration relative to claims beginning January 1, 1991, and submitted on behalf of general assistance medical care recipients by vendors in the general assistance medical care program.

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state shall reimburse counties up to the limit of state appropriations for general assistance medical care common carrier transportation and related travel expenses provided for medical purposes after December 31, 1990. Reimbursement shall be provided according to the payment schedule set forth in section 256.025. For purposes of this subdivision, transportation shall have the meaning given it in Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 440.170(a), as amended through October 1, 1987, and travel expenses shall have the meaning given in Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 440.170(a)(3), as amended through October 1, 1987.

The county shall ensure that only the least costly most appropriate transportation and travel expenses are used. The state may enter into volume purchase contracts, or use a competitive bidding process, whenever feasible, to minimize the costs of transportation services. If the state has entered into a volume purchase contract or used the competitive bidding procedures of chapter 16B to arrange for transportation services, the county may be required to use such arrangements to be eligible for state reimbursement for general assistance medical care common carrier transportation and related travel expenses provided for medical purposes.

In counties where prepaid health plans are under contract to the commissioner to provide services to general assistance medical care recipients, the cost of court ordered treatment that does not include diagnostic evaluation, recommendation, or referral for treatment by the prepaid health plan is the responsibility of the county of financial responsibility.

Subd. 7. Duties of the commissioner. The commissioner shall promulgate emergency and permanent rules as necessary to establish:

(a) standards of eligibility, utilization of services, and payment levels;

(b) standards for quality assurance, surveillance, and utilization review procedures that conform to those established for the medical assistance program pursuant to chapter 256B, including general criteria and procedures for the identification and prompt investigation of suspected fraud, theft, abuse, presentment of false or duplicate claims, presentment of claims for services not medically necessary, or false statements or representations of material facts by a vendor or recipient of general assistance medical care, and for the imposition of sanctions against such vendor or recipient of medical care. The rules relating to sanctions shall be consistent with the provisions of section 256B.064, subdivisions 1a and 2; and

(c) administrative and fiscal procedures for payment of the state share of the medical costs incurred by the counties under section 256D.02, subdivision 4a. Rules promulgated pursuant to this clause may include: (1) procedures by which state liability for the costs of medical care incurred pursuant to section 256D.02, subdivision 4a may be deducted from county liability to the state under any other public assistance program authorized by law; (2) procedures for processing claims of counties for reimbursement by the state for expenditures for medical care made by the counties pursuant to section 256D.02, subdivision 4a; and (3) procedures by which the county agencies may con-

tract with the commissioner of human services for state administration of general assistance medical care payments.

Subd. 8. Private insurance policies. (a) Private accident and health care coverage for medical services is primary coverage and must be exhausted before general assistance medical care is paid. When a person who is otherwise eligible for general assistance medical care has private accident or health care coverage, including a prepaid health plan, the private health care benefits available to the person must be used first and to the fullest extent. Supplemental payment may be made by general assistance medical care, but the combined total amount paid must not exceed the amount payable under general assistance medical care in the absence of other coverage. General assistance medical care must not make supplemental payment for covered services rendered by a vendor who participates or contracts with any health coverage plan if the plan requires the vendor to accept the plan's payment as payment in full.

(b) When a parent or a person with an obligation of support has enrolled in a prepaid health care plan under section 518.171, subdivision 1, the commissioner of human services shall limit the recipient of general assistance medical care to the benefits payable under that prepaid health care plan to the extent that services available under general assistance medical care are also available under the prepaid health care plan.

(c) Upon furnishing general assistance medical care or general assistance to any person having private accident or health care coverage, or having a cause of action arising out of an occurrence that necessitated the payment of assistance, the state agency shall be subrogated, to the extent of the cost of medical care, subsistence, or other payments furnished, to any rights the person may have under the terms of the coverage or under the cause of action.

This right of subrogation includes all portions of the cause of action, notwithstanding any settlement allocation or apportionment that purports to dispose of portions of the cause of action not subject to subrogation.

(d) To recover under this section, the attorney general or the appropriate county attorney, acting upon direction from the attorney general, may institute or join a civil action to enforce the subrogation rights established under this section.

(e) The state agency must be given notice of monetary claims against a person, firm, or corporation that may be liable in damages, or otherwise obligated to pay part or all of the costs related to an injury when the state agency has paid or become liable for the cost of care or payments related to the injury. Notice must be given as follows:

(i) Applicants for general assistance or general assistance medical care shall notify the state or county agency of any possible claims when they submit the application. Recipients of general assistance or general assistance medical care shall notify the state or county agency of any possible claims when those claims arise.

(ii) A person providing medical care services to a recipient of general assistance medical care shall notify the state agency when the person has reason to believe that a third party may be liable for payment of the cost of medical care.

(iii) A person who is party to a claim upon which the state agency may be entitled to subrogation under this section shall notify the state agency of its potential subrogation claim before filing a claim, commencing an action, or negotiating a settlement.

Notice given to the county agency is not sufficient to meet the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c).

(f) Upon any judgment, award, or settlement of a cause of action, or any part of it, upon which the state agency has a subrogation right, including compensation for liquidated, unliquidated, or other damages, reasonable costs of collection, including attorney fees, must be deducted first. The full amount of general assistance or general assistance medical care paid to or on behalf of the person as a result of the injury must be deducted next and paid to the state agency. The rest must be paid to the public assistance recipient or other plaintiff. The plaintiff, however, must receive at least one-third of the net recovery after attorney fees and collection costs.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 3; 1975 c 437 art 2 s 8; 1976 c 186 s 1; 1979 c 303 art

2 s 2; 1980 c 349 s 9; 1980 c 536 s 8-10; 1980 c 607 art 2 s 3; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 2 subd 4,34; 1Sp1981 c 2 s 16 subd 2; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 4 s 21; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 623 s 2; 1983 c 312 art 5 s 29-33; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 30,58; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 57,58; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 29; 1986 c 394 s 19; 1987 c 370 art 2 s 15; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 103-105; art 3 s 30; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 188,268; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 18,19; 1989 c 209 art 1 s 24; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 91,92; art 5 s 49; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 10,11; 1990 c 422 s 10; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 86-89; art 4 s 25,84; 1991 c 292 art 4 s 68,69; art 5 s 30,31; 1992 c 513 art 7 s 127,128; art 8 s 17

256D.04 DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.

In addition to any other duties imposed by law, the commissioner shall:

(1) Supervise according to section 256.01 the administration of general assistance and general assistance medical care by county agencies as provided in sections 256D.01 to 256D.21;

(2) Promulgate uniform rules consistent with law for carrying out and enforcing the provisions of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21, including section 256D.05, subdivision 3, and section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (16), to the end that general assistance may be administered as uniformly as possible throughout the state; rules shall be furnished immediately to all county agencies and other interested persons; in promulgating rules, the provisions of sections 14.001 to 14.69, shall apply;

(3) Allocate money appropriated for general assistance and general assistance medical care to county agencies as provided in section 256D.03, subdivisions 2 and 3;

(4) Accept and supervise the disbursement of any funds that may be provided by the federal government or from other sources for use in this state for general assistance and general assistance medical care;

(5) Cooperate with other agencies including any agency of the United States or of another state in all matters concerning the powers and duties of the commissioner under sections 256D.01 to 256D.21;

(6) Cooperate to the fullest extent with other public agencies empowered by law to provide vocational training, rehabilitation, or similar services;

(7) Gather and study current information and report at least annually to the governor and legislature on the nature and need for general assistance and general assistance medical care, the amounts expended under the supervision of each county agency, and the activities of each county agency and publish such reports for the information of the public; and

(8) Specify requirements for general assistance and general assistance medical care reports, including fiscal reports, according to section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (17).

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 4; 1977 c 301 s 3; 1980 c 536 s 11; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 35; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 20; 1989 c 89 s 12; 1990 c 422 s 10; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1991 c 272 s 1

256D.05 ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. Eligibility. (a) Each person or family whose income and resources are less than the standard of assistance established by the commissioner and who is a resident of the state shall be eligible for and entitled to general assistance if the person or family is:

(1) a person who is suffering from a professionally certified permanent or temporary illness, injury, or incapacity which is expected to continue for more than 30 days and which prevents the person from obtaining or retaining employment;

(2) a person whose presence in the home on a substantially continuous basis is required because of the professionally certified illness, injury, incapacity, or the age of another member of the household;

(3) a person who has been placed in, and is residing in, a licensed or certified facil-

ity for purposes of physical or mental health or rehabilitation, or in an approved chemical dependency domiciliary facility, if the placement is based on illness or incapacity and is pursuant to a plan developed or approved by the county agency through its director or designated representative;

(4) a person who resides in a shelter facility described in subdivision 3;

(5) a person not described in clause (1) or (3) who is diagnosed by a licensed physician, psychological practitioner, or other qualified professional, as mentally retarded or mentally ill, and that condition prevents the person from obtaining or retaining employment;

(6) a person who has an application pending for, or is appealing termination of benefits from, the social security disability program or the program of supplemental security income for the aged, blind, and disabled, provided the person has a professionally certified permanent or temporary illness, injury, or incapacity which is expected to continue for more than 30 days and which prevents the person from obtaining or retaining employment;

(7) a person who is unable to obtain or retain employment because advanced age significantly affects the person's ability to seek or engage in substantial work;

(8) a person who, following participation in the work readiness program, completion of an individualized employability assessment by the work readiness service provider, and consultation between the county agency and the work readiness service provider, the work readiness service provider determines is not employable. For purposes of this item, a person is considered employable if the county agency determines that there exist positions of employment in the local labor market, regardless of the current availability of openings for those positions, that the person is capable of performing. Eligibility under this category must be reassessed at least annually by the county agency and must be based upon the results of a new individualized employability assessment completed by the work readiness service provider. The recipient shall, if otherwise eligible, continue to receive general assistance while the annual individualized employability assessment is completed by the work readiness service provider, rather than receive work readiness payments under section 256D.051. Subsequent eligibility for general assistance is dependent upon the county agency determining, following consultation with the work readiness service provider, that the person is not employable, or the person meeting the requirements of another general assistance category of eligibility;

(9) a person who is determined by the county agency, in accordance with emergency and permanent rules adopted by the commissioner, to be learning disabled, provided that if a rehabilitation plan for the person is developed or approved by the county agency, the person is following the plan;

(10) a child under the age of 18 who is not living with a parent, stepparent, or legal custodian, but only if: the child is legally emancipated or living with an adult with the consent of an agency acting as a legal custodian; the child is at least 16 years of age and the general assistance grant is approved by the director of the county agency or a designated representative as a component of a social services case plan for the child; or the child is living with an adult with the consent of the child's legal custodian and the county agency. For purposes of this clause, "legally emancipated" means a person under the age of 18 years who: (i) has been married; (ii) is on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States; (iii) has been emancipated by a court of competent jurisdiction; or (iv) is otherwise considered emancipated under Minnesota law, and for whom county social services has not determined that a social services case plan is necessary, for reasons other than that the child has failed or refuses to cooperate with the county agency in developing the plan;

