

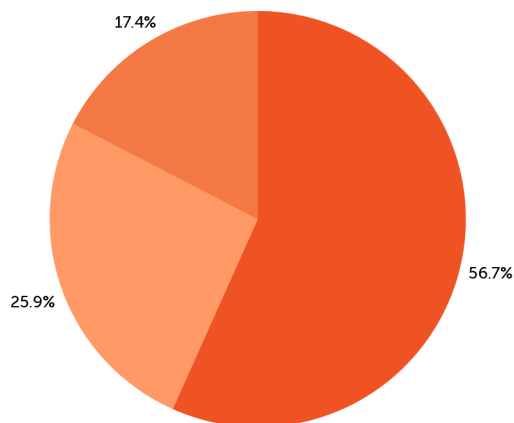
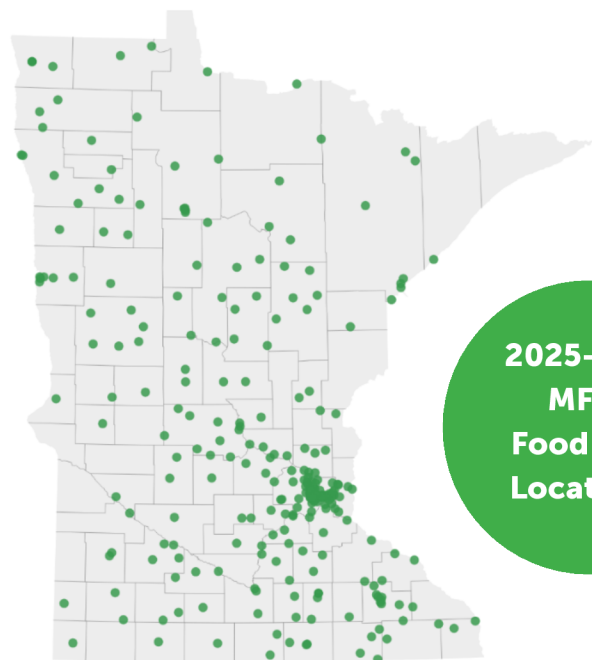
Supporting Minnesota's Food Shelves Through the Minnesota Food Shelf Program

The Minnesota Food Shelf Program (MFSP) was established by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1992 to support food shelves throughout Minnesota and reduce food insecurity for low-income Minnesotans. Since its origin, Hunger Solutions, now The Food Group, has partnered with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families Office of Economic Opportunity to distribute the funding to food shelves around the state.

The Minnesota Food Shelf Program is the main source of support for many food shelves in Minnesota. MFSP grants allow food shelves flexibility in spending, giving them the power to allocate funds to where they are needed most.

"This grant had a substantial and positive impact on our food shelf's operations and capacity to serve the community. It allowed us to cover essential operating costs, including utilities and salaries for our part-time food shelf coordinator and cleaner. By covering these core expenses, we were able to direct more of our donated funds toward purchasing food for our clients."

– Watonwan County Food Shelf, St. James



Over half of the reported 2024-2025 Minnesota Food Shelf Program grant funds were spent on food purchases that allowed food shelves to keep fresh produce, pantry staples, and dairy and meat products on their shelves for their community.

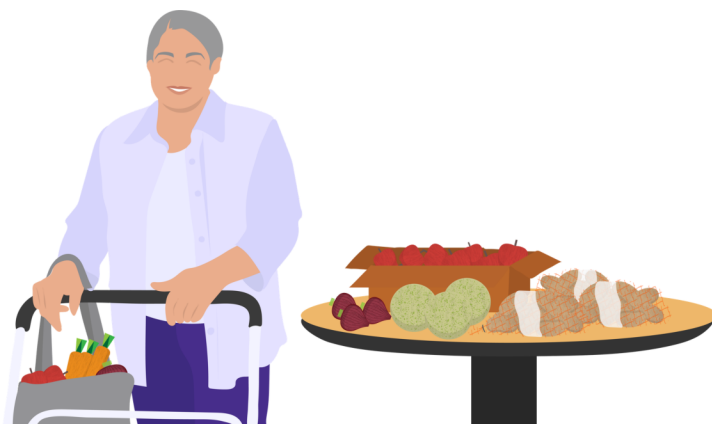
56.7% of the funds were spent on food

25.9% of the funds were spent on personnel/salaries

17.4% of grant funds were spent on operation expenses like rent, technology, marketing and equipment and supplies.



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HOW IT WORKS

The Minnesota Food Shelf Program is an annual, non-competitive, grant available to all eligible food shelves and Tribal Nations in Minnesota. Grant amounts are allocated based on the number of individuals served within the previous year.

In 2025, 286 food shelves and Tribal Nations across the state received an annual MFSP grant. Grant awards ranged from \$10,000 to \$175,000.

REPORTING AND MONITORING

The Minnesota Food Shelf Program partners with trusted, vetted food shelf partners. All applicants are reviewing to confirm active 501(c)3 status and IRS good standing. Grantees submit two reports throughout the grant year documenting their spending. Grantees that receive over \$50,000 receive an in-person site visit and enhanced fiscal monitoring to ensure funds are used appropriately.

The average MFSP grant award in 2025 was \$32,500



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