



It may not seem like it, but hunger is a big problem in Minnesota. 1 in 10 Minnesotans are food insecure, meaning they don't know where their next meal comes from. That's half-a-million people in our state struggling to put food on the table each day. These are neighbors, friends, and family members who are forced to choose between paying for rent, medicine, or food all too often.

Hunger Solutions brings people together to find real solutions to hunger through partnerships, programs, and policy because food is a basic human right. We work with over 300 food shelves, seven food banks, and leaders in agriculture, healthcare, business, and government because hunger can only be solved if we work together.

At the state and federal level, we work with agencies to distribute millions of pounds of food across the state. In our work with food shelves, we offer expertise, support, and grant funding for times when they struggle to keep up with local needs. And our programs, like Market Bucks and SNAP Rx, are examples of how we convene a wide range of cross-sector advocates to effectively fight against hunger in every community across Minnesota.

Our goal is to connect people struggling with hunger with the help they need to put food on the table. As the only anti-hunger organization whose services reach every county in the state, we fight hunger not only today, but also work hard to find longterm solutions to end hunger.

We thank you for your support last year and we look forward to future our work together. Let's keep up the fight!

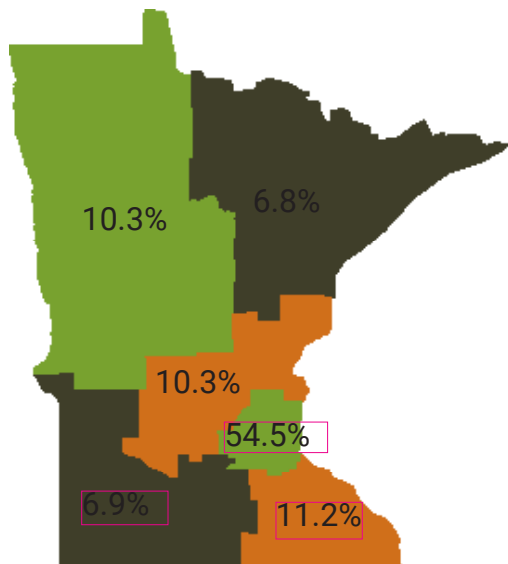
Colleen Moriarty  
Executive Director

# Food Shelf Capacity

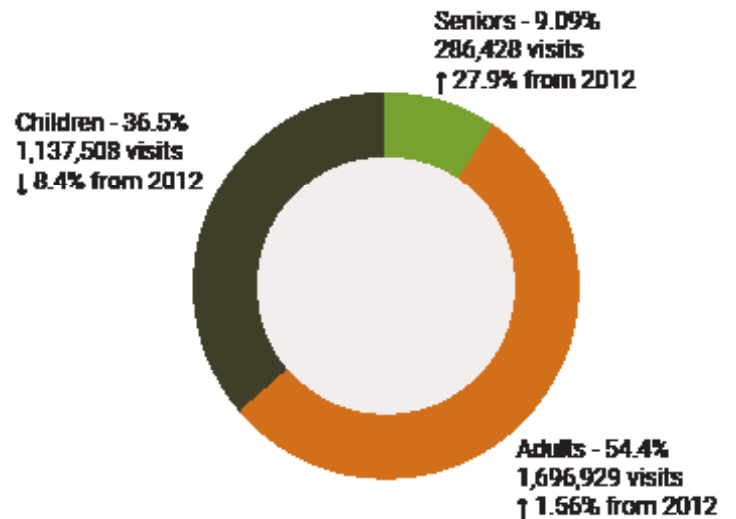
## Visits to food shelves

Minnesotans made 3,117,865 visits to food shelves in 2017—the seventh consecutive year with more than 3 million visits.