(11) a woman in the last trimester of pregnancy who does not qualify for aid to families with dependent children. A woman who is in the last trimester of pregnancy who is currently receiving aid to families with dependent children may be granted emergency general assistance to meet emergency needs;

(12) a person who is eligible for displaced homemaker services, programs, or assistance under section 268.96, but only if that person is enrolled as a full-time student;

(13) a person who lives more than two hours round-trip traveling time from any potential suitable employment;

(14) a person who is involved with protective or court-ordered services that prevent the applicant or recipient from working at least four hours per day;

(15) a family as defined in section 256D.02, subdivision 5, which is ineligible for the aid to families with dependent children program. If all children in the family are six years of age or older, or if suitable child care is available for children under age six at no cost to the family, all the adult members of the family must register for and cooperate in the work readiness program under section 256D.051. If one or more of the children is under the age of six and suitable child care is not available without cost to the family, all the adult members except one adult member must register for and cooperate with the work readiness program under section 256D.051. The adult member who must participate in the work readiness program is the one having earned the greater of the incomes, excluding in-kind income, during the 24-month period immediately preceding the month of application for assistance. When there are no earnings or when earnings are identical for each adult, the applicant must designate the adult who must participate in work readiness and that designation must not be transferred or changed after program eligibility is determined as long as program eligibility continues without an interruption of 30 days or more. The adult members required to register for and cooperate with the work readiness program are not eligible for financial assistance under section 256D.051, except as provided in section 256D.051, subdivision 6, and shall be included in the general assistance grant. If an adult member fails to cooperate with requirements of section 256D.051, the local agency shall not take that member's needs into account in making the grant determination as provided by the termination provisions of section 256D.051, subdivision 1a, paragraph (b). The time limits of section 256D.051, subdivision 1, do not apply to persons eligible under this clause; or

(16) a person over age 18 whose primary language is not English and who is attending high school at least half time.

(b) Persons or families who are not state residents but who are otherwise eligible for general assistance may receive emergency general assistance to meet emergency needs.

(c) As a condition of eligibility under paragraph (a), clauses (1), (3), (5), (8), and (9), the recipient must complete an interim assistance agreement and must apply for other maintenance benefits as specified in section 256D.06, subdivision 5, and must comply with efforts to determine the recipient's eligibility for those other maintenance benefits.

(d) The burden of providing documentation for a county agency to use to verify eligibility for general assistance or work readiness is upon the applicant or recipient. The county agency shall use documents already in its possession to verify eligibility, and shall help the applicant or recipient obtain other existing verification necessary to determine eligibility which the applicant or recipient does not have and is unable to obtain.

Subd. 1a. [Repealed, 1983 c 312 art 8 s 17]

Subd. 2. **Use of federal funds.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if any person otherwise eligible for general assistance would, but for state statutory restriction or limitation, be eligible for a funded federally aided assistance program providing benefits equal to or greater than those of general assistance, the person shall be eligible for that federally aided program and ineligible for general assistance; provided, however, that (a) nothing in this section shall be construed to extend eligibility for federally aided programs to persons not otherwise eligible for general assistance; (b) this section shall not be effective to the extent that federal law or regulation require new eligibility for federal programs to persons not otherwise eligible for general assistance; and (c) nothing in this section shall deny general assistance to a person otherwise eligible who is determined ineligible for a substitute federally aided program.

Subd. 3. Residents of shelter facilities. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions 1 and 2, general assistance payments shall be made for maintenance costs and security costs which are related to providing 24-hour staff coverage at the facility incurred as a result of residence in a secure crisis shelter, a housing network, or other shelter facilities which provide shelter services to women and their children who are being or have been assaulted by their spouses, other male relatives, or other males with whom they are residing or have resided in the past.

These payments shall be made directly to the shelter facility from general assistance funds on behalf of women and their children who are receiving, or who are eligible to receive, aid to families with dependent children or general assistance.

In determining eligibility of women and children for payment of general assistance under this subdivision, the asset limitations of the aid to families with dependent children program shall be applied. Payments to shelter facilities shall not affect the eligibility of individuals who reside in shelter facilities for aid to families with dependent children or general assistance or payments made to individuals who reside in shelter facilities through aid to families with dependent children or general assistance, except when required by federal law or regulation.

Subd. 3a. Shelter facility's right to appeal. A facility providing shelter for women and their children may appeal a decision of a county agency arising from a request for payment pursuant to subdivision 3. To appeal, the shelter facility shall submit a written appeal request within 30 days of receiving notice of the commissioner's refusal to issue payment pursuant to section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (16). The appeal shall be heard by an administrative law judge according to sections 14.48 to 14.62, except that the report of the administrative law judge is binding on all parties. Within 15 days of receipt of a written appeal request from a shelter facility, the county agency shall file a request for assignment of a judge together with a notice of and order for hearing proposed to be issued. The record in the contested case proceeding shall not include any evidence, including records and documents, developed by the commissioner in the commissioner's review, pursuant to section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (16).

Subd. 4. Consent to review records. No person shall be eligible for general assistance medical care unless the person has authorized the commissioner of human services in writing to examine all personal medical records developed while receiving general assistance for the purpose of investigating whether or not a vendor has submitted a claim for reimbursement, a cost report or a rate application which the vendor knows to be false in whole or in part, or in order to determine whether or not the medical care provided was medically necessary. The vendor of medical care shall receive notification from the commissioner at least 24 hours before the commissioner gains access to such records. A vendor of medical care shall require presentation of this authorization before the state agency can obtain access to such records unless the vendor already has received written authorization. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a vendor of medical care shall not be subject to any civil or criminal liability for providing access to medical records to the commissioner pursuant to this subdivision.

Subd. 5. Transfers of property. The equity value of real and personal property transferred without reasonable compensation within 12 months preceding the date of application for general assistance must be included in determining the resources of an assistance unit in the same manner as in the aid to families with dependent children program under chapter 256.

Subd. 6. Assistance for persons without a verified residence. (a) For applicants or recipients of general assistance, emergency general assistance, or work readiness assistance who do not have a verified residence address, the county agency may provide assistance using one or more of the following methods:

(1) the county agency may provide assistance in the form of vouchers or vendor payments and provide separate vouchers or vendor payments for food, shelter, and other needs;

(2) the county agency may divide the monthly assistance standard into weekly pay-

ments, whether in cash or by voucher or vendor payment. Nothing in this clause prevents the county agency from issuing voucher or vendor payments for emergency general assistance in an amount less than the standards of assistance; and

(3) the county agency may determine eligibility and provide assistance on a weekly basis. Weekly assistance can be issued in cash or by voucher or vendor payment and can be determined either on the basis of actual need or by prorating the monthly assistance standard.

(b) An individual may verify a residence address by providing a driver's license; a state identification card; a statement by the landlord, apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address; or other written documentation approved by the commissioner.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 256D.06, subdivision 1, if the county agency elects to provide assistance on a weekly payment basis, the agency may not provide assistance for a period during which no need is claimed by the individual unless the individual has good cause for failing to claim need. The individual must be notified, each time weekly assistance is provided, that subsequent weekly assistance will not be issued unless the individual claims need. The advance notice required under section 256D.10 does not apply to weekly assistance that is withheld because the individual failed to claim need without good cause.

(d) The county agency may not issue assistance on a weekly basis to an applicant or recipient who has professionally certified mental illness or mental retardation or a related condition, or to an assistance unit that includes minor children, unless requested by the assistance unit.

Subd. 7. Ineligibility for general assistance. No person disqualified from any federally aided assistance program shall be eligible for general assistance during the period covered by the disqualification sanction.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 5; 1974 c 297 s 2; 1977 c 428 s 7; 1980 c 349 s 10; 1980 c 544 s 1; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 36,54; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 4 s 22,23; 1982 c 633 s 8,9; 1983 c 312 art 1 s 27; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 59; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 75; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 270 s 2; 1987 c 384 art 3 s 5; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 106; art 3 s 31; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 50,51; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1990 c 611 s 3; 1991 c 255 s 19; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 32-35; 1992 c 513 art 8 s 18

256D.051 WORK READINESS PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Work registration. (a) Except as provided in this subdivision, persons who are residents of the state and whose income and resources are less than the standard of assistance established by the commissioner, but who are not categorically eligible under section 256D.05, subdivision 1, are eligible for the work readiness program for a maximum period of six calendar months during any 12 consecutive calendar month period, subject to the provisions of paragraph (d), subdivision 3, and section 256D.052, subdivision 4. The person's eligibility period begins on the first day of the calendar month following the date of application for assistance or following the date all eligibility factors are met, whichever is later; however, the person may voluntarily continue to participate in work readiness services for up to three additional consecutive months immediately following the last month of benefits to complete the provisions of the person's employability development plan. After July 1, 1992, if orientation is available within three weeks after the date eligibility is determined, initial payment will not be made until the registrant attends orientation to the work readiness program. Prior to terminating work readiness assistance the county agency must provide advice on the person's eligibility for general assistance medical care and must assess the person's eligibility for general assistance under section 256D.05 to the extent possible, using information in the case file, and determine the person's eligibility for general assistance. A determination that the person is not eligible for general assistance must be stated in the notice of termination of work readiness benefits.

(b) Persons, families, and married couples who are not state residents but who are

otherwise eligible for work readiness assistance may receive emergency assistance to meet emergency needs.

(c) Except for family members who must participate in work readiness services under the provisions of section 256D.05, subdivision 1, clause (14), any person who would be defined for purposes of the food stamp program as being enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education is ineligible for the work readiness program.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 256.045 and 256D.10, during the pendency of an appeal, work readiness payments and services shall not continue to a person who appeals the termination of benefits due to exhaustion of the period of eligibility specified in paragraph (a) or (d).

Subd. 1a. Work readiness payments. (a) Except as provided in this subdivision, grants of work readiness shall be determined using the standards of assistance, exclusions, disregards, and procedures which are used in the general assistance program. Work readiness shall be granted in an amount that, when added to the nonexempt income actually available to the assistance unit, the total amount equals the applicable standard of assistance.

(b) Except as provided in section 256D.05, subdivision 6, work readiness assistance must be paid on the first day of each month.

At the time the county agency notifies the assistance unit that it is eligible for family general assistance or work readiness assistance and by the first day of each month of services, the county agency must inform all mandatory registrants in the assistance unit that they must comply with all work readiness requirements that month, and that work readiness eligibility will end at the end of the month unless the registrants comply with work readiness requirements specified in the notice. A registrant who fails, without good cause, to comply with requirements during this time period, including attendance at orientation, will lose family general assistance or work readiness eligibility without notice under section 256D.101, subdivision 1, paragraph (b). The registrant shall, however, be sent a notice no later than five days after eligibility ends, which informs the registrant that family general assistance or work readiness eligibility has ended in accordance with this section for failure to comply with work readiness requirements. The notice shall set forth the factual basis for such determination and advise the registrant of the right to reinstate eligibility upon a showing of good cause for the failure to meet the requirements. Subsequent assistance must not be issued unless the person completes an application, is determined eligible, and complies with the work readiness requirements that had not been complied with, or demonstrates that the person had good cause for failing to comply with the requirement. The time during which the person is ineligible under these provisions is counted as part of the person's period of eligibility under subdivision 1.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 256D.01, subdivision 1a, paragraph (d), when one member of a married couple has exhausted the five months of work readiness eligibility in a 12-month period and the other member has one or more months of eligibility remaining within the same 12-month period, the standard of assistance applicable to the member who remains eligible is the first adult standard in the aid to families with dependent children program.

