

# Meals to Veterans bill would provide meals, reduce isolation



## The Issue

Last year Metro Meals on Wheels members served over 1.7 million meals to over 12,000 individuals. There are over 500 veterans in the Twin Cities who live in VA-funded housing and could benefit greatly from a daily warm meal and a volunteer visit. While state and federal programs support delivery of meals to older adults in need, many veterans don't meet the age, income or disability criteria that would help them cover the cost of meals.

## Legislation

Meals to Veterans bills (HF122, SF774) would provide \$540,000 in FY24 and \$540,000 in FY25 to serve Meals on Wheels to veterans of any age in the Metro Meals on Wheels service area. The funding would go to the Department of Veterans Affairs and reporting on the use of funds would be required.

## Status

HF122 and SF774 were both heard in committee and held over for inclusion in the Omnibus Budget bill.

## Goals

- ♡ Enroll veterans as volunteers to deliver portion of meals (Veterans Helping Veterans)
- ♡ Annually provide 200 veterans daily meal service
- ♡ MMOW to work with VA to identify recipients
- ♡ Aid VA's Suicide Prevention Program by reducing social isolation
- ♡ Report on outreach activities, service units, and recipient demographics

## The Ask

- ♡ Ask your legislator to support Meals to Veterans (HF122, SF774) for inclusion in the Omnibus Budget bill.
- ♡ Thank Veterans and Military Affairs (House) and State and Local Government and Veterans (Senate) committee members for their support.