Food shelf visits by region, 2017



Share of food shelf visits by age, 2017



## The Open Your Heart Fundraising Challenge leveraged

**\$100,000**  
matching funds

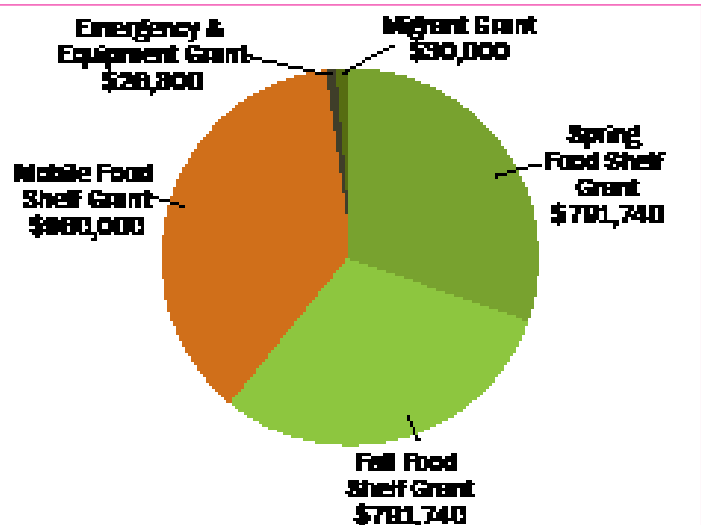


**\$1.5 million**  
in local fundraising by 155 food shelves

## State Grants to Food Shelves

Hunger Solutions, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, distributes state grants to food shelves.

In 2017, \$2.6 million was distributed to 276 food shelves throughout Minnesota.



## The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Hunger Solutions partners with the Minnesota Department of Human Services - Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to administer USDA's The Emergency Food Assistance Program. TEFAP is the backbone of the emergency food system, providing commodity foods to food banks, food shelves, and meal programs. In FFY 2017 (October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017), we distributed TEFAP to 7 food banks serving 270 food shelves:

**70**  
products



**10,452,148**  
pounds of food



**\$7.8 million**  
value



## Mobile Food Shelf Grant

Mobile food shelves increase access to nutritious food for individuals who experience barriers to accessing traditional bricks-and-mortar food shelves because of transportation or mobility challenges. In 2017, mobile food shelf funding resulted in:



