



**MAKING HEALTHY FOOD AVAILABLE,
AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR
ALL MINNESOTANS.**



The Challenge:

Hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans currently live in areas where they have limited or no access to healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables, low fat dairy, whole grains, and lean meats and poultry. More than 340,000 Minnesotans face both distance and income as a barrier to obtaining healthy, affordable food. This means that people, particularly those who are lower-income and on fixed incomes, face much greater challenges finding affordable foods necessary to maintain a healthy diet. For those living in these regions, limited access to healthy and affordable foods results in disproportionately higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related health problems.

Addressing the Challenge:

The Good Food Access Program was established in 2016 within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to support the retail sale of healthy, affordable food in areas of the state where better access to those foods is needed. The state is currently investing \$450,000 per year to provide equipment grants and technical support for food-related enterprises including grocery stores, mobile markets, farmers' markets, fresh food refrigeration, community supported agriculture and other innovative approaches.

However, demand far exceeds dollars available, and more resources are needed to support the full range of community-driven solutions including access to capital for new food-related enterprises.

HF 1981 provides \$2.5 million in FYs 24-25 to meet ongoing demand for grants and technical Assistance and expand opportunities for revolving loans and other solutions to support new retailers.

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