



While communities around the state continued to reel from the ongoing pandemic, trauma and fatigue following civil unrest and ongoing inequities around the state, 2021 brought relief and glimpses of hope. While we were reunited with loved ones and able to find a sense of normalcy again, the heightened food insecurity from 2020 waned. Statewide food shelf visits saw a decrease for the first time since 2014, bringing visit numbers back to pre-pandemic levels thanks in part to the generous community, and the response from state and federal governments.

The government response to food insecurity was a huge relief for families. Emergency SNAP (E-SNAP) helped families that utilize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), by allowing households to receive the maximum SNAP benefit amount to ensure tables throughout Minnesota are full. 600,000 Minnesota families received the Child Tax Credit payments, 85% of whom reported spending the funds on basic needs like food, housing and utilities. Nearly 500,000 children throughout Minnesota received Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) during the 2020-2021 school year, with over \$400 million in benefits distributed throughout the state, reducing food hardships for households by 30%¹. Federal Child Nutrition Waivers allowed schools throughout the country to serve free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of income. These waivers provided much needed relief for the 1 in 4 children in our state who live in families that earn too much for the free and reduced lunch program but still struggle with food insecurity. The supports available to families this year served as a lifeline helping both families and the local emergency food system stay afloat by providing much-needed support after 2020's record 3.8 million food shelf visits.

The work isn't done. In 2021, nearly 1 in 10 Minnesotan's were food insecure - over 400,000 adults, children, and seniors throughout Minnesota. In 2022, students will return to the lunchroom and families will face lunch debt. Food shelves will see increases in visitors as pandemic relief ends. We have a long way to go in the fight against hunger in Minnesota, but we are grateful to the entire hunger-relief community for their partnership, and commitment to ending food insecurity in our state.

Just as we did in 2020, Hunger Solutions remains committed to tackling inequities, advancing sound public policies, and ensuring that low-income families across Minnesota are able to access the help they need. We couldn't do it without support from our loyal donors and supporters. Thank you for your partnership for yet another year.

Colleen Moriarty
Executive Director

¹ The Effect of Pandemic EBT on Measures of Food Hardship, The Hamilton Project Brookings University https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/P-EBT_LO_7.30.pdf

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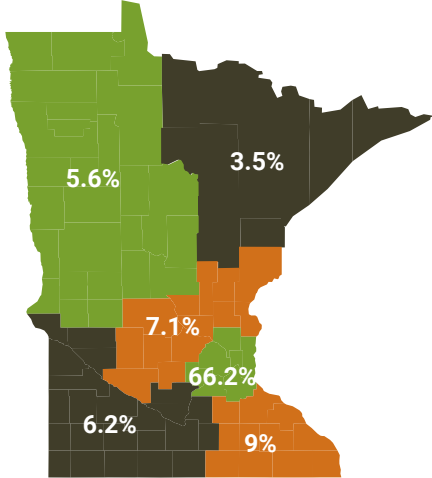
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Food Shelf Capacity

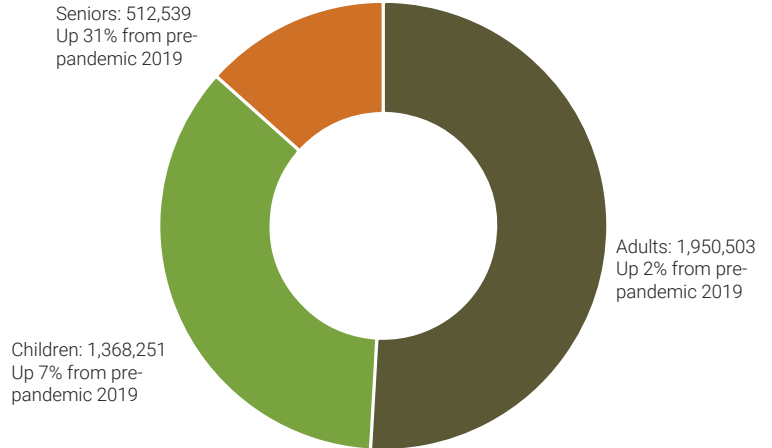
Visits to food shelves

Minnesotans made 3,632,243 visits to food shelves in 2021—the eleventh consecutive year with more than 3 million visits.

Food shelf visits by region, 2021



Food shelf visits by age, 2021



Food Shelf Capacity Building

In 2021, over \$2 million was distributed to 350 food shelves throughout Minnesota. Hunger Solutions, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, distributes grant funding through the Minnesota Food Shelf Program (MFSP) to food shelves across the state.