**8 vehicles**  
purchased



**150**  
service sites



**1.49 million**  
pounds of food  
distributed

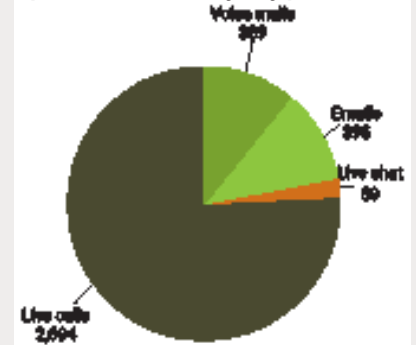


**87,402 visits**  
nearly 40% of  
which were by  
children

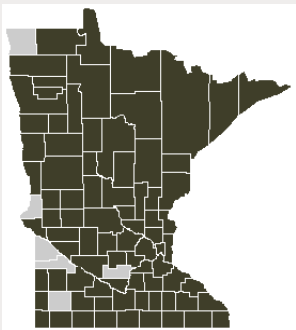
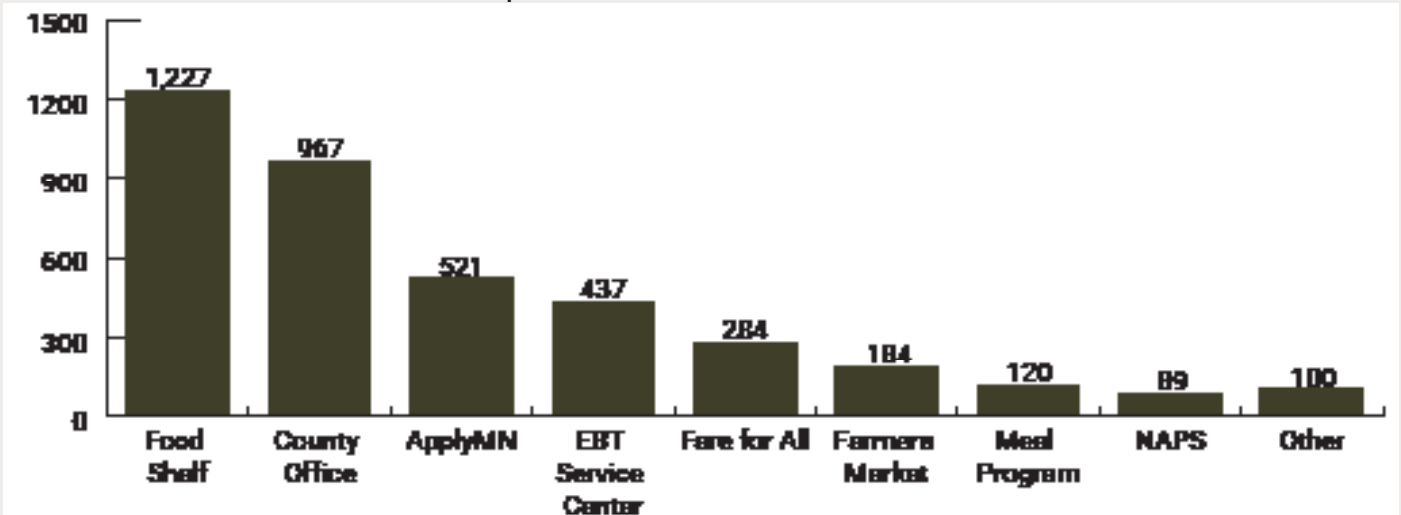


The Minnesota Food Helpline answered **3,658** calls, emails, and live chats from people looking for help with food resources in 2017. We connected **5,404** people with food resources.

HelpLine Calls by Type, 2017



Where HelpLine Callers Were Connected, 2017



81 calls to the HelpLine came from 81 of Minnesota's 87 counties.

## Minnesota Food Helpline By-the-Numbers

**365**  
callers were screened and qualified for SNAP

**1,121**  
callers were already enrolled in SNAP

**673**  
SNAP applications were mailed

## SNAP Rx

In January 2017, Hunger Solutions partnered with 3 HealthPartners clinics to pilot SNAP Rx. Clinics screen their patients for food insecurity during routine care and refer food insecure patients to the Minnesota Food Helpline where we connect them with food resources in their local community.



**82 referrals**  
to the HelpLine

- 31 referrals to food shelf
- 29 to Fare for All
- 15 screens for SNAP
- 10 Farmers Markets
- 2 NAPS or meal programs