(d) Notwithstanding sections 256.045 and 256D.10, during the pendency of an appeal, work readiness payments and services shall not continue to a person who appeals the termination of benefits under paragraph (b).

Subd. 1b. [Repealed, 1991 c 292 art 5 s 82]

Subd. 2. County agency duties. (a) The county agency shall provide to registrants a work readiness program. The work readiness program must include:

(1) orientation to the work readiness program;

(2) an individualized employability assessment and an individualized employability development plan that includes assessment of literacy, ability to communicate in the English language, educational and employment history, and that estimates the length of time it will take the registrant to obtain employment. The employability

assessment and development plan must be completed in consultation with the registrant, must assess the registrant's assets, barriers, and strengths, and must identify steps necessary to overcome barriers to employment. A copy of the employability development plan must be provided to the registrant;

(3) referral to available accredited remedial or skills training programs designed to address registrant's barriers to employment;

(4) referral to available programs including the Minnesota employment and economic development program;

(5) a job search program, including job seeking skills training; and

(6) other activities, to the extent of available resources designed by the county agency to prepare the registrant for permanent employment.

The work readiness program may include a public sector or nonprofit work experience component only if the component is established according to section 268.90.

In order to allow time for job search, the county agency may not require an individual to participate in the work readiness program for more than 32 hours a week. The county agency shall require an individual to spend at least eight hours a week in job search or other work readiness program activities.

(b) The county agency shall prepare an annual plan for the operation of its work readiness program. The plan must be submitted to and approved by the commissioner of jobs and training. The plan must include:

(1) a description of the services to be offered by the county agency;

(2) a plan to coordinate the activities of all public entities providing employment-related services in order to avoid duplication of effort and to provide services more efficiently;

(3) a description of the factors that will be taken into account when determining a client's employability development plan;

(4) provisions to assure that applicants and recipients are evaluated for eligibility for general assistance prior to termination from the work readiness program; and

(5) provisions to ensure that the county agency's employment and training service provider provides each recipient with an orientation, employability assessment, and employability development plan as specified in paragraph (a), clauses (1) and (2), within 30 days of the recipient's application for assistance.

Subd. 3. Registrant duties. In order to receive work readiness assistance, a registrant shall: (1) cooperate with the county agency in all aspects of the work readiness program; (2) accept any suitable employment, including employment offered through the job training partnership act, and other employment and training options; and (3) participate in work readiness activities assigned by the county agency. The county agency may terminate assistance to a registrant who fails to cooperate in the work readiness program, as provided in subdivision 1a.

Subd. 3a. Persons required to register for and participate in the work readiness program. Each person in a work readiness assistance unit who is 18 years old or older must register for and participate in the work readiness program. A person in the assistance unit who is at least 16 years old but less than 19 years old and who is not a full-time secondary school student is required to register and participate. A student who was enrolled as a full-time student during the last school term must be considered a full-time student during summers and school holidays.

Subd. 3b. Work readiness participation requirements. A work readiness registrant meets the work readiness participation requirements if the registrant:

(1) completes the specific tasks or assigned duties that were identified by the county agency in the notice required under section 256D.101, subdivision 1, paragraph (a); and

(2) meets the requirements in subdivisions 3 and 8.

Subd. 3c. [Repealed, 1991 c 292 art 5 s 82]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

Subd. 6. **Service costs.** The commissioner shall reimburse 92 percent of county agency expenditures for providing work readiness services including direct participation expenses and administrative costs, except as provided in section 256.017. State work readiness funds shall be used only to pay the county agency's and work readiness service provider's actual costs of providing participant support services, direct program services, and program administrative costs for persons who participate in work readiness services. Beginning January 1, 1991, the average reimbursable cost per recipient must not exceed \$283 annually. Beginning July 1, 1991, the average annual reimbursable cost for providing work readiness services to a recipient for whom an individualized employability development plan is not completed must not exceed \$60 for the work readiness services, and \$223 for necessary recipient support services such as transportation or child care needed to participate in work readiness services. If an individualized employability development plan has been completed, the annual reimbursable cost for providing work readiness services must not exceed \$283 for all services and costs necessary to implement the plan, including the costs of training, employment search assistance, placement, work experience, on-the-job training, other appropriate activities, the administrative and program costs incurred in providing these services, and necessary recipient support services such as tools, clothing, and transportation needed to participate in work readiness services. Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties, up to the limit of state appropriations, according to the payment schedule in section 256.025 for the county share of costs incurred under this subdivision on or after January 1, 1991. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017.

Subd. 6a. [Repealed, 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 20 subd 3]

Subd. 6b. **Federal reimbursement.** Federal financial participation from the United States Department of Agriculture for work readiness expenditures that are eligible for reimbursement through the food stamp employment and training program are dedicated funds and are annually appropriated to the commissioner of human services for the operation of the work readiness program. Federal financial participation for the nonstate portion of work readiness costs must be paid to the county agency that incurred the costs.

Subd. 7. **Registrant status.** A registrant under this section is not an employee for the purposes of workers' compensation, unemployment insurance compensation, retirement, or civil service laws, and shall not perform work ordinarily performed by a regular public employee.

Subd. 8. **Voluntary quit.** A person who is required to participate in work readiness services is not eligible for general assistance or work readiness payments or services if, without good cause, the person refuses a legitimate offer of, or quits, suitable employment within 60 days before the date of application. A person who is required to participate in work readiness services and, without good cause, voluntarily quits suitable employment or refuses a legitimate offer of suitable employment while receiving general assistance or work readiness payments or services shall be terminated from the general assistance or work readiness program as specified in subdivision 1a.

Subd. 9. **Subcontractors.** A county agency may, at its option, subcontract any or all of the duties under subdivision 2.

Subd. 10. **State aid.** State aid shall be paid to county agencies according to the formula in section 256D.03, subdivision 2, for the costs of providing assistance under this section.

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

Subd. 12. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

Subd. 13. **Right to notice and hearing.** (a) The county agency shall provide notice and opportunity for hearings as required under this section according to section 256D.101, for adverse actions based on a determination that a recipient has failed to

participate in work readiness activities, or 256D.10 for all other adverse actions. A determination made under subdivision 1, that a person is not eligible for general assistance is a denial of general assistance for purposes of notice, appeal, and hearing requirements. The county agency must notify the person that this determination will result in a requirement that the person participate in the work readiness program as a condition of receiving assistance.

Subd. 14. Rulemaking. In consultation with county agencies, the commissioner may adopt permanent and emergency rules to implement this section. The rules must facilitate the employment and training of participants.

Subd. 15. General assistance requirements apply. The laws and rules that apply to general assistance also apply to the work readiness program, unless superseded by a specific inconsistent provision in this section or section 256D.101.

Subd. 16. [Repealed, 1991 c 292 art 5 s 82]

Subd. 17. Start work grants. Within the limit of available appropriations, the county agency may make grants necessary to enable work readiness recipients to accept bona fide offers of employment. The grants may be made for costs directly related to starting employment, including transportation costs, clothing, tools and equipment, license or other fees, and relocation. Start work grants are available once in any 12-month period to a recipient. The commissioner shall allocate money appropriated for start work grants to counties based on each county's work readiness caseload in the 12 months ending in March for each following state fiscal year and may reallocate any unspent amounts.

History: *1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 60; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 75; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 33-37; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 52-65; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 12,22; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 26-30,84; 1986 c 444; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 36-42; 1992 c 513 art 8 s 19,20*

256D.052 LITERACY TRAINING FOR RECIPIENTS.

Subdivision 1. Occupational and vocational programs. The county agency must work with local educational institutions and job training programs in the identification, development, and utilization of occupational and vocational literacy programs for work readiness registrants who are functionally illiterate. Occupational and vocational literacy programs are programs which provide literacy training to adults who lack formal education or job skills. The programs emphasize particular language and reading skills needed for successful job performance.

Subd. 2. Assessment and assignment. The county agency must:

(1) assess existing reading level, learning disabilities, reading potential, and vocational or occupational interests of work readiness registrants who are functionally illiterate;

(2) assign suitable recipients to openings in occupational and vocational literacy programs;

(3) if no openings are available in accessible occupational or vocational literacy programs, assign suitable recipients to openings in other accessible literacy training programs;

(4) reassign to another accessible literacy program any recipient who does not complete an assigned program and who wishes to try another program; and

(5) within the limits of funds available contract with technical colleges or other groups who have literacy instructors trained in occupational literacy methods, to provide literacy training sessions so that county registrants eligible for literacy training will have the opportunity to attend training.

Subd. 3. Services provided. Within the limits of the state appropriation the county agency must provide transportation to enable people to participate in literacy training under this section. The state shall reimburse county agencies for the costs of providing transportation under this section up to the amount of the state appropriation. Counties must make every effort to ensure that child care is available as needed by recipients who are pursuing literacy training.

Subd. 4. Payment of work readiness. The county agency must provide assistance under section 256D.051 to persons who:

(1) participate in a literacy program assigned under subdivision 2. To "participate" means to attend regular classes, complete assignments, and make progress toward literacy goals; or

(2) are not assigned to literacy training because there is no program available or accessible to them.

Notwithstanding contrary provisions of section 256D.051, subdivision 1, a person eligible for assistance under this section is eligible for assistance for a maximum period of seven consecutive calendar months during any 12 consecutive calendar month period, subject to section 256D.051, subdivision 1, paragraph (d). Work readiness payments may be terminated for persons who fail to attend the orientation and participate in the assessment and development of the employment development plan.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133 subd 3; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 20]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133 subd 3; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 20]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133 subd 3; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 20]

History: 1987 c 403 art 3 s 32; 1989 c 246 s 2; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 66-69; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 31,84; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 43,44

256D.06 AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. General assistance shall be granted in an amount that when added to the nonexempt income actually available to the assistance unit, the total amount equals the applicable standard of assistance for general assistance. In determining eligibility for and the amount of assistance for an individual or married couple, the county agency shall disregard the first \$50 of earned income per month.

