



May 2, 2023

Health and Human Services Conference Committee
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs and Members of the Conference Committee,

We are writing to thank you for prioritizing funding for food shelves and tribal food sovereignty in your omnibus budget bills.

This funding comes at a critical time with a record 5.5 million food shelf visits in 2022—2 million more than the previous year. This has caused a strain on food shelves trying to keep up with unprecedented demand and the high cost of food. We anticipate the situation will only get worse with the recent ending of the SNAP emergency allotments, causing households to rely even more heavily on their local food shelf for help.

We respectfully request the committee adopt the House language that includes **\$6 million per year to the Minnesota Food Shelf Program, and \$10 million in one-time capital grants** to improve and expand food distribution facilities in the final Conference Committee Report. This investment in the emergency food system would ensure that food shelves are able to keep their shelves stocked despite rising food costs, are able to transport and deliver food to many who need it, and are set up with the appropriate storage, equipment, and infrastructure to meet the growing demand across Minnesota.

We must continue to rise to the occasion and leverage the resources necessary to help families struggling to make ends meet. During a time of increased need, we urge your support.

For further information, please contact Peter Woitock, 651-789-9854, pwoitock@hungersolutions.org

Sincerely,

A Place for Hope: Recovery and Wellness Center
& Food Shelf
Advocates for Better Health
Appetite For Change
BBE Area Food Shelf
Becker Food Shelf
Bemidji Community Food Shelf
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
Bois Forte Community Food Shelf
Bridgepointe church food shelf
CAER Food Shelf

CAPI USA
Centennial Community Food Shelf
Community Emergency Service, Inc.
Community Food Shelf at First Lutheran Church -
Aitkin, MN
Community Pathways of Steele County
Crosslake Food Shelf
Deer River Area Food Shelf
Department of Indian Work
Division of Indian Work
East Grand Forks Food Shelf

ECHO Food Shelf
Eden Valley Food Shelf
Ely Area Food Shelf
Faribault County Food Shelf
Foundation for Essential Needs (FFEN)
Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf Saint Paul
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Harvest from the HEART/Incarnation
Heaven's Table Food Shelf
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Jewish Family and Children's Service of
Minneapolis
Keystone Community Services
Laporte Community Food Shelf
Legal Services Advocacy Project
LifeGate Services
Mazeppa area food shelf
MCCC Food Shelf
Metro Meals on Wheels
Minneapolis Central Church of Christ Food Shelf
NCBC Food Shelf
Neighborhood House
Neighbors, Inc.
Ogilvie Food Shelf
Open Arms of Minnesota
Pipestone County Food Shelf, Inc.
Red Wing Area Food Shelf
Rush City Food Shelf
SACA Food Shelf
Second Harvest Heartland
Semcac Preston Food Shelf
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
-Apple Valley
Shiloh Cares Food Shelf
Teamsters Serving Teamsters Food Shelf
The Food Group
The Sanneh Foundation
The Windom Area Sharing Center
Tri-Community Food Shelf
Urban Ventures Farm and Nutrition
Valley Outreach
VEAP
Wabasha Area Food Share
Westonka Food Shelf
White Bear Area Food Shelf
Winona Volunteer Services

“Our numbers have tripled and just keep going up. We are a small community and need help from the state to keep up with the growing hunger in our area.”
– Wabasha Area Food Shelf

“Demand has increased significantly in Northern Minnesota, and we need the additional funds to both meet the day-to-day needs of thousands of families, but also to keep our food shelf operating. This funding is needed to support those in need.”
– Bemidji Community Food Shelf

“Food insecurity is not just a regional challenge or metro challenge it is a Minnesota challenge. A challenge that requires Minnesota partnerships and Minnesota solutions. Your support for an increased investment in our emergency food system is one of the key solutions we can implement together as partners.”
– Community Pathways of Steele County

“We are experiencing a great increase in demand. The funding is absolutely essential to meet the demand we are currently experiencing.” – Deer River Area Food Shelf

“Funding will help seniors and families to access healthy food each month.”
– BBE Area Food Shelf

“Our shoppers are struggling to get enough food to feed their households.”
– Ely Area Food Shelf