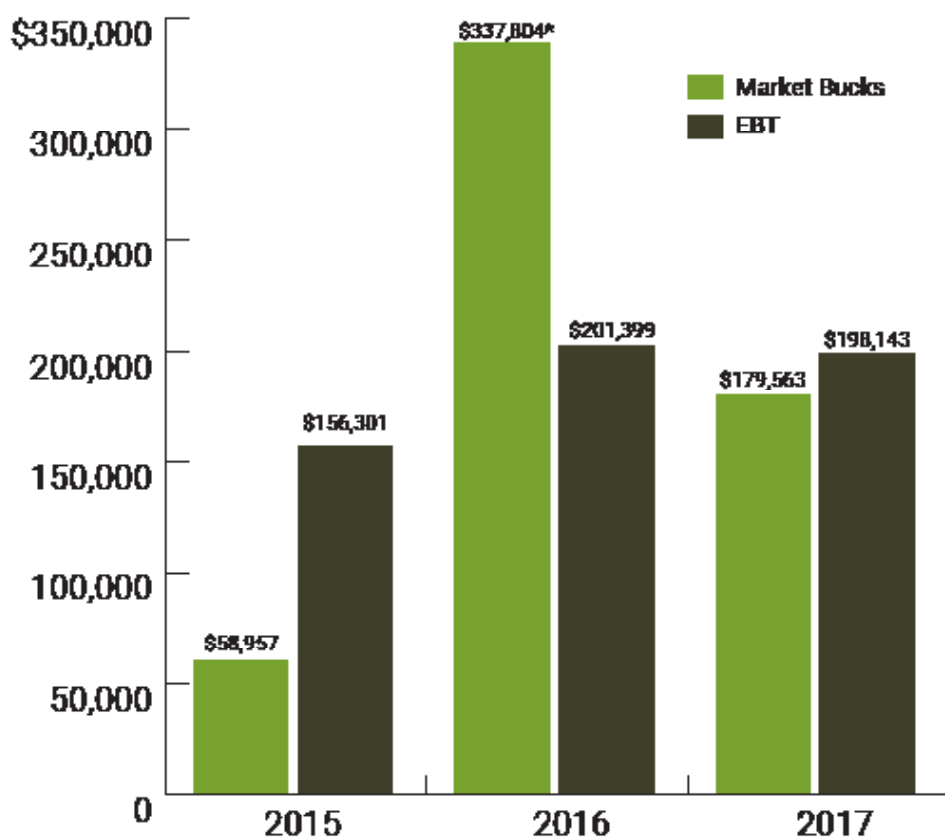




## Market Bucks

Hunger Solutions helped pass legislation to make Minnesota’s Market Bucks program the first publicly-funded farmers market incentive program in the nation. Market Bucks double the amount SNAP customers spend at farmers markets (up to \$10 per market visit). Market Bucks were offered at 87 market locations in      counties during the regular farmers market season from May 1 to October 31, 2017.

EBT & Market Bucks Sales, 2015-2017



\*Extra money was available for more incentive gift certificates to jump-start the program in the first biennium. 2017 numbers reflect a more normal year moving forward.

## Market Bucks By-the-Numbers

**3,124**

first time SNAP customers using Market Bucks at farmers markets

**2x**

Market Bucks double the amount of money SNAP customers have to spend at farmers markets

**\$377,706**

Market Bucks & EBT were spent by customers at farmers markets

**\$676,093**

the amount of economic activity created by Market Bucks



## Partners to End Hunger

Hunger Solutions convenes and chairs the Partners to End Hunger Coalition, a group of over 25 organizations working together on a common legislative agenda with four priority bills aimed at reducing hunger across the state of Minnesota:

- 1.) Increase funding to Minnesota's food shelves,
- 2.) Continue mobile food shelf funding,
- 3.) Improve SNAP for adults without dependents, &
- 4.) Support the Good Food Access Fund.

The Partners to End Hunger Coalition was successful in securing a 2-year increase of \$750,000 for food shelf funding earmarked for produce, proteins, and diapers. We also successfully advocated for restored funding for Market Bucks after the program was cut in initial budget negotiations.