Subd. 1a. [Repealed, 1983 c 312 art 8 s 17]

Subd. 1b. Earned income savings account. In addition to the \$50 disregard required under subdivision 1, the county agency shall disregard an additional earned income up to a maximum of \$150 per month for: (1) persons residing in facilities licensed under Minnesota Rules, parts 9520.0500 to 9520.0690 and 9530.2500 to 9530.4000, and for whom discharge and work are part of a treatment plan; (2) persons living in supervised apartments with services funded under Minnesota Rules, parts 9535.0100 to 9535.1600, and for whom discharge and work are part of a treatment plan; and (3) persons residing in a negotiated rate residence, as that term is defined in section 256I.03, subdivision 3, for whom the county agency has approved a discharge plan which includes work. The additional amount disregarded must be placed in a separate savings account by the eligible individual, to be used upon discharge from the residential facility into the community. For individuals residing in a chemical dependency program licensed under Minnesota Rules, part 9530.4100, subpart 22, item D, withdrawals from the savings account require the signature of the individual and for those individuals with an authorized representative payee, the signature of the payee. A maximum of \$1,000, including interest, of the money in the savings account must be excluded from the resource limits established by section 256D.08, subdivision 1, clause (1). Amounts in that account in excess of \$1,000 must be applied to the resident's cost of care. If excluded money is removed from the savings account by the eligible individual at any time before the individual is discharged from the facility into the community, the money is income to the individual in the month of receipt and a resource in subsequent months. If an eligible individual moves from a community facility to an inpatient hospital setting, the separate savings account is an excluded asset for up to 18 months. During that time, amounts that accumulate in excess of the \$1,000 savings limit must be applied to the patient's cost of care. If the patient continues to be hospitalized at the conclusion of the 18-month period, the entire account must be applied to the patient's cost of care.

Subd. 1c. [Repealed, 1990 c 568 art 4 s 85]

Subd. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, a grant of general assis-

tance shall be made to an eligible individual, married couple, or family for an emergency need, as defined in rules promulgated by the commissioner, where the recipient requests temporary assistance not exceeding 30 days if an emergency situation appears to exist and the individual is ineligible for the program of emergency assistance under aid to families with dependent children and is not a recipient of aid to families with dependent children at the time of application hereunder. If an applicant or recipient relates facts to the county agency which may be sufficient to constitute an emergency situation, the county agency shall advise the person of the procedure for applying for assistance pursuant to this subdivision.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 20]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 20]

Subd. 5. Any applicant, otherwise eligible for general assistance and possibly eligible for maintenance benefits from any other source shall (a) make application for those benefits within 30 days of the general assistance application; and (b) execute an interim assistance authorization agreement on a form as directed by the commissioner. If found eligible for benefits from other sources, and a payment received from another source relates to the period during which general assistance was also being received, the recipient shall be required to reimburse the county agency for the interim assistance paid. Reimbursement shall not exceed the amount of general assistance paid during the time period to which the other maintenance benefits apply and shall not exceed the state standard applicable to that time period. The commissioner shall adopt rules, and may adopt emergency rules, authorizing county agencies or other client representatives to retain from the amount recovered under an interim assistance agreement 25 percent plus actual reasonable fees, costs, and disbursements of appeals and litigation, of providing special assistance to the recipient in processing the recipient's claim for maintenance benefits from another source. The money retained under this section shall be from the state share of the recovery. The commissioner or the county agency may contract with qualified persons to provide the special assistance. The rules adopted by the commissioner shall include the methods by which county agencies shall identify, refer, and assist recipients who may be eligible for benefits under federal programs for the disabled. This subdivision does not require repayment of per diem payments made to shelters for battered women pursuant to section 256D.05, subdivision 3.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 20]

Subd. 7. **SSI conversions and back claims.** (a) **SSI conversions.** The commissioner of human services shall contract with agencies or organizations capable of ensuring that clients who are presently receiving assistance under sections 256D.01 to 256D.21, and who may be eligible for benefits under the federal Supplemental Security Income program, apply and, when eligible, are converted to the federal income assistance program and made eligible for health care benefits under the medical assistance program. The commissioner shall ensure that money owing to the state under interim assistance agreements is collected.

(b) **Back claims for federal health care benefits.** The commissioner shall also directly or through contract implement procedures for collecting federal Medicare and medical assistance funds for which clients converted to SSI are retroactively eligible.

(c) **Additional requirements.** The commissioner shall begin contracting with agencies to ensure implementation of this section within 14 days after April 29, 1992. County contracts with providers for residential services shall include the requirement that providers screen residents who may be eligible for federal benefits and provide that information to the local agency. The commissioner shall modify the MAXIS computer system to provide information on clients who have been on general assistance for two years or longer. The list of clients shall be provided to local services for screening under this section.

(d) **Report.** The commissioner shall report to the legislature by January 15, 1993, on the implementation of this section. The report shall contain information on the following:

- (1) the number of clients converted from general assistance to SSI, by county;
- (2) information on the organizations involved;
- (3) the amount of money collected through interim assistance agreements;
- (4) the amount of money collected in federal Medicare or Medicaid funds;
- (5) problems encountered in processing conversions and back claims; and
- (6) recommended changes to enhance recoveries and maximize the receipt of federal money in the most efficient way possible.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 6; 1977 c 301 s 4; 1980 c 536 s 12,13; 1980 c 614 s 131; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 37,38; 1983 c 312 art 8 s 7; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 641 s 25; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 31; 1985 c 252 s 25; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 38-40; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 189-191; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 32,84; 1991 c 292 art 4 s 70; 1992 c 406 s 1; 1992 c 513 art 8 s 21,22

256D.065 GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND WORK READINESS PAYMENTS FOR NEW RESIDENTS.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21, otherwise eligible applicants without minor children, who have been residing in the state less than six months, shall be granted general assistance and work readiness payments in an amount that, when added to the nonexempt income actually available to the applicant, shall equal 60 percent of the amount that the applicant would be eligible to receive under section 256D.06, subdivision 1. A person may receive benefits in excess of this amount, equal to the lesser of the benefits actually received in the last state of residence or the maximum benefits allowable under section 256D.06, subdivision 1. To receive the higher benefit amount, the person must provide verification of the amount of assistance received in the last state of residence. Nonexempt income is the income considered available under Minnesota Rules, parts 9500.1200 to 9500.1270.

History: 1991 c 292 art 5 s 45

256D.07 TIME OF PAYMENT OF ASSISTANCE.

An applicant for general assistance or general assistance medical care authorized by section 256D.03, subdivision 3, shall be deemed eligible if the application and the verification of the statement on that application demonstrate that the applicant is within the eligibility criteria established by sections 256D.01 to 256D.21 and any applicable rules of the commissioner. Any person requesting general assistance or general assistance medical care shall be permitted by the county agency to make an application for assistance as soon as administratively possible and in no event later than the fourth day following the date on which assistance is first requested, and no county agency shall require that a person requesting assistance appear at the offices of the county agency more than once prior to the date on which the person is permitted to make the application. The application shall be in writing in the manner and upon the form prescribed by the commissioner and attested to by the oath of the applicant or in lieu thereof shall contain the following declaration which shall be signed by the applicant: "I declare that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is a true and correct statement of every material point." On the date that general assistance is first requested, the county agency shall inquire and determine whether the person requesting assistance is in immediate need of food, shelter, clothing, assistance for necessary transportation, or other emergency assistance pursuant to section 256D.06, subdivision 2. A person in need of emergency assistance shall be granted emergency assistance immediately, and necessary emergency assistance shall continue for up to 30 days following the date of application. A determination of an applicant's eligibility for general assistance shall be made by the county agency as soon as the required verifications are received by the county agency and in no event later than 30 days following the date that the application is made. Any verifications required of the applicant shall be reasonable, and the commissioner shall by rule establish reasonable verifications. General assistance shall be granted to an eligible applicant without the necessity of first securing action by the board of the county agency. The first month's grant must be com-

puted to cover the time period starting with the date a signed application form is received by the county agency or from the date that the applicant meets all eligibility factors, whichever occurs later.

If upon verification and due investigation it appears that the applicant provided false information and the false information materially affected the applicant's eligibility for general assistance or general assistance medical care provided pursuant to section 256D.03, subdivision 3, or the amount of the applicant's general assistance grant, the county agency may refer the matter to the county attorney. The county attorney may commence a criminal prosecution or a civil action for the recovery of any general assistance wrongfully received, or both.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 7; 1979 c 237 s 1; 1980 c 536 s 14; 1981 c 40 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 192; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 46

256D.08 EXCLUSION FROM RESOURCES.

Subdivision 1. In determining eligibility of a family, married couple, or individual there shall be excluded the following resources:

(1) Real or personal property or liquid assets which do not exceed those permitted under the federally aided assistance program known as aid to families with dependent children; and

(2) Other property which has been determined, in accordance with and subject to limitations contained in rules promulgated by the commissioner, to be essential to the family or individual as a means of self-support or self-care or which is producing income that is being used for the support of the individual or family. The commissioner shall further provide by rule the conditions for those situations in which property not excluded under this subdivision may be retained by the family or individual where there is a reasonable probability that in the foreseeable future the property will be used for the self-support of the individual or family; and

(3) Payments, made pursuant to litigation and subsequent appropriation by the United States Congress, of funds to compensate members of Indian tribes for the taking of tribal land by the federal government.

Subd. 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of sections 256D.01 to 256D.21, the commissioner shall provide by rule for the exclusion of property from the determination of eligibility for general assistance when it appears likely that the need for general assistance will not exceed 30 days or an undue hardship would be imposed on an individual or family by the forced disposal of the property.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 8; 1979 c 250 s 2; 1980 c 536 s 15, 16; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 41

256D.09 FORM OF PAYMENT; VENDOR PAYMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Presumptive eligibility; vendor payments.** Until the county agency has determined the initial eligibility of the applicant in accordance with section 256D.07 or 256D.051, grants for emergency general assistance and work readiness assistance must be in the form of vouchers or vendor payments unless the county agency determines that a cash grant will best resolve the applicant's need for emergency assistance. Thereafter, grants of general assistance must be paid in cash on the first day of the month, except as allowed in this section.

Subd. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, the commissioner shall provide by rule, and may adopt emergency rules, for situations in which vouchers or vendor payments may be issued by county agencies because of the inability of the recipient to manage a general assistance grant for personal or family benefit.

Subd. 2a. **Representative payee.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1, the commissioner shall adopt rules, and may adopt emergency rules, governing the assignment of a representative payee and management of the general assistance or work readiness assistance grant of a drug dependent person as defined in section 254A.02, subdivision 5. The representative payee is responsible for deciding how the drug dependent person's benefits

can best be used to meet that person's needs. The determination of drug dependency must be made by an assessor qualified under Minnesota Rules, part 9530.6615, subpart 2, to perform an assessment of chemical use. Upon receipt of the assessor's determination of drug dependency, the county shall determine whether a representative payee will be assigned to manage the person's benefits. The chemical use assessment, the decision to refer a person for the assessment, and the county determination of whether a representative payee will be assigned are subject to the administrative and judicial review provisions of section 256.045. However, notwithstanding any provision of section 256.045 to the contrary, an applicant or recipient who is referred for an assessment and is otherwise eligible to receive a general assistance or work readiness benefit, may only be provided with emergency general assistance or vendor payments pending the outcome of an administrative or judicial review. If, at the time of application or at any other time, there is a reasonable basis for questioning whether a person is drug dependent, the person may be referred for a chemical health assessment, and only emergency assistance payments or general assistance vendor payments may be provided until the assessment is complete and the results of the assessment made available to the county agency. A reasonable basis for questioning whether a person is drug dependent exists when:

- (1) the person has required detoxification two or more times in the past 12 months;
- (2) the person appears intoxicated at the county agency as indicated by two or more of the following:
 - (i) the odor of alcohol;
 - (ii) slurred speech;
 - (iii) disconjugate gaze;
 - (iv) impaired balance;
 - (v) difficulty remaining awake;
 - (vi) consumption of alcohol;
 - (vii) responding to sights or sounds that are not actually present;
 - (viii) extreme restlessness, fast speech, or unusual belligerence;
- (3) the person has been involuntarily committed for drug dependency at least once in the past 12 months; or
- (4) the person has received treatment, including domiciliary care, for drug abuse or dependency at least twice in the past 12 months.

