

Working families: Stabilizing budgets, supporting nutrition

In 2023, Minnesota strengthened and widened its safety net for people who struggle to meet their basic needs in life. The changes will improve economic stability and support self-sufficiency, help working Minnesotans save for the future and give more people access to nutritional support at a time when high food costs burden many. A record number of Minnesotans relied on food shelves in 2022, many of them children and seniors.

2023 legislation

Helping working families achieve stability. Policy improvements will make the Minnesota Family Investment Program more family-friendly and improve economic stability for participants. Eliminating the Diversionary Work Program will remove unnecessary barriers and simplify the process for participants and staff. Reforming sanctions will reduce severe hardship for parents who currently lose some or all of their family's assistance for not complying with rules. The income budgeting period will change to six months rather than monthly, helping stabilize family income and align with other economic assistance programs. *FY2024-25: \$4.7 million; FY2026-27: \$98.6 million*

Keeping pace with rising housing costs. Adding annual cost-of-living adjustments to Minnesota Family Investment Program housing grants will help families cover rising housing costs and stabilize more quickly. Since the grants began in 2013, rental costs have risen as much as 42%, while the monthly housing grant of \$110 hasn't changed. *FY2024-25: \$2.4 million; FY2026-27: \$4.6 million*

Building assets for Minnesota families. Expanding the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota program will enable more people with lower incomes to open matched savings accounts to promote financial well-being and economic security. Additional funding will serve more families and increase the lifetime financial match limit from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Participants can now contribute to emergency savings accounts and 529 college savings accounts for their children. Statutory changes that allow Tribal nations and nonprofits to administer the program will help reach more diverse participants. *FY2024-25: \$3 million*

Improving food security for Minnesota families. An ongoing funding increase for the Minnesota Food Shelf Program will help community food shelves across the state serve the growing number of people supplementing their groceries. Food shelves will also be able to purchase personal hygiene products, including diapers and toilet paper. *FY2023: \$5 million in emergency funding; FY2024-25 and beyond: \$6 million*

Supporting American Indian food security and sovereignty. Tribal Nations and American Indian communities will get support from a new food sovereignty program to eliminate barriers to food access and promote food security. One-time capital investments will fund facility improvements and help expand food shelves and Tribal food distribution facilities across the state.

FY2024-25: \$6 million, plus a one-time capital investment of \$7 million; FY2026-27: \$4 million

Providing meals in new culturally specific ways. For the first time, nonprofits and Tribes will have access to state grant funding to provide culturally specific prepared meals for people struggling with food insecurity. The meals will benefit people who can't visit a food shelf or cook for themselves. *FY2024-25: \$3.3 million*

Increasing access to federal SNAP food benefits. New state investment in outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will supplement Minnesota's federally funded efforts to increase access to benefits for eligible Minnesotans. Organizations across the state will receive funding to provide education, information and assistance about SNAP through culturally relevant and community-driven approaches. *FY2024-25: \$2 million; FY2026-27: \$1 million*

Related information

- [DHS 2023 session fact sheets](#)
- [Facts about the Minnesota Family Investment Program fact sheet](#)
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helps people with low incomes buy food fact sheet](#)
- [Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota fact sheet](#)