



Mobile Food Shelves: Meeting Hungry Neighbors Where They Live

THE NEED:

Mobile food shelf programs **increase access** to free and nutritious food for individuals who experience barriers to accessing food from traditional food shelves due to: mobility issues, disabilities, lack of transportation, and proximity to their local food shelf.

These types of programs are a **cost effective** delivery model compared to the alternative of building more food shelves and paying the associated overhead operating costs.

The program models that distribute at subsidized housing serve many seniors. This model of delivery **reduces stigma for seniors** needing food support by bringing food to their home.

HOW IT WORKS:

These programs distribute food directly at subsidized housing complexes or in specific neighborhoods out of retrofitted trucks. This distribution model eliminates transportation and mobility barriers, and serves as an extension of a food shelf.

There are two distribution methods:

One is to partner with subsidized housing buildings. The organization delivers food to the subsidized housing building and a distribution is held in the community room immediately following the delivery.

The other model is to partner with churches, community colleges, mobile trailer home parks, or other community organizations. In this model the organization either delivers the food to the partner location or arrives and directly distributes out of a retrofitted truck.



BY THE NUMBERS:

There are currently 9 Mobile food shelf providers distributing over 800,000 pounds of food to over 40,000 individuals in Minnesota.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

We are asking for your support in sponsoring a bill to provide funding for Mobile food shelf programs. Many food shelves need funding to get their Mobile food program off the ground, and most existing Mobile food shelf providers also need funding in order to expand their program and reach additional people in need of this service.

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