The assignment to representative payee status must be reviewed at least every 12 months. The county agency shall designate the representative payee after consultation with the recipient. The county agency shall select the representative payee from appropriate individuals, or public or nonprofit agencies, including those suggested by the recipient, but the county agency's designation of representative payee prevails, subject to the administrative and judicial review provisions of section 256.045.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1992 c 513 art 8 s 59]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1991 c 292 art 5 s 82]

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 9; 1980 c 536 s 17; 1981 c 40 s 2; 1983 c 312 art 8 s 8,9; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 61,62; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 30; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 506 s 1; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 33,84

256D.091 GRANT DIVERSION.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) "Diverted grant" means the amount of the general assistance grant or work readiness assistance payment, not exceeding the standard of assistance for one person, that is available for a wage subsidy.

(b) "Net monthly wage" means the income remaining to a registrant after taking the disregards and exclusions from income under section 256D.06.

(c) "Registrant" means a recipient of general assistance or work assistance who is participating in a grant diversion employment and employment-related program.

Subd. 2. Grant diversion program. (a) The county agency may establish a grant diversion program for payment of all or a part of a recipient's general assistance or work readiness grant to a private or nonprofit employer who agrees to employ the recipient in a permanent job or to a public employer who agrees to employ the recipient in a permanent job or an approved community investment program. The county agency may administer and deliver grant diversions directly or may contract for delivery of the program according to section 268.871.

(b) The county agency shall assess a registrant's continued eligibility for general assistance or work readiness assistance before the end of the registrant's grant diversion period.

(c) The county agency shall submit fiscal and summary reports required by the commissioner.

Subd. 3. Registrant participation. (a) A recipient may refuse employment or employment-related training under the grant diversion program unless the recipient lacks a work history or local work reference and the recipient's employability plan requires participation in a community investment program.

(b) A recipient may participate in a grant diversion program for up to four months.

(c) During participation in the grant diversion program, a registrant must submit to the county agency the monthly food stamp eligibility household report form.

Subd. 4. Contract with grant diversion employer. The county agency or the local service unit shall enter into a written contract with a grant diversion employer. The contract must include:

- (1) the period of time the diverted grant is available;
- (2) the amount of the monthly diverted grant;
- (3) the method of payment of the diverted grant;
- (4) data gathering and reporting requirements;
- (5) agreement by the employer not to terminate or reduce the working hours of current employees in order to participate in the grant diversion program;
- (6) agreement by the employer to provide the registrant the same or a comparable level of wages, fringe benefits, and workers' compensation coverage that are provided other employees; and
- (7) agreement by the employer to hire the registrant at the end of the grant diversion period.

Subd. 5. Notice to registrant. The county agency or local service unit shall provide the registrant written notice of the terms of the registrant's grant diversion program, including:

- (1) the requirement to complete the period of subsidized employment or employment-related training specified in the contract;
- (2) the date of the first day of employment or employment-related training;
- (3) the name, address, and occupational title of the employer;
- (4) the hourly wage and the number of work hours per week;
- (5) the effect of participation on work readiness eligibility;
- (6) the maximum period of participation and the months the registrant's grant will be diverted;
- (7) the amount of the diverted grant and the amount of any residual assistance grant; and
- (8) the actions to be taken if the registrant fails to complete the grant diversion participation period.

The county agency shall maintain a copy of the notice in the registrant's case file.

Subd. 6. Grant diversion monthly payment. (a) The county agency shall calculate and pay the diverted grant directly to the registrant's employer or shall reimburse an employment and training service provider that has paid the employer. The amount of monthly payment available to an employer under the grant diversion program must not exceed the monthly standard of assistance for one person.

(b) If a registrant is receiving assistance as a member of an assistance unit, the monthly payment to the assistance unit may be reduced only by the amount of the assistance standard for one person.

(c) Notwithstanding any change in resources, household, or income of the registrant or the registrant's assistance unit, eligibility for work readiness and the amount of monthly payment is not subject to change during the grant diversion period if the registrant is participating in the grant diversion program as required in the notice provided under subdivision 5.

Subd. 7. Medical care. A registrant is eligible for general assistance medical care during the term of the grant diversion contract.

Subd. 8. Child care. A recipient who is the sole adult in an assistance unit with one or more children under 12 years of age must not be referred to the grant diversion program during hours the child is in the home unless the county agency pays any child care expenses that exceed the child care deduction from earned income.

Subd. 9. Disqualification. A registrant who fails without good cause to complete the grant diversion period specified in the contract must be disqualified from receiving assistance as provided in section 256D.101.

History: 1992 c 513 art 8 s 23

256D.10 HEARINGS PRIOR TO REDUCTION; TERMINATION; SUSPENSION OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

No grant of general assistance except one made pursuant to section 256D.06, subdivision 2; 256D.051, subdivisions 1, paragraph (d), and 1a, paragraph (b); or 256D.08, subdivision 2, shall be reduced, terminated or suspended unless the recipient receives notice and is afforded an opportunity to be heard prior to any action by the county agency.

Nothing herein shall deprive a recipient of the right to full administrative and judicial review of an order or determination of a county agency as provided for in section 256.045 subsequent to any action taken by a county agency after a prior hearing.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 10; 1980 c 509 s 103; 1980 c 536 s 18; 1986 c 444; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 47

256D.101 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH WORK REQUIREMENTS; NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. Notice requirements. (a) At the time a registrant is registered for the work readiness program, and on the first day of each month of services after that, the county agency shall provide, in advance, a clear, written description of the specific tasks and assigned duties which the mandatory registrant must complete to receive general assistance or work readiness pay. The notice must explain that the registrant will be terminated from the work readiness program at the end of the month if the registrant fails without good cause to comply with work readiness requirements, and must include the name, location, and telephone number of a person or persons the registrant may contact to discuss the registrant's work readiness compliance obligations.

(b) For a recipient who has failed to provide the county agency with a mailing address, the recipient must be assigned a schedule by which a recipient is to visit the agency to pick up any notices. For a recipient without a mailing address, notices must be deemed delivered on the date of the registrant's next scheduled visit with the county agency.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1991 c 292 art 5 s 82]

Subd. 3. Benefits after notification. Assistance payments otherwise due to the registrant under section 256D.051 may not be paid after the notification required in subdivision 1 has been provided to the registrant unless, before the date stated in the notification, the registrant takes the specified action necessary to achieve compliance. Appeals of terminations from the work readiness program shall be heard within 30 days of the date that the appeal was filed.

History: 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 63; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 42; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 70; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 48,49

256D.11 [Repealed, 1981 c 360 art 2 s 52]

256D.111 REGISTRATION FOR WORK; TERMINATION.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 104]

Subd. 1a. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 78 subd 1]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 104]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 104]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 104]

Subd. 5. **Rulemaking.** The commissioner shall adopt rules and is authorized to adopt emergency rules:

(a) providing for termination from the receipt of general assistance or work readiness assistance for a recipient who has been determined to have failed to comply with work requirements or the requirements of the work readiness program;

(b) providing for the use of vouchers or vendor payments with respect to the family of a recipient terminated for failure to comply with requirements of the work readiness program; and

(c) providing that at the time of the approval of an application for assistance, the county agency gives to the recipient a written notice in plain and easily understood language describing the recipient's job registration, search, and acceptance obligations, and the disqualification that will be imposed for a failure to comply with those obligations.

History: 1983 c 312 art 8 s 10; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 32-35; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 64; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 71; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 50

256D.112 [Repealed, 1983 c 312 art 8 s 18; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 78 subd 1]

256D.113 EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Creation and purpose.** A county that does not have an approved community investment program may, in cooperation with the commissioner of jobs and training, establish a locally administered employment experience program for persons receiving work readiness assistance. The purpose of the program is to help recipients achieve self-sufficiency by enhancing their employability through training and work experience.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner of jobs and training.** The commissioner of jobs and training shall assist counties in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the employment experience program. The commissioner of jobs and training may make emergency and permanent rules to carry out this section.

Subd. 3. **Responsibility; county boards of commissioners.** A county may establish an employment experience program and may assign work to the recipient that the recipient is able to perform. Work performed through this program must not displace persons currently employed or fill an established vacant position. The county must provide workers' compensation or other comparable protection for an employment experience participant. A participant is not eligible for unemployment compensation, and is not an employee of the state of Minnesota within the meaning of section 43A.02, subdivision 21.

Subd. 4. **Participation requirements.** A county may require a registrant under section 256D.051 to participate in an employment experience program. If possible, the recipient must be placed in other employment and training services, including grant diversion or training, before placement in an employment experience program. The county may terminate assistance payments provided for by this chapter for a recipient who may be required to participate in an employment experience program but who refuses to participate in an employment experience program or other employment and training services.

Subd. 5. **Participant reimbursement.** A participant is required to participate in an

employment experience program for no more than the number of hours equal to the work readiness assistance payment divided by the state minimum wage. A county shall provide transportation, child care, and work related expenses according to standards prescribed by the commissioner of jobs and training.

History: *1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 31; 1986 c 444*

256D.12 [Repealed, 1976 c 131 s 2]

256D.13 MANDAMUS TO COMPEL PAYMENT OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 256.045 providing for administrative and judicial review of county agency determinations, a person denied general assistance by the county agency may apply to the district court of the county in which the person's application was filed and the district court shall order the payment of general assistance if the person establishes:

(1) The substantial likelihood of eligibility for and entitlement to general assistance, and

(2) The person or family will suffer irreparable injury if general assistance is not granted without delay.

Subd. 2. The denial by a district court of a writ of mandamus shall not affect the right or scope of administrative or judicial review as set forth in section 256.045.

History: *1973 c 650 art 21 s 13; 1980 c 509 s 104; 1980 c 536 s 27; 1986 c 444; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84*

256D.14 VIOLATIONS.

Whoever obtains or attempts to obtain, or aids or abets any person to obtain by means of a willfully false statement or representation, or by the intentional withholding or concealment of a material fact, or by impersonation, or other fraudulent device:

(1) Assistance to which the person is not entitled; or

(2) Assistance greater than that to which the person is reasonably entitled;

shall be considered to have violated section 256.98, and shall be subject to both the criminal and civil penalties provided therein.

History: *1973 c 650 art 21 s 14; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 39; 1986 c 444*

256D.15 RELATIVE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

The financial responsibility of a relative for an applicant for or recipient of general assistance or work readiness shall not extend beyond the relationship of a spouse or a parent of an adult child who resides with the parent, or the parent of a minor child regardless of where the minor child resides, or a family member who resides with the applicant or recipient.