In addition to standard MFSP grant payments, Hunger Solutions facilitates the distribution of Cultural Collaboration Grants that allow food shelves in greater Minnesota to procure culturally-diverse foods, and Emergency Grants that provide funding for food shelves facing emergencies or equipment failures. In 2021, Hunger Solutions also distributed the 2021 Equipment and Capacity Building Grant to food shelves in Minnesota.



350 Grantee Food Shelves



Over \$2 Million in Grant Funding Distributed



Average Grant Award was \$8,756.17

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, Tribal Nations and meal programs. In FFY 2021 (October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021), we distributed TEFAP to 7 food banks serving 486 food shelves, Tribal Nations and Meal Programs:



93 products



15,826,892 pounds of food



\$18 million value

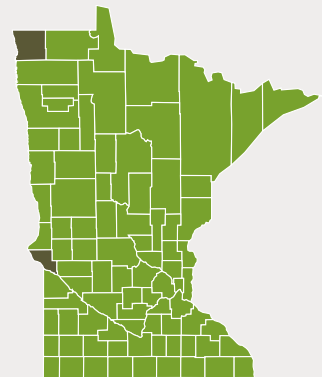


Calls to the Helpline increased by over 135% from pre-pandemic 2019.

In 2021, the Minnesota Food Helpline continued to see an increase in calls due to the pandemic, pandemic relief programs and continued increased food insecurity. In 2021, we received 12,545 calls for help on the Minnesota Food Helpline, 135% more calls than the 5,453 calls received in pre-pandemic 2019. Many calls to the Helpline were related to pandemic relief programs. In 2021, 2,724 calls were regarding the Pandemic- EBT program.

The Minnesota Food Helpline answered **12,545** calls, emails, and live chats from people looking for help with food resources in 2021, connecting over **21,000** people with help putting food on their table.

3,102 households screened for SNAP.
1,072 households eligible for SNAP.
661 SNAP applications mailed to households.



Calls to the Helpline came from 85 of Minnesota's 87 counties.

SNAP Rx

SNAP Rx is a program of Hunger Solutions Minnesota that strengthens the connection between health care and hunger relief organizations. Clinics use the Hunger Vital Sign™ screening tool to screen their patients for food insecurity during routine care. Patients who screen positive for food insecurity are referred to the Minnesota Food Helpline and connected with food resources in their local community. The Helpline connects people to their local food shelf and to programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP Rx helps clinics to leverage the food access expertise of the Minnesota Food Helpline to address their patients' social determinants of health. In 2021, we received 1,180 referrals from clinics. Of those, we connected with 46% of patients. 64% of patients screened for SNAP were eligible for the program and received application assistance and guidance.



87 clinic partners



1,180 referrals received



15% already on SNAP
23% screened for SNAP

Market Bucks

Market Bucks

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 during the regular farmers market season from May 1 to October 31, 2021. This was a record year for the program, and the first year to break over \$1 million in economic activity gained for the state of Minnesota.

Market Bucks By-the-Numbers

17,299

SNAP customers using Market Bucks at farmers markets

2x

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

\$687,566

Market Bucks & EBT were spent by customers at farmers markets

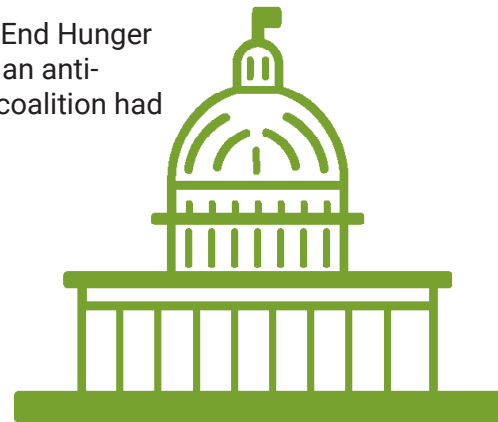
\$1,230,743

the amount of economic activity created by Market Bucks

Partners to End Hunger

Hunger Solutions is proud to convene and chair the Partners to End Hunger Coalition, a group of over 30 organizations working together on an anti-hunger legislative agenda. In 2021, the Partners to End Hunger coalition had four priority bills aimed at reducing hunger across Minnesota:

- 1.) Protect Market Bucks,
- 2.) Invest in Healthy, Hunger-Free Schools,
- 2.) Expand Access to SNAP,
- 3.) End School Lunch Shaming,
- 4.) Investing in Hunger-Free College Campuses.



