



Food for today. Change for tomorrow.

April 7, 2025

Dear Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

As organizations on the front lines of addressing hunger in Minnesota, we thank you for recognizing the essential role food shelves play in addressing hunger in Minnesota by including funding in your omnibus budget bill. This investment comes at a critical time, as food shelves and food banks are facing record levels of demand. If additional funds become available, we kindly ask you to consider building on this commitment with additional funding that will help keep shelves stocked and families fed.

Currently, 487 food shelves, mobile units, and tribal programs participate in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) throughout Minnesota that benefits from state support to ensure residents have consistent access to the food they need. These programs serve as a critical safety net, and their role in strengthening communities cannot be overstated.

In 2024, Minnesotans made nearly 9 million visits to food shelves - a record-breaking number for the fourth consecutive year. This growing demand reflects the ongoing challenges of persistently high food prices and economic hardship in communities statewide. Hunger is not confined to any one region; food shelf visits increased by an average of 18.4% across all 87 counties, affecting both rural and urban areas alike.

Federal challenges are placing increased strain on Minnesota's food shelves. The 487 food shelves that participate in TEFAP are supplied with USDA-purchased commodities at no cost to keep their shelves stocked for community members. Currently, approximately 30% of these commodities allocated to Minnesota through the Commodity Credit Corporation (TEFAP CCC) have been eliminated. As a result, food shelves will enter 2025 with record-high demand and 30% less free food available.

Additionally, significant threats to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) put even more pressure on food shelves. For every meal a food shelf provides, SNAP provides nine, making it a vital lifeline for low-income families. As federal resources shrink, we must step up and support local food shelves, which cannot carry the burden of these cuts alone while continuing to meet the rising needs of their communities.

Investing in food shelves is an investment in the resilience and well-being of our state. To meet the rising demand, it is crucial to maintain or even increase previous funding levels. A reduction in funding at this critical time would significantly hinder the ability of food shelves to serve those who rely on their services. We strongly urge you to continue championing the fight against hunger by ensuring that funding for the emergency food system remains a priority in your budget discussions. Together, we can create a future where no Minnesotan has to face food insecurity.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to this important issue.

Sincerely,

360 Communities
A Place For Hope: Recovery and Wellness
Center & Food Shelf

Agate Housing and Services
Alden Area Food Shelf
Angels of Hope



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Anoka County Brotherhood Council Inc (ACBC Food Shelf)
Area Food Shelf of New Richland
Avon Food Shelf, Inc
Basic Needs Food Market
Basic Needs Inc of South Washington County
Becker County Food Pantry
Belle Plaine food Shelf
Bemidji Community FoodShelf
Bountiful Basket Food Shelf
Boynton Health - Nutritious U Food Pantry
Bricelyn Food Pantry
Bridgepointe community food pantry
Buffalo Food Shelf
Calvary Lutheran CHurch
Campus Kitchen at Augsburg University
CAPI USA
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud
Change Starts With Community -Shiloh Cares Food Shelf
Channel One Food Bank and Food Shelf
Climax Parish Food Shelf
Community Action Center
Community Aid Network MN
Community Emergency Assistance Programs (CEAP)
Community Emergency Service, Inc.
Community Food Shelf at First Lutheran
Community Pathways of Steele County

"Our community members and voters deserve the know they have the support from lawmakers to ensure no one goes to bed hungry.

Food is a basic need and it is our opportunity and our responsibility to help meet the needs of every person in every community within our state. Please join us in making Minnesota a hunger free state."

- Good in the Hood

CROSS Services
Deer River Area Food Shelf

Division of Indian Work
East African Dream Inc
East Side Neighborhood Services
Edward Jones
Ely Area Food Shelf

"We are continuing to see increases in the use in our food shelves (we had 20% more usage in 2024 as we did in 2023) as economic uncertainty increase.

This same uncertainty drives down donations from our community, we need funding to meet the need of our neighbors and their families."

- Family Pathways

Family Pathways
Family's of Color
Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf
Flourish Placemaking Collective
Foundation for Essential Needs
FreedomWorks, Bread of Life
Friends in Need Food Shelf
Friendship Community Services, Inc
Gather and Grow Food Shelf
Glendale Seventh-day Adventist Church
Good in the 'Hood
Grace Community Food Shelf
Grace Ministries
Groveland Emergency Food Shelf
Haven Community Food Pantry
Heaven's Table Food Shelf
Hometown Resource Center
Hope for the Community
Hope Temple Church
Hubbard County Food Shelf, Inc
Hugo Good Neighbors Food Shelf
Hunger solutions/the food group
Interfaith Action (Department Of Indian Work)
Interfaith Action of Saint Paul
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis
Joyce Uptown Foodshelf



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Keystone Community Services
La Crescent Food Shelf
Lake City Food Shelf
Lakefield Food Shelf
Lakes Area Food Shelf
Laporte Community Food Shelf
LifeGate Services
Loaves & Fishes Fosston
Lonsdale Area Food Shelf
Minneapolis Community & Technical College Food Shelf
Melrose Area Food Shelf
Mi CASA

"Without this funding, more families will go hungry. Investing in food security supports Minnesota's workforce, reduces healthcare costs, and strengthens our communities.

We urge you to prioritize MFSP funding to keep families fed and healthy.

- Mi CASA

Minneapolis First Adventist church
Minnehaha Food Shelf
Minnesota Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND)
Mount Olivet Lab School, Inc. (NOURISH Food Shelf)
Mpls Central Church of Christ Food Shelf
Murray County Food Shelf
Neighborhood House
New Creation Baptist Church (NCBC Food Shelf)
New Creations Ministries COGIC
New Oil Christian Center
New York Mills Area Food Shelf
North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf
North Country Food Bank, Inc.
North Hennepin Community College
Northome Food Shelf
NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center
NuWay MBC
Open Cupboard
Open Hands Midway

Pillsbury United Communities Brian Coyle Center
Palisade food Shelf
People Reaching Out to Other People (PROP)
People Serving People
Pine River Backus Family Center
Pipestone County Food Shelf, Inc.
Prairie Five CAC

"Proctor Food shelf depends on these grants for our ability to keep our shelves stocked to serve our clients. With out them it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to keep our doors open."

- Proctor Food Shelf

PRISM
Proctor Food Shelf
Ralph Reeder
Red Lake Falls Food Shelf
Red Wing Area Food Shelf
Rock County Food Shelf
Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters
Sanctuary Covenant Church
Semcac Kasson Food Shelf
Society of St Vincent de Paul
Source MN Inc.
St. Louis Park Emergency Program
St. Catherine University
St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Taskforce INC
Teamsters Serving Teamsters Foodshelf
The Aliveness Project
The Cornerstone Food Pantry
The Food Group

"With out MFSP grants we would not be able to sustain and stay open. Our numbers are growing every day. The fear of not having enough money is already weighing on our program."

- Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf



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The Harbor Food Shelf at Faith Lutheran
The Salvation Army Northern Division
The Sanneh Foundation
The Windom Area Sharing Center, Inc.
Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf
Tri-Community Food Shelf
Vadnais Heights Community Food Shelf
Valley Outreach
Vineyard Community Services
Walker Area Food Shelf
Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and
Food Shelf
Watonwan County Food Shelf
WCCA Food Shelf
WeCAN

Wells Area Food Shelf
Westonka Food Shelf
White Bear Area Food Shelf
White Earth Food Shelf
YouthWay Ministries
Zumbro Valley Food Shelf

"State funding is absolutely mission critical and needed to not only keep up with demand but also to keep our organization, volunteers and neighbors (clients) with hope for a better future and sustainability."

- Vineyard Community Services