



The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity (MN DHS-OEO)



The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) distributes U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) donated food to TEFAP Food Providers.

To execute TEFAP, The Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity (DHS-OEO) contracts with Minnesota’s 7 regional food banks to distribute TEFAP foods to more than 350+ food shelves, Tribal food programs, on-site meal programs and shelters. The program uses County-level poverty and unemployment data to ensure an equitable distribution of TEFAP foods statewide.

Who are the 7 Regional MN Food Banks?

1. Channel One Food Bank
2. The Food Group
3. Great Plains Food Bank
4. North Country Food Bank
5. Second Harvest Heartland
6. Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank
7. Second Harvest North Central Food Bank



TEFAP Structure in Minnesota



U.S Dept of Agriculture
TEFAP



Office of Economic Opportunity
(Program Administration)



7 Regional Food Banks in MN



Food Shelves and Tribal Food Programs



Meal Programs and Shelters



TEFAP Food to Low Income Households

Posted: October 1, 2023



For more information, contact DHS-OEO TEFAP Grant Managers at MNTEFAP.DHS@state.mn.us



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How are TEFAP foods distributed in MN?



MN's TEFAP Policy and Operations Manual guides all TEFAP work.



USDA provides funding to MN DHS-OEO to manage TEFAP and contract with regional food banks to store and distribute TEFAP foods.



Food banks have TEFAP agreements with over 350 partner agencies (food shelves, on-site meal programs, Tribal food programs and shelters).



TEFAP partner agencies are able to order TEFAP foods, at no charge, through their regional food bank. TEFAP foods are then distributed to low-income households

What are the types of USDA Foods?

USDA Foods

USDA foods are chosen for TEFAP based on input from food banks, food shelves, and food shelf participants.

Entitlement USDA Foods are foods allocated to MN TEFAP and purchased with TEFAP funds.

Bonus USDA Foods are purchased by USDA to support prices of agricultural products. Bonus products are offered to states at no charge.

What foods are available through TEFAP?

The current MN TEFAP foods order calendar is available on the DHS-OEO TEFAP webpage.

<https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/program-overviews/economic-supports-cash-food/office-of-economic-opportunity/tefap/#6>

Partnerships in Hunger Relief

DHS-OEO encourages partnering with the following organizations for technical assistance, support, capacity building, and alternative grant funding opportunities.



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