



Minnesota Food Shelf Fact Sheet

Hunger in Minnesota is a chronic problem. Hunger is present in the city, in the suburbs and in rural Minnesota.

- ◆ In 2007, the 300 Minnesota food shelves were visited 1.9 million times and they provided 47 million pounds of food to hungry families and seniors.

Food shelves are a critical resource for working families.

- ◆ Food shelves allow people to use their money to pay other bills and still have access to nutritious food.
- ◆ People are able to stay in their own homes and get the help they need to remain healthy and go to work when they obtain nourishment from food shelves.
- ◆ Children represent more than half of the hungry who visit food shelves.
- ◆ 55% of families that rely on food shelf assistance are working, but cannot make ends meet.

Poor economic conditions for low-income Minnesotans result in unprecedented demands for service.

- ◆ Between 2000-2007, food shelf visits in Minnesota increased from 1.2 million to 1.9 million
- ◆ Since 2000 food shelf usage has increased 60%.

Make Nutrition a Priority in Minnesota

- ◆ Minnesota food shelves are the first line of defense against hunger. They provide instant, emergency service to Minnesota residents.
- ◆ There has never been an increase in State funding for food shelves.
- ◆ We need to pass the food shelf funding increase (Bill Name: SF1331 Companion: HF1233)
- ◆ These state funds are leveraged in local communities and extend the purchasing power of food shelves.