

2022 Legislative Session

Ensuring better access to food, enhancing food security

High numbers of Minnesotans turned to food shelves and nutrition assistance as hunger and food insecurity worsened due to COVID-19. The pandemic made food security and access to nutritious foods more difficult for all Minnesotans. Indigenous nations and communities experience health disparities connected to historical trauma, with a history of inadequate and harmful federal policies resulting in chronic poor nutrition.

Minnesota's food programs help people with low incomes get the food they need for nutritious, well-balanced meals. With proper nutrition, children learn more easily, adults work more productively and seniors live healthier lives. To that end, the Governor's budget recommends investments to improve food security within Tribal Nations and American Indian communities, upgrade and expand food shelf facilities across Minnesota, support food shelves, food banks and meal programs, and expand efforts to enroll eligible Minnesotans in SNAP.

Proposals

Governor Walz's budget includes the following proposals:

- **Supporting food sovereignty for Tribal Nations:** This proposal provides resources to Tribal Nations and American Indian organizations to improve access to food security programs in their communities. Funding will enable governments and organizations to build capacity to provide culturally relevant food supports and develop infrastructure and training for food access and sustainability. *FY 2023: \$7 million; FY 2024: \$3 million; FY 2025: \$2 million*
- **Investing in the emergency food distribution system:** Grants will support capital improvements to upgrade and expand food shelf facilities throughout the state. Funds can be used to improve safety and sanitation by adding freezer space and dry storage space, as well as to address wear and tear and deferred maintenance. *FY 2023: \$15 million*
- **Supporting food shelves, food banks and meal programs:** More funding will allow food shelves, food banks and meal programs to buy, store, transport and process food for Minnesotans. Organizations may also purchase personal protective equipment, hygiene supplies and other items to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through no or low-contact distribution methods. Outreach and application assistance will help ensure that eligible Minnesotans who are not yet enrolled in SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, can receive benefits. *FY 2023: \$5 million; FY 2024: \$3 million*

Related information

Governor's 2022 Revised Supplemental Budget Recommendations:

- [Food Security for Minnesota Families](#)

Additional background:

- [SNAP Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#)
- [Emergency food support](#)