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Release Date: February 26, 2025

Minnesotans made nearly 9 million visits to food shelves in 2024, breaking records for fourth consecutive year.

An increase of 1.4 million visits compared to 2023; food insecurity impacting Minnesotans of all ages in both urban and rural areas.

New Hope, MN (Feb. 26, 2025) – Minnesotans made 8,914,000 visits to food shelves in 2024, a record high for the fourth consecutive year. This is 1.4 million more visits than in 2023 and 2.5x more visits than pre-pandemic 2019. Food insecurity is a statewide issue that impacts Minnesotans of all ages in both urban and rural areas.

“While food shelf visits continue to rise statewide, the good news is they aren’t rising as quickly as 2022 and 2023,” said Sophia Lenarz-Coy, Executive Director of The Food Group. “I applaud Minnesota food shelves for strategically expanding their programming to meet rising need. Tighter safety nets like the state child income tax credit and universal free school meals also make a meaningful difference for families experiencing hunger.”

Minnesotans are feeling the multi-year strain of high food prices and declining COVID-19 emergency food assistance benefits such as the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). The same groceries that cost \$100 in 2019 cost \$128 in 2024—a 28% increase over four years. At the same time, average monthly SNAP benefits dipped dramatically in 2023. Minnesotans on SNAP had an average of \$100 less each month to spend on the food they need in 2024 compared to early 2023.

Food assistance needs have dramatically increased from pre-pandemic levels with the heaviest burden on vulnerable populations. Minnesota food shelves offer an essential lifeline for families and individuals experiencing food insecurity. Remarkably, Minnesota food shelves have met increased need over the past four years with courage and creativity, nimbly expanding their programming to increase access. The result is a more responsive, human-centered food shelf experience for Minnesotans facing hunger.

In addition to a strong network of anti-hunger partners and organizations, volunteers and donors play a powerful role in the statewide hunger relief system. Together, we are building a more food-secure Minnesota.

Yet even as we make notable progress toward that vision, we anticipate difficult roadblocks ahead.

“Looking forward, the anti-hunger sector is facing significant challenges and threats. It’s unclear whether federal funding for anti-hunger efforts will remain accessible,” commented Sophia Lenarz-Coy. “Current proposals for a budget reconciliation bill include significant cuts targeted at food assistance programs like SNAP.”

Over the past 20 years, food shelf visits have grown tremendously. Visits are 5x higher today than in 2004. More than ever, food shelves and programs like SNAP and CEP serve as irreplaceable safeguards against hunger. Alongside our partners, The Food Group is committed to protecting and expanding critical services for food-insecure Minnesotans.

Together, we can invest in food for today and create lasting change for tomorrow.

For more information, see the [full report](#).

About The Food Group

The Food Group is a local food equity non-profit. For nearly 50 years, we have worked to provide food for today and change for tomorrow for neighbors who need it most in our community. We work at the intersection of food access, equity, and nutrition statewide.

About Statewide Food Shelf Data Collection Process

Food shelf data is collected by The Food Group in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Family. The Food Group is committed to transparent data collection process and oversight. Our food shelf data comes from Minnesota's food shelves and is calculated based on the number of visitors reported by each food shelf. The food shelves represented are TEFAP-eligible and are monitored by the Department of Children, Youth, and Family's Office of Economic Opportunity and local food banks.

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If you have additional questions, contact The Food Group Executive Director Sophia Lenarz-Coy at (612)-790-1852.