History: *1973 c 650 art 21 s 15; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 37; 1987 c 403 art 3 s 43*

256D.16 GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO BE ALLOWED AS CLAIM IN PROBATE COURT.

On the death of any person who received any general assistance under sections 256D.01 to 256D.21, or on the death of the survivor of a married couple, either or both of whom received general assistance, the total amount paid as general assistance to either or both, without interest, shall be allowed as a claim against the estate of such person or persons by the court having jurisdiction to probate the estate.

History: *1973 c 650 art 21 s 16; 1980 c 536 s 28*

256D.17 DATA PROCESSING PROCEDURES.

The county agency shall, to the extent permitted by federal law or regulation, in addition to any other necessary records and procedures, provide for the inclusion of

all general assistance records in any data processing system established for the medical assistance program, in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 17; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256D.18 [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

256D.19 ABOLITION OF TOWNSHIP SYSTEM OF POOR RELIEF.

Subdivision 1. The town system for caring for the poor in each of the counties in which it is in effect is hereby abolished. The county welfare board of each county shall administer general assistance under the provisions of Laws 1973, chapter 650, article 21.

Subd. 2. All county welfare boards affected by Laws 1973, chapter 650, article 21 are hereby authorized to take over for the county as of January 1, 1974, the ownership of all case records relating to the administration of poor relief.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 19

256D.20 TRANSFER OF TOWN EMPLOYEES.

Subdivision 1. The term "merit system" as used herein shall mean the rules for a merit system of personnel administration for employees of county welfare boards adopted by the commissioner of human services in accordance with the provisions of section 393.07, including the merit system established for Hennepin county pursuant to Laws 1965, chapter 855, as amended, the federal social security article as amended, and merit system standards and regulations issued by the federal social security board and the United States children's bureau.

Subd. 2. All employees of any municipality or town who are engaged full time in poor relief work therein on January 1, 1974 shall be retained as employees of the county and placed under the jurisdiction of its welfare board.

All transferred employees shall be blanketed into the merit system with comparable status, classification, longevity, and seniority, and subject to the administrative requirements of the county welfare board. Employees with permanent status under any civil service provision on January 1, 1974 shall be granted permanent status under the merit system at comparable classifications and in accordance with work assignments made under the authority of the county welfare board as provided by the merit system rules.

The determination of proper job allocation shall be the responsibility of the personnel officer or director as provided under merit system rules applicable to the county involved with the right of appeal of allocation to the merit system council or personnel board by any employee affected by this transfer.

All transferred employees shall receive salaries for the classification to which they are allocated in accordance with the schedule in effect for county welfare board employees and at a salary step which they normally would have received had they been employed by the county welfare board for the same period of service they had previously served under the civil service provisions of any municipality or town; provided, however, that no salary shall be reduced as a result of the transfer.

All accumulated sick leave of transferred employees in the amount of 60 days or less shall be transferred to the records of the county welfare board and such accumulated sick leave shall be the legal liability of the county welfare board. All accumulated sick leave in excess of 60 days shall be paid in cash to transferred employees by the municipality or town by which they were employed prior to their transfer, at the time of transfer. In lieu of the cash payment, the municipality or town shall, at the option of the employee concerned, allow a leave of absence with pay, prior to transfer, for all or part of the accumulated sick leave.

Subd. 3. Employees of municipalities and towns engaged in the work of administering poor relief who are not covered by civil service provisions shall be blanketed into the merit system subject to a qualifying examination. Employees with one year or more

service shall be subject to a qualifying examination and those with less than one year's service shall be subject to an open competitive examination.

Subd. 4. All vacation leave of employees referred to in subdivision 2, accumulated prior to their transfer to county employment shall be paid in cash to them by the municipality or town by which they were employed prior to their transfer, and at the time of their transfer. In lieu of the cash payment, the municipality or town shall, at the option of the employee concerned, allow a leave of absence with pay, prior to such transfer, for all or part of the accumulated vacation time.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 20; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

256D.21 CONTINUATION OF RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR FORMER MINNEAPOLIS EMPLOYEES.

Subdivision 1. Each employee of the city of Minneapolis who is transferred to and employed by the county under the provisions of section 256D.20 and who is a contributing member of a retirement system organized under the provisions of chapter 422A, shall continue to be a member of that system and entitled to all of the benefits conferred thereby and subject to all the restrictions of chapter 422A, unless the member applies to cancel membership within six months after January 1, 1974.

Subd. 2. The cost to the public of that portion of the retirement allowances or other benefits accrued while any such employee was in the service of the city of Minneapolis shall remain an obligation of the city and a tax shall be levied and collected by it to discharge its obligation as provided by chapter 422A.

Subd. 3. The cost to the public of the retirement allowances or other benefits accruing to employees so transferred to and employed by the county shall be the obligation of and paid by the county at such time as the retirement board shall fix and determine in accordance with chapter 422A. The county shall pay to the municipal retirement fund an amount certified to the county auditor of the county by the retirement board as the cost of the retirement allowances and other benefits accruing and owing to such county employees. The cost to the public of the retirement allowances as herein provided shall be paid from the county revenue fund by the county auditor upon receipt of certification from the retirement board as herein provided, and the county board is authorized to levy and collect such taxes as may be necessary to pay such costs.

History: 1973 c 650 art 21 s 21; 1976 c 239 s 82; 1986 c 444

256D.22 [Repealed, 1988 c 719 art 8 s 33]

MINNESOTA SUPPLEMENTAL AID ACT

256D.33 CITATION.

Sections 256D.33 to 256D.54 may be cited as the Minnesota supplemental aid act.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 72

256D.34 POLICY.

The purpose of sections 256D.33 to 256D.54 is to (1) provide a sound administrative structure for public assistance programs; (2) maximize the use of federal funds for public assistance purposes; and (3) provide an integrated public assistance program for all Minnesota residents who are recipients of supplemental security income or who, except for excess income, would be receiving supplemental security income and who are found to have maintenance needs as determined by application of state standards of assistance according to section 256D.44.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 73

256D.35 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The terms defined in this section shall have the meanings given them. The definitions in this section apply to sections 256D.33 to 256D.54.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 2a. **Aged.** "Aged" means having reached age 65 or reaching the age of 65 during the month of application.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 3a. **Assistance unit.** "Assistance unit" means the individual applicant or recipient.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 4a. **Blind.** "Blind" means the condition of a person whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or, if visual acuity is greater than 20/200, the condition is accompanied by limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees. A person who receives supplemental security income based on other visual disabilities may also be eligible for the Minnesota supplemental aid program.

Subd. 5. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of human services or a designee.

Subd. 6. "Department" means the department of human services.

Subd. 7. "County agency" means the county welfare boards in the several counties of the state except that it may also include any multicounty welfare boards or departments where those have been established in accordance with law.

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 8a. **Disability.** "Disability" means disability as determined under the criteria used by the Title II program of the Social Security Act.

Subd. 8b. **Emergency.** "Emergency" means circumstances that demand immediate action to safeguard against threats to health or safety of an individual.

Subd. 8c. **Financially responsible relative.** "Financially responsible relative" means a spouse or a parent of a minor child.

Subd. 8d. **Good cause.** "Good cause" means a reason for taking an action or failing to take an action that is reasonable and justified when viewed in the context of surrounding circumstances.

Subd. 9. **Homestead.** "Homestead" means a shelter in which the individual or the spouse with whom the individual lives has an ownership interest, and that is the principal residence of the individual, spouse, or the individual's minor or disabled child. The home may be either real or personal property, fixed or mobile, and located on land or water. The home includes all the land that appertains to it and buildings located on that land.

Subd. 10. **Gross income.** "Gross income" means the total amount of earned and unearned money received in a month before any deductions or disregards are applied.

Subd. 11. **In-kind income.** "In-kind income" means income, benefits, or payments that are provided in a form other than money or liquid asset. In-kind income includes goods, produce, services, privileges, or payments on behalf of a person by a third party; except benefits of the recipient, such as those administered by the Social Security Administration, that are paid to a representative payee, and are spent on behalf of the applicant or recipient, are not in-kind income, but are considered available income of the applicant or recipient.

Subd. 12. **Lump sum.** "Lump sum" means money received on an irregular or unexpected basis.

Subd. 13. **Maintenance benefit.** "Maintenance benefit" means cash payments, other than Minnesota supplemental aid, provided under law or rule. Maintenance benefit includes workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, railroad retirement, veterans benefits, supplemental security income, social security disability insurance, or other benefits identified by the county agency that provide periodic benefits that can be used to meet the basic needs of the assistance unit.

Subd. 14. **Negotiated rate.** "Negotiated rate" means a monthly rate for payment

for room and board for an individual living in a group living arrangement according to sections 256I.01 to 256I.06. This rate may be fully or partially paid from the Minnesota supplemental aid program depending on the net income of the assistance unit.

Subd. 15. **Net income.** "Net income" means monthly income remaining after allowable deductions and disregards are subtracted from gross income.

Subd. 16. **Overpayment.** "Overpayment" means an amount of Minnesota supplemental aid paid to a recipient that exceeds the amount to which the recipient is entitled for that month.

Subd. 17. **Potential eligibility.** "Potential eligibility" means a determination by a county agency that an assistance unit or a financially responsible relative appears to meet the eligibility requirements of another maintenance benefit program.

Subd. 18. **Retirement, survivors, and disability insurance.** "Retirement, survivors, and disability insurance" means benefits paid under the federal program for retired, disabled, and surviving spouses of retired or disabled individuals under Title II of the Social Security Act.

Subd. 19. **Shelter costs.** "Shelter costs" means monthly costs for rent, mortgage payments, contract for deed payments, property taxes, and insurance on real or personal property, and utilities; for the home in which the recipient lives and for which the recipient is legally responsible.

Subd. 20. **Supplemental security income.** "Supplemental security income" means benefits paid under the federal program of supplemental security income for the aged, blind, and disabled under Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

History: 1974 c 487 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1985 c 248 s 70; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 193; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 74-93; 1990 c 426 art 2 s 1; 1992 c 513 art 8 s 24

256D.36 STATE PARTICIPATION.

Subdivision 1. **State participation.** (a) **Eligibility.** Commencing January 1, 1974, the commissioner shall certify to each county agency the names of all county residents who were eligible for and did receive aid during December, 1973, pursuant to a categorical aid program of old age assistance, aid to the blind, or aid to the disabled. The amount of supplemental aid for each individual eligible under this section shall be calculated according to the formula in title II, section 212(a) (3) of Public Law Number 93-66, as amended.

(b) **Division costs.** From and after January 1, 1980, until January 1, 1981, the state shall pay 70 percent and the county shall pay 30 percent of the supplemental aid calculated for each county resident certified under this section who is an applicant for or recipient of supplemental security income. After December 31, 1980, the state share of aid paid shall be 85 percent and the county share shall be 15 percent. Benefits shall be issued to recipients by the state or county and funded according to section 256.025, subdivision 3, subject to provisions of section 256.017.

