DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Minnesota Food Shelf Program (MFSP) COVID-19 Funding Announcement FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions answered below were posted on the Hunger Solutions website April 17, 2020. This list will be updated weekly on Fridays.

Food Shelf Funds:

Will there be additional TEFAP available? If so what is the plan for delivering to food shelves?

The Families First Act included additional funds for TEFAP purchases but has not been released from USDA yet. The CARES Act also included TEFAP food for COVID Aid and orders have been placed from this aid package for Minnesota.

How and when will the $2,000 be coming?

2-3 weeks from the time an application has been submitted, $2000 base and the allocations based on service stats from 10/2019-3/2020

What if you are a pop up food shelf that does receive TEFAP but isn't connected to a brick and mortar food shelf?

In order to be eligible all food shelves must be receiving TEFAP and have applied or be receiving MFSP

Is it $2000 per organization? Or per food shelf program?

Per agency

We have a couple locations that have a Satellite Food shelf will each get the $2000?

NO, this is for each agency

Who would be the best contact to reach out to so we can secure our MN fall grant we are waiting for from Hunger Solutions?

Contact Hunger Solutions - Joe Walker

Where are the checks mailed to? We are part of a much larger organization, are the checks mailed to us or would it go to the main office and be disbursed from there?

If your agency has established direct deposit for MFSP payments, the funding will be directly deposited in the account designated for your food shelf. If not, checks will be mailed to the address listed for the food shelf.

If a food shelf is temporarily closed, will they still get this funding?

No, the intention of these funds is for financial support for shelves that are open currently and are getting food to people in need.

Food Bank Funds:

Transportation Funds:

How will the transportation funds tie to the work that Metro Mobility is doing to deliver to households on behalf of food shelves?

Separate funding from food shelf MFSP grant. The transportation funds are application based for any agency eligible to apply that is getting food to people in need.

I am a local farmer, losing 90% of our business to restaurants in the past 3 weeks. We have pivoted a new direct to consumer module and also distributing for local farmers in Minnesota who have supply of local foods available. This ranges from dry goods, proteins, and perishable produce now direct to consumer. We will have over 500 items weekly. Is this something we would be able to qualify for?

The Transportation funding is very flexible and all those who support food transport and distribution services are encouraged to apply.

Can Food shelves apply for the Transportation funds to pay for their delivery fees from the Food Banks?

> *The Transportation funding is very flexible and all those who support food transport and distribution services are encouraged to apply*

Other:

How are the needs of school children experiencing food insecurity being met?

> *Hunger Solutions is providing a map using the 'Free Meals for Kids' mobile app to locate food during school closures*
>
> http://www.hungersolutions.org/2020/03/16/meals-for-kids-during-covid-19-closings/

Is there any possibility extending free milk grant?

> *The milk grant is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Second Harvest Hartland not by this funding. For question regarding this grant please contact them directly.*

I believe we are NOT currently TFAP site -- and am not sure how that works, but would just like info to consider for now. I have been familiar with this work and have colleagues who operate these on their campuses -- so at least very familiar over past decade. Who do I contact to get additional information about the program?

> *Information about the TEFAP program is available on the Hunger Solutions Minnesota website*
>
> http://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/food-shelf-capacity/tefap/