



Legislative Priority: METS Funding to Ensure Eligibility for Public Assistance Programs

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation that would provide increased funding to the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS).

BACKGROUND: Counties are responsible for determining eligibility for publicly-funded assistance programs. The METS system is the computer program that county workers use to assist in this determination, but the program has inefficiencies that have resulted in an inordinate amount of time and labor focused on manual work-arounds.

CURRENT SITUATION: The system is still new and has challenges with functionality. Counties have been forced to add staff to meet workload demands. The current state budget level for METS is mostly for maintenance and repair. It does not include sufficient funding for the development of enhanced functionality or streamlining the cumbersome manual process necessary to navigate technical challenges.

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: The system requires additional programming investment so that county workers are able to efficiently and accurately navigate the system to ensure integrity of eligibility determinations. This will allow county staff to effectively and reliably serve those who need public assistance while using taxpayer dollars in a more efficient manner.