Beginning July 1, 1991, the state will reimburse counties according to the payment schedule in section 256.025 for the county share of county agency expenditures for financial benefits to individuals under this subdivision from January 1, 1991, on. Payment to counties under this subdivision is subject to the provisions of section 256.017.

Subd. 1a. A negotiated rate payment made according to sections 256I.01 to 256I.06, for a person who is eligible for Minnesota supplemental aid, under sections 256D.33 to 256D.54, is a Minnesota supplemental aid payment for purposes of meeting the total expenditures test under the supplemental security income program state supplement program.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

History: 1974 c 487 s 2; 1979 c 303 art 2 s 3; 1980 c 607 art 2 s 4; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 719 art 8 s 21; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 94,95; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 16 s 13; 1990 c 426 art 2 s 1; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1991 c 292 art 5 s 51

256D.37 NURSING HOME RECIPIENTS; STANDARD OF ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. When a recipient is a resident of a nursing home, regional treatment center, or a residence with a negotiated rate, the recipient is not eligible for a shelter standard, a basic needs standard, or for special needs payments. The state standard of assistance for those recipients is the personal needs allowance for medical assistance recipients under section 256B.35.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1987 c 363 s 14]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1988 c 411 s 9]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 11. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 12. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 13. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

Subd. 14. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

History: 1974 c 487 s 3; 1977 c 448 s 9; 1979 c 303 art 2 s 4; 1980 c 527 s 2,3; 1983 c 151 s 3; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1Sp1985 c 9 art 2 s 65,66; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 29; 1987 c 197 s 6; 1987 c 333 s 19; 1987 c 384 art 3 s 6; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 108; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 194-204; 1989 c 282 art 5 s 96

256D.38 [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

256D.385 RESIDENCE.

To be eligible for Minnesota supplemental aid, a person must be a resident of Minnesota and (1) a citizen of the United States, (2) an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, or (3) otherwise permanently residing in the United States under color of law as defined by the supplemental security income program.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 97

256D.39 [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

NOTE: This section was also amended by Laws 1989, chapter 89, section 13, to read as follows:

"256D.39 Fiscal and administrative procedures.

The commissioner of human services shall supervise county administration of supplemental aid, and shall, by rule, establish necessary administrative and fiscal procedures. The procedures may include, but not be limited to:

(a) Procedures for processing claims of the counties for reimbursement by the state for expenditures made by the counties that include requirements for reports, including fiscal reports, required under section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (17);

(b) Procedures by which county liability for supplemental aid may be deducted from state liability to the county under any other public assistance program authorized by law;

(c) Procedures by which the local agencies may contract with the commissioner of human services for state administration of supplemental aid."

256D.395 APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. **Information.** The county agency shall provide information about the program and application procedures to a person who inquires about Minnesota supplemental aid.

Subd. 2. **Filing of application.** The county agency must immediately provide an application form to any person requesting Minnesota supplemental aid. Application for Minnesota supplemental aid must be in writing on a form prescribed by the commis-

sioner. The county agency must determine an applicant's eligibility for Minnesota supplemental aid as soon as the required verifications are received by the county agency and within 30 days after a signed application is received by the county agency for the aged or blind or within 60 days for the disabled. The amount of the first grant of Minnesota supplemental aid awarded to an applicant must be computed to cover the time period starting with the first day of the month in which the county agency received the signed and dated application or the first day of the month in which all eligibility factors were met, whichever is later.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 98

256D.40 [Repealed, 1976 c 131 s 2]

256D.405 VERIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. Verification. The county agency shall request, and applicants and recipients shall provide and verify, all information necessary to determine initial and continuing eligibility and assistance payment amounts. If necessary, the county agency shall assist the applicant or recipient in obtaining verifications. If the applicant or recipient refuses or fails without good cause to provide the information or verification, the county agency shall deny or terminate assistance.

Subd. 2. Redetermination of eligibility. The eligibility of each recipient must be redetermined at least once every 12 months.

Subd. 3. Reports. Recipients must report changes in circumstances that affect eligibility or assistance payment amounts within ten days of the change. Recipients with earned income, and recipients who have income allocated to them from a financially responsible relative with whom the recipient resides, must complete a monthly household report form. If the report form is not received before the end of the month in which it is due, the county agency must terminate assistance. The termination shall be effective on the first day of the month following the month in which the report was due. If a complete report is received within the month the assistance was terminated, the assistance unit is considered to have continued its application for assistance, effective the first day of the month the assistance was terminated.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 99

256D.41 [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

256D.415 RESIDENCE; COUNTY OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

The county of financial responsibility is the county specified in section 256G.02, subdivision 4.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 100

256D.42 [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

256D.425 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

Subdivision 1. Persons entitled to receive aid. A person who is aged, blind, or 18 years of age or older and disabled, whose income is less than the standards of assistance in section 256D.44 and whose resources are less than the limits in subdivision 2 is eligible for and entitled to Minnesota supplemental aid. A person found eligible by the Social Security Administration for supplemental security income under Title XVI on the basis of age, blindness, or disability meets these requirements. A person who would be eligible for the supplemental security income program except for income that exceeds the limit of that program but that is within the limits of the Minnesota supplemental aid program, must have blindness or disability determined by the state medical review team.

Subd. 2. Resource standards. The resource standards and restrictions for supplemental aid under this section shall be those used to determine eligibility for disabled individuals in the supplemental security income program.

Subd. 3. **Transfers.** The transfer policies and procedures of the Minnesota supplemental aid program are those used by the general assistance medical care program under section 256D.03, subdivision 3, paragraph (e), except that a resource that is transferred while otherwise excluded under subdivision 2 is not an available resource for purposes of eligibility for Minnesota supplemental aid.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 101; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 90

256D.43 [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 5 s 133]

256D.435 INCOME.

Subdivision 1. **Exclusions.** The following is excluded from income in determining eligibility for Minnesota supplemental aid:

- (1) the value of food stamps;
- (2) home-produced food used by the household;
- (3) Indian claim payments made by the United States Congress to compensate members of Indian tribes for the taking of tribal lands by the federal government;
- (4) cash payments to displaced persons who face relocation as a result of the Housing Act of 1965, the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, or the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970;
- (5) one-third of child support payments received by an eligible child from an absent parent;
- (6) displaced homemaker payments;
- (7) reimbursement received for maintenance costs of providing foster care to adults or children;
- (8) benefits received under Title IV and Title VII of the Older Americans Act of 1965;
- (9) Minnesota renter or homeowner property tax refunds;
- (10) infrequent, irregular income that does not total more than \$20 per person in a month;
- (11) reimbursement payments received from the VISTA program;
- (12) in-kind income;
- (13) payments received for providing volunteer services under Title I, Title II, and Title III of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973;
- (14) loans that have to be repaid;
- (15) federal low-income heating assistance program payments;
- (16) any other type of funds excluded as income by state law;
- (17) student financial aid, as allowed for the supplemental security income program; and
- (18) other income excluded by the supplemental security income program.

Subd. 2. **Self-support plans.** The county agency shall, for up to 36 months, disregard amounts of an individual's income and resources that are needed to fulfill a plan of self-support approved by the county agency, but only for the period during substantially all of which the individual is actually undergoing vocational rehabilitation. If an individual has a plan for self-support approved by the Social Security Administration, the county agency shall disregard income and resources in the amount and for the time approved in that plan.

Subd. 3. **Application for federally funded benefits.** Persons for whom the applicant or recipient has financial responsibility and who have unmet needs must apply for and, if eligible, accept AFDC and other federally funded benefits. If the persons are determined potentially eligible for AFDC by the county agency, the applicant or recipient may not allocate earned or unearned income to those persons while an AFDC application is pending, or after the persons are determined eligible for AFDC. If the persons are determined potentially eligible for other federal benefits, the applicant or recipient

may only allocate income to those persons until they are determined eligible for those other benefits unless the amount of those benefits is less than the amount in subdivision 4.

Subd. 4. Allocation of income. The rate of allocation to relatives for whom the applicant or recipient is financially responsible is one-half the individual supplemental security income standard of assistance, except as restricted in subdivision 3.

If the applicant or recipient shares a residence with another person who has financial responsibility for the applicant or recipient, the income of that person is considered available to the applicant or recipient after allowing: (1) the deductions in subdivisions 7 and 8; and (2) a deduction for the needs of the financially responsible relative and others in the household for whom that relative is financially responsible. The rate allowed to meet the needs of each of these people is one-half the individual supplemental security income standard.

Subd. 5. General income disregard. The county agency shall disregard the first \$20 of the assistance unit's unearned or earned income from the assistance unit's gross earned income.

Subd. 6. Earned income disregards. From the assistance unit's gross earned income, the county agency shall disregard \$65 plus one-half of the remaining income.

Subd. 7. Earned income deductions. From the assistance unit's gross earned income, the county agency shall subtract work expenses allowed by the supplemental security income program.

Subd. 8. Self-employment earnings. A county agency must determine gross earned income from self-employment by subtracting business costs from gross receipts.

Subd. 9. Rental property. Income from rental property is considered self-employment income for each month that the owner of the property who is the assistance unit or a responsible relative of the assistance unit does an average of at least ten hours a week of labor. When no labor is expended, income from rental property is considered unearned income and an additional deduction is allowed for actual, reasonable, and necessary labor costs for upkeep and repair.

Subd. 10. Lump sums. Lump sum payments are considered income in the month received.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 102; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256D.44 STANDARDS OF ASSISTANCE.

Subdivision 1. Use of standards; increases. The state standards of assistance for shelter, basic needs, and special need items that establish the total amount of maintenance need for an applicant for or recipient of Minnesota supplemental aid, are used to determine the assistance unit's eligibility for Minnesota supplemental aid. The state standards of assistance for basic needs must increase by an amount equal to the dollar value, rounded up to the nearest dollar, of any cost of living increases in the supplemental security income program.

Subd. 2. Standard of assistance for shelter. The state standard of assistance for shelter provides for the recipient's shelter costs. The monthly state standard of assistance for shelter must be determined according to paragraphs (a) to (c).

(a) If the recipient does not reside with another person, the state standard of assistance is the actual cost for shelter items or \$124, whichever is less.

(b) If the recipient resides with another person, the state standard of assistance is the actual costs for shelter items or \$93, whichever is less.

(c) Actual shelter costs for applicants or recipients are determined by dividing the total monthly shelter costs by the number of persons who share the residence.

Subd. 3. Standard of assistance for basic needs. The state standard of assistance for basic needs provides for the applicant's or recipient's maintenance needs, other than actual shelter costs. Except as provided in subdivision 4, the monthly state standard of assistance for basic needs is as follows:

(a) For an applicant or recipient who does not reside with another person, the state standard of assistance is \$305.

(b) For an individual who resides with another person or persons, the state standard of assistance is \$242.

Subd. 4. Temporary absence due to illness. For the purposes of this subdivision, "home" means a residence owned or rented by a recipient or the recipient's spouse. Home does not include a negotiated rate facility. Assistance payments for recipients who are temporarily absent from their home due to hospitalization for illness must continue at the same level of payment during their absence if the following criteria are met:

(1) a physician certifies that the absence is not expected to continue for more than three months;

(2) a physician certifies that the recipient will be able to return to independent living; and

(3) the recipient has expenses associated with maintaining a residence in the community.