The Partners to End Hunger Coalition had many successes in 2021, including securing funding for the Market Bucks program after it was initially cut in the Agriculture budget, language that will put an end to lunch-shaming practices was included in the final Education omnibus bill, \$1 million was included to improve college student access to basic needs supports and additional funding was included to expand Hunger Free Campuses. A bill to increase the SNAP income limit did not pass, however it will be a priority for 2022.

Hunger Solutions launched the Healthy, Hunger-Free Schools campaign in 2021 to ensure all Minnesota children have access to breakfast and lunch at school.

Voice of Hunger Network

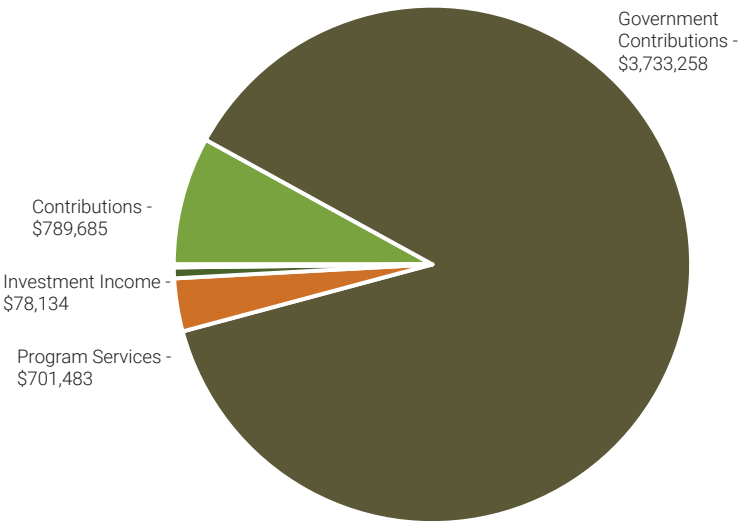
The Voice of Hunger Network connects anti-hunger advocates to lawmakers through 2,500+ action alerts, emails, phone calls, and Hunger Day on the Hill.



Hunger Day on the Hill

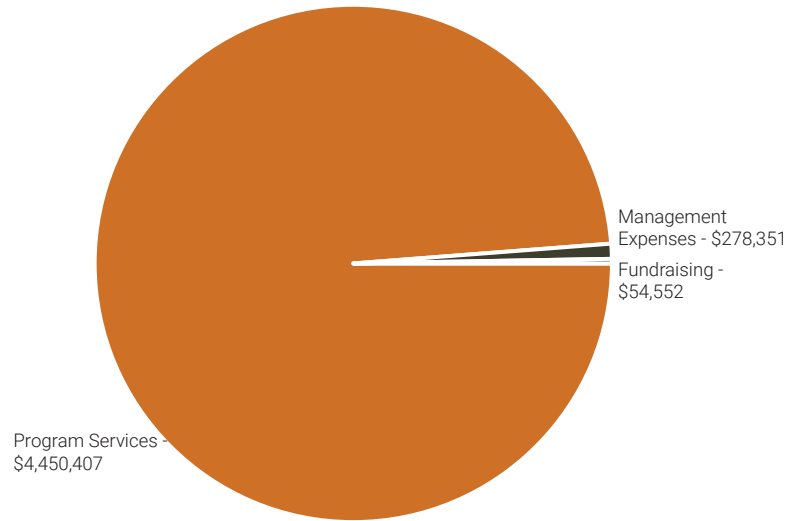
The 7th annual Hunger Day on the Hill brought over 120 advocates together virtually to learn about the Partners to End Hunger legislative agenda, and meet with their legislators via Zoom.

Revenue



Total Revenue: \$5,311,560

Expenses



Total Expenses: \$ 4,783,310

93% of Hunger Solutions Minnesota's funding goes to program services.

Corporate, Business, Foundation, and Individual Donors

\$50,000+

- Otto Bremer Foundation
- General Mills Foundation
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

\$15,000-\$50,000

- Essentia Health
- Jim & Yvonne Sexton Family Foundation
- Hugh J. Andersen Foundation

\$5,000-\$14,999

- Tracy Berg
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\$1,000-\$4,999

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- Sampson Family Charitable Foundation
- Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation

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

Our apologies for any omissions or errors in presenting our 2021 donor listing. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Development Manager, Abbie Joseph, at 651-789-9848 or ajoseph@hungersolutions.org.



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, building grassroots advocacy, and informing and educating critical stakeholders about the status of hunger in Minnesota.

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