

**Subject** Food Shelf Grants and Other Nutrition Assistance

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## Overview

This bill updates the food shelf program grantee to The Food Group due to the merger of Hunger Solutions and The Food Group and appropriates money in fiscal year 2025 for food shelf programs, the American Indian food sovereignty program, and regional food banks.

The **Minnesota food shelf program** provides funds to food shelves and Tribes to: (1) purchase, transport, and coordinate the distribution of nutritious food to needy individuals and families; (2) purchase personal hygiene products; and (3) cover certain administrative expenses. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families distributes funds to The Food Group to distribute to qualifying food shelves and Tribes across the state (about 240 grantees). Food shelves are available to households with income at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Households are automatically eligible if they participate in certain public assistance programs, such as MFIP or child care assistance.

The **American Indian Food Sovereignty Funding Program** is a state-funded program established by the 2023 Legislature to improve access and equity to food security programs within Tribal and American Indian communities. Eligible recipients of funding include federally recognized American Indian Tribes or Bands in Minnesota or nonprofit organizations or fiscal sponsors with a majority American Indian board of directors. Funds provided under this program must be used to promote food security in American Indian communities by: (1) planning for sustainable food systems; (2) implementing food security programs; (3) providing culturally relevant training for building food access; (4) purchasing, processing, producing, transporting, storing, and coordinating the distribution of food; and (5) purchasing seeds, plants, equipment, or materials to preserve, procure, or grow food.

The **Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)** is a federal program that distributes U.S. Department of Agriculture food commodities to states. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families contracts with the seven Minnesota

regional food banks to distribute TEFAP foods to more than 300 food shelves, Tribal food programs, on-site meal programs, and shelters. Food is distributed based on county-level poverty and unemployment data to ensure equitable distribution. In 2022, nearly 10 million pounds of food were distributed in Minnesota. TEFAP foods consist of a variety of canned and dried foods, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, meat, and dairy products.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Food shelf.</b></p> <p>Amends § 142F.14. Changes the food shelf program grantee from Hunger Solutions to The Food Group due to the merger of those two organizations.</p> <p>Provides an immediate effective date.</p>
2	<p><b>Appropriations; food assistance.</b></p> <p>Appropriates the following amounts in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of children, youth, and families for the nutrition assistance programs listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ \$2,500,000 for food shelf programs</li><li>▪ \$500,000 for the American Indian food sovereignty funding program</li><li>▪ \$1,000,000 for Minnesota’s regional food banks with an annual operating budget of less than \$100,000,000 for the purposes of the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)</li></ul>



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