Minnesota Eligibility Technology System

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The County's Role in Medical Assistance

In Minnesota, the federal Medicaid program is called Medical Assistance and is administered at a county level with state supervision. About one million Minnesotans receive health care through the Medical Assistance program. Counties are responsible for determining whether or not applicants meet eligibility requirements based on a person's income, assets, and family size.

County staff manage several processes in the Medical Assistance enrollment and case management system, including:

- Checking applicant eligibility.
- Updating records of current Medical Assistance enrollees.
- Renewing or reevaluating enrollee eligibility.

Counties implement the program, but are required to follow the rules and reporting requirements established by the state. Over the years, the state has developed software systems to assist counties with enrolling and managing individuals in Medical Assistance, the most recent system is METS.

What is METS?

The Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS) is the *software system* used in Minnesota to determine eligibility for Medical Assistance. METS was first introduced in Minnesota in 2013. Prior to 2013, county human service departments used a statewide enrollment software called MAXIS, but its technical limitations resulted in many manual and time consuming tasks for county workers.

METS was designed with the intention of alleviating some of the counties' burden in determining enrollee eligibility and entering enrollee data. When a county resident applies for Medical Assistance, the application is entered into the METS software. The software should determine if the applicant is eligible based on income and family makeup. If the software cannot determine eligibility, the applicant is referred to his or her home county human services department for application assistance.

It is essential that METS operates efficiency and with accuracy since it manages the data of about one million Medical Assistance enrollees. Without functional enrollment software, county staff shoulder the burden of program enrollment and case management.

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