

Minnesota Partners to End Hunger

MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2016



Increase Food Shelf Funding

Support an increase in funding for food shelf programs in Minnesota. Despite the economic recovery, demand for food shelf services has remained high. Food shelves also increasingly offer healthy items, such as fresh produce and dairy, which are more expensive. Food shelf funding has received one increase in the last 20 years. Currently, about 9,000 people per day are served by food shelves.



Improve SNAP for adults without dependents

Support changes that reduce barriers to applying for benefits. Many chronically ill and disabled adults without children have lost access to SNAP benefits following the loss of Minnesota's federal waiver. Anti-hunger advocates, in partnership with DHS and DEED, are striving to restore benefits to many of the 48,000 low-income Minnesotans who no longer have food support, and will advocate legislation this session to address the issue.



Support Good Food Access Fund

The Good Food Access Fund would help establish permanent facilities for the sale of healthy, affordable food in areas of the state where better access is needed. The Fund would provide grants, loans, and technical support for food-related enterprises such as new and improved grocery stores, mobile markets, farmers' markets, fresh food refrigeration, and other innovative community-driven solutions.

For more information on our legislative priorities, contact Colleen Moriarty, Chair, Partners to End Hunger 651-789-9840, cmoriarty@hungersolutions.org

2015 Legislative Successes

In 2015, Partners to End Hunger successfully advocated for:

Healthy Eating Here at Home (HEHAH)

The bill increased the matching funds available for SNAP participants to use at farmers markets to up to \$10 and added funding to incentivize SNAP users to visit farmers markets.

Mobile food shelf funding

\$2 million in grants to food shelves to expand or start mobile food programs.

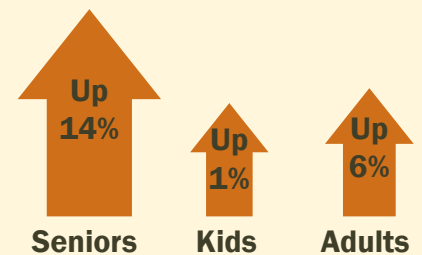
About Hunger in Minnesota



1 in every **10** Minnesotans is food insecure

Food shelf visits have increased to record levels.

Total visits increased by 4.5% from 2013 to 2014, and 15% since 2010.



More than **6 people** visit a food shelf **every minute** in Minnesota.

Minnesota Partners to End Hunger

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Partners to End Hunger works closely with national organizations such as the Food Research and Action Council (FRAC), the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), and MAZON to advance federal policy changes. We keep Minnesota's federal delegation informed on the food needs of low-income residents.

OTHER PRIORITIES

Support

Partners to End Hunger will work together to support programs aimed at alleviating poverty and improving economic well-being for low-income individuals and families, including:

- housing,
- minimum/living wage,
- paid family leave,
- child care assistance,
- restoring cuts to MN Care,
- restoring voting rights to former felons,
- regulations for payday lenders
- increasing the MFIP cash grant for working families
- increasing SNAP benefits for summer food for families with children,
- tax credits for low-income workers.

In the past, we have supported regulations on payday lenders, expanding child care assistance programs, minimum wage increases, and other policies that improve access to healthy food for low-income people.

Oppose

Partners to End Hunger will work together to defend against cuts to programs that serve low-income individuals and families, including:

- cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),
- block granting federal programs, especially SNAP,
- restrictions on SNAP purchases,
- cuts to MFIP or other programs that address poverty.

ABOUT PARTNERS TO END HUNGER

Minnesota Partners to End Hunger is a statewide network of service providers and advocates working to end hunger in Minnesota by motivating decision-makers to take supportive action on state and national hunger policy issues.

Contact

Colleen Moriarty
Executive Director, Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Chair, Minnesota Partners to End Hunger

651-789-9840
cmoriarty@hungersolutions.org

Partners

Community Action of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH)
Community Emergency Assistance Programs (CEAP)
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Jewish Family & Children's Service of Minneapolis
Keystone Community Services
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Loaves and Fishes
MAZON Advocacy Project: Minnesota
Metro Meals on Wheels
Minnesota FoodShare
Minnesota Hunger Initiative
Minnesota School Nutrition Association
National Council of Jewish Women
Neighborhood House
Open Arms of Minnesota
PRISM
The Food Group

Voice of Hunger Advocates Network



Voice of Hunger Advocates Network shares opportunities for advocacy with grassroots advocates and Partners to End Hunger members throughout the year. To become an advocate, sign up at <http://hungersolutions.org/voice>.