

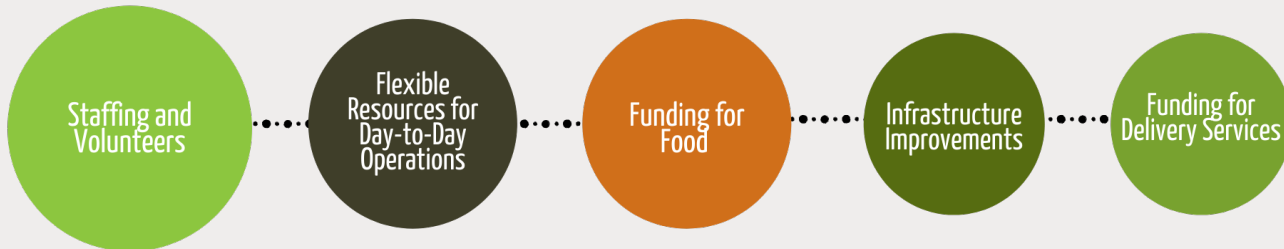
Additional Funding For Food Support and Capital Improvements

Since the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, food shelves in Minnesota have seen record high numbers of visits - reaching 5.5 million visits a year in 2022. With 1 in 9 Minnesotans facing food insecurity, Minnesota's network of over 300 food shelves throughout the state are often the first line of defense against hunger, helping put over 105 million pounds of food on the tables of low-income households each year.

In December 2021, Hunger Solutions Minnesota conducted a survey of food shelf leaders throughout the state. 70% of survey respondents noted that their food shelf has seen a recent increase in clients and new visitors. Past resources have been allocated to food shelves in our state to support immediate needs during the COVID-19 crisis, but with visitor numbers increasing, it's time we invest in long-term capacity building to ensure our food shelves are set for future challenges.

58%
of food acquired by food insecure people during the pandemic has been from their food shelf.

When surveyed about anticipated needs the top five anticipated needs were for staffing and volunteers, flexible resources for day-to-day operations, food, infrastructure improvements and delivery resources.



Sourcing and Distributing Food

With food prices up as much as 13.5% in 2022, food shelves, food banks and meal programs in Minnesota will need additional support to keep their shelves stocked. The COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the need for increased transportation options for food shelf clients, especially to those aged 60+ who are the fastest growing group of food shelf visitors.



“Funding for food purchases is going to be a major issue... we are beginning to see issues with availability of food, especially meat protein, and increasing prices for what we are able to purchase.”

– Pipestone County Food Shelf

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INVESTMENTS IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Investments in food shelf infrastructure, including equipment and storage space are needed to address on-going wear-and-tear and deferred maintenance of existing food shelves, especially after a record breaking 2022. When food shelves are able to store more food and increase their facilities, they are able to help more Minnesotans in need.

“We are in need of a walk-in freezer to support the growing needs of the community. Due to our small space, this will require some remodeling which will involve extensive costs.”

– Big Lake Community Food Shelf



“Clients are asking for things we simply cannot provide at this time. Our current food pantry storage needs to be refreshed and updated, including better air circulation.”

– “SuperMarket Saturday”



WHAT YOU CAN DO

1

Support the Governor’s proposal of investing \$26.4 million in FY 2024-2025 and \$23.6 million in FY 2026-2027 to ensure food security for Minnesotans in need across the state.

2

Support \$19 million in grant funds for food shelves to improve and expand their facilities.

By investing in food shelves, food banks and tribal nations in our state, we can ensure that they are able to keep their shelves stocked with food despite rising food costs; are able to transport and deliver food to many who need it, including the growing number of seniors who depend on their local food shelves; and ensure that food shelves are set up with the appropriate storage, equipment and infrastructure to meet the growing demand in our state.

Contact us:

555 Park Street, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: (651) 486-9860
Fax: (651) 486-9866

<http://hungersolutions.org>
info@hungersolutions.org