## Voice of Hunger Network

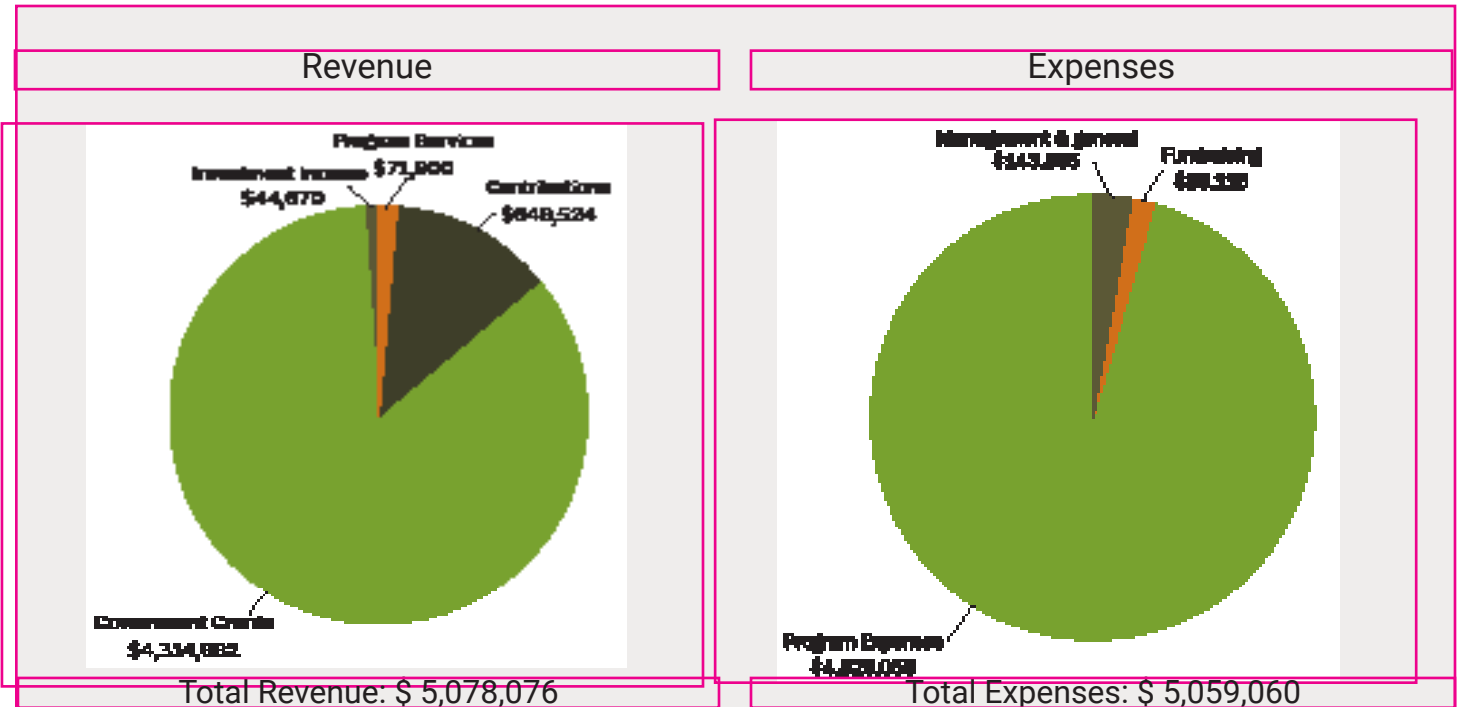
The Voice of Hunger Network connects anti-hunger advocates to lawmakers via through action alerts, emails, phone calls, and Hunger Day on the Hill. In 2017, constituents made 722 email contacts and countless phone calls and visits with lawmakers on behalf of Partners to End Hunger legislative priorities.



## Hunger Day on the Hill

The 3rd annual Hunger Day on the Hill brought 100+ advocates together to learn about legislative bills and meet with their legislators.

*At left: Participants from Valley Outreach, a food shelf in Stillwater, Minn., take a Capitol steps selfie after a successful visit with their lawmakers.*



**95.4%** of Hunger Solutions Minnesota’s funding goes to program services.

### Corporate, Business, and Foundation Donors

**\$50,000+**  
Food Research & Action Center

**\$15,000-\$49,999**  
Minnesota Humanities Center  
Target Foundation  
Hunt Electric  
General Mills Foundation  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
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The Saint Paul Foundation

**\$5,000-\$14,999**  
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Michael Foods  
Berean Baptist Church  
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation  
BNSF Railway Foundation  
Gale Family Foundation  
Greenberger Family Fund

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Cargill  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota  
Sampson Family Charitable Foundation

Palisade Asset Management LLC  
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation  
University of Minnesota  
Dancing Cat Productions, Inc.  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Parasole Restaurant Holdings, Inc.

For additional financial information, including our audited financial statements, Form 990, and list of contributors visit <http://hungersolutions.org/annualreport>.



Hunger Solutions Minnesota works to end hunger in our state. We take action to assure food security for all Minnesotans by supporting programs and agencies that provide food to those in need, advancing sound public policy, and guiding grassroots advocacy.

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