Subd. 5. Special needs. Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 to 4, payments are allowed for the following special needs of recipients of Minnesota supplemental aid:

(a) The county agency shall pay a monthly allowance for medically prescribed diets payable under the AFDC program if the cost of those additional dietary needs cannot be met through some other maintenance benefit.

(b) Payment for nonrecurring special needs must be allowed for necessary home repairs or necessary repairs or replacement of household furniture and appliances using the payment standard of the AFDC program for these expenses, as long as other funding sources are not available.

(c) A fee for guardian or conservator service is allowed at a reasonable rate negotiated by the county or approved by the court. This rate shall not exceed five percent of the assistance unit's gross monthly income up to a maximum of \$100 per month. If the guardian or conservator is a member of the county agency staff, no fee is allowed.

(d) The county agency shall continue to pay a monthly allowance of \$68 for restaurant meals for a person who was receiving a restaurant meal allowance on June 1, 1990, and who eats two or more meals in a restaurant daily. The allowance must continue until the person has not received Minnesota supplemental aid for one full calendar month or until the person's living arrangement changes and the person no longer meets the criteria for the restaurant meal allowance, whichever occurs first.

Subd. 6. County agency standards of assistance. The county agency may establish standards of assistance for shelter, basic needs, special needs, clothing and personal needs, and negotiated rates that exceed the corresponding state standards of assistance. State aid is not available for costs above state standards.

Subd. 7. Rate limitation; waived services eligibility. If a current negotiated rate for a foster care placement is for an individual who is eligible for the home and community-based services waiver for the elderly, the negotiated rate must include only the room and board portion of the rate. The room and board portion of the negotiated rate is an amount equal to the difference between the medical assistance income limit for a single disabled or aged adult minus the amount of the medical assistance personal needs allowance for persons residing in a nursing facility.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 103; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84; 1991 c 292 art 7 s 21

256D.45 PAYMENT PERIOD.

Subdivision 1. Prospective budgeting. A calendar month is the payment period for Minnesota supplemental aid. The monthly payment to a recipient must be determined prospectively.

Subd. 2. Gross income test. The county agency shall apply a gross income test prospectively for each month of program eligibility. An assistance unit is ineligible when nonexcluded income, before applying any disregards or deductions, exceeds 300 percent of the supplemental security income standard for an individual.

Subd. 3. **Amount of assistance.** The amount of assistance is the difference between the recipient's net income and the applicable standards of assistance in section 256D.44, subdivisions 2 to 4, for persons living independently.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 104; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256D.46 EMERGENCY MINNESOTA SUPPLEMENTAL AID.

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility.** Emergency Minnesota supplemental aid must be granted if the recipient is without adequate resources to resolve an emergency that, if unresolved, will threaten the health or safety of the recipient.

Subd. 2. **Income and resource test.** All income and resources available to the recipient during the month in which the need for emergency Minnesota supplemental aid arises must be considered in determining the recipient's ability to meet the emergency need. Property that can be liquidated in time to resolve the emergency and income that is normally disregarded or excluded under the Minnesota supplemental aid program must be considered available to meet the emergency need.

Subd. 3. **Payment amount.** The amount of assistance granted under emergency Minnesota supplemental aid is limited to the amount necessary to resolve the emergency.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 105

256D.47 PAYMENT METHODS.

Minnesota supplemental aid payments must be issued to the recipient, a protective payee, or a conservator or guardian of the recipient's estate in the form of county warrants immediately redeemable in cash, electronic benefits transfer, or by direct deposit into the recipient's account in a financial institution. Minnesota supplemental aid payments must be issued regularly on the first day of the month. The supplemental aid warrants must be mailed only to the address at which the recipient resides, unless another address has been approved in advance by the county agency. Vendor payments must not be issued by the county agency except for nonrecurring emergency need payments; at the request of the recipient; for special needs, other than special diets; or when the agency determines the need for protective payments exist.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 106; 1990 c 568 art 4 s 84

256D.48 PROTECTIVE PAYMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Need for protective payee.** The county agency shall determine whether a recipient needs a protective payee when a physical or mental condition renders the recipient unable to manage funds and when payments to the recipient would be contrary to the recipient's welfare. Protective payments must be issued when there is evidence of: (1) repeated inability to plan the use of income to meet necessary expenditures; (2) repeated observation that the recipient is not properly fed or clothed; (3) repeated failure to meet obligations for rent, utilities, food, and other essentials; (4) evictions or a repeated incurrence of debts; or (5) lost or stolen checks. The determination of representative payment by the Social Security Administration for the recipient is sufficient reason for protective payment of Minnesota supplemental aid payments.

Subd. 2. **Establishing protective payment.** When the county agency determines that a recipient needs a protective payee, the county agency shall appoint a payee according to the procedures in paragraphs (a) and (b).

(a) The county agency shall consider the recipient's preference of protective payee. The protective payee must have an interest in or concern for the welfare of the recipient. The protective payee must be capable of and willing to provide the required assistance. A vendor of goods or services, including the recipient's landlord, shall not serve as protective payee.

(b) The county agency shall reconsider the need for a protective payee at least annually. The criteria used to determine a person's continuing need for a protective payee are the criteria used in the supplemental security income program to determine

if a person is incapable of managing or directing the management of the person's money. If the need for protective payment is likely to continue beyond two years, the county agency shall seek judicial appointment of a guardian or other legal representative.

Subd. 3. Protective payee for payments made by the Social Security Administration. If the assistance unit receives benefits from the Social Security Administration, the county agency shall also petition the Social Security Administration to establish a representative payee for those benefits.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 107

256D.49 PAYMENT CORRECTION.

Subdivision 1. When. When the county agency finds that the recipient has received less than or more than the correct payment of Minnesota supplemental aid benefits, the county agency shall issue a corrective payment or initiate recovery under subdivision 3, as appropriate.

Subd. 2. Underpayment of monthly grants. When the county agency determines that an underpayment of the recipient's monthly payment has occurred, it shall, during that same month, issue a corrective payment. Corrective payments must be excluded when determining the applicant's or recipient's income and resources for the month of payment.

Subd. 3. Overpayment of monthly grants. When the county agency determines that an overpayment of the recipient's monthly payment of Minnesota supplemental aid has occurred, it shall issue a notice of overpayment to the recipient. If the person is no longer receiving Minnesota supplemental aid, the county agency may request voluntary repayment or pursue civil recovery. If the person is receiving Minnesota supplemental aid, the county agency shall recover the overpayment by withholding an amount equal to three percent of the standard of assistance for the recipient or the total amount of the monthly grant, whichever is less. Residents of nursing homes, regional treatment centers, and facilities with negotiated rates shall not have overpayments recovered from their personal needs allowance.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 108

256D.50 NOTICE.

Subdivision 1. Ten-day notice. The county agency shall give recipients ten days' advance notice when the agency intends to terminate, suspend, or reduce a grant. The ten-day notice must be in writing on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The notice must be mailed or given to the recipient not later than ten days before the effective date of the action. The notice must clearly state the action the county agency intends to take, the reasons for the action, the right to appeal the action, and the conditions under which assistance can be continued while an appeal is pending.

Subd. 2. Five-day notice. Five days' advance notice is sufficient when the county agency has verified and documented that the case facts require termination, suspension, or reduction of the grant for probable fraud by a recipient. If the last day of the five-day period falls on a weekend or holiday, the effective date of the action is the next working day.

Subd. 3. Adequate notice. Notice must be given no later than the effective date of the action when: (1) the county agency has factual information confirming the death of a person included in the grant; (2) the county agency receives a clear written statement, signed by a recipient, that the recipient no longer wishes assistance; (3) the county agency receives a clear statement, signed by a recipient, reporting information that the recipient acknowledges will require termination of or a reduction in the grant; (4) a recipient has been placed in a skilled nursing home, intermediate care, or a long-term hospitalization facility; (5) a recipient has been admitted to or committed to an institution; or (6) a recipient's whereabouts are unknown and the county agency mail to the recipient has been returned by the post office showing no forwarding address.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 109

256D.51 APPEALS.

Subdivision 1. **Right to appeal.** Applicants and recipients may appeal under section 256.045 if they are aggrieved by an action or by inaction of the county agency.

Subd. 2. **Continuation of payment pending appeal decision.** When assistance is reduced, suspended, or terminated, the client has the right to choose to have the grant continued while an appeal is pending if the appellant files the appeal within ten days after the date the notice is mailed or before the effective date of the proposed action, whichever is later.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 110

256D.52 FRAUD.

A person who obtains or tries to obtain, or aids or abets any person in obtaining assistance to which the person is not entitled by a willfully false statement or representation, or by the intentional withholding or concealment of a material fact, or by impersonation, or other fraudulent device, violates section 256.98 and is subject to both the criminal and civil penalties in that section.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 111

256D.53 DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.

In addition to other duties imposed by law, the commissioner shall:

(1) supervise the administration of Minnesota supplemental aid by county agencies as provided in sections 256D.33 to 256D.54;

(2) adopt permanent rules consistent with law for carrying out and enforcing the provisions of sections 256D.33 to 256D.54, so that Minnesota supplemental aid may be administered as uniformly as possible throughout the state;

(3) immediately upon adoption, give rules to all county agencies and other interested persons;

(4) establish necessary administrative and fiscal procedures; and

(5) allocate money appropriated for Minnesota supplemental aid to county agencies.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 112

256D.54 APPLICATION FOR OTHER BENEFITS.

Subdivision 1. **Potential eligibility.** An applicant or recipient who is otherwise eligible for supplemental aid and who is potentially eligible for maintenance benefits from any other source shall (1) apply for those benefits within 30 days of the county's determination of potential eligibility for those benefits; and (2) execute an interim assistance authorization agreement on a form as directed by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Recovery of supplemental aid under an interim assistance agreement.** If a recipient is eligible for benefits from other sources, and receives a payment from another source for a period during which supplemental aid was also issued, the recipient shall reimburse the county agency for the interim assistance paid. Reimbursement shall not exceed the amount of supplemental aid paid during the time period to which the other maintenance benefits apply. Reimbursement shall not exceed the state standard that applies to that time period. Reimbursement may be sought directly from the other source of maintenance income but remains the primary obligation of the recipient when an interim assistance agreement has been executed.

Subd. 3. **Interim assistance advocacy incentive program.** From the amount recovered under an interim assistance agreement, county agencies may retain 25 percent plus actual reasonable fees, costs, and disbursements of appeals, litigation, and advocacy assistance given to the recipient for the recipient's claim for supplemental security income. The money kept under this section is from the state share of the recovery. The commissioner or the county agency may contract with qualified persons to provide the special assistance. The methods by which a county agency identifies, refers, and assists

MINNESOTA STATUTES 1992

637

GENERAL ASSISTANCE 256D.54

recipients who may be eligible for benefits under federal programs for the aged, blind, or disabled are those methods used by the general assistance interim assistance advocacy incentive program.

History: 1989 c 282 art 5 s 113; 1992 c 513 art 8 s 25