

Partners to End Hunger Agenda

Minnesota Partners to End Hunger is a statewide network of service providers and advocates working to end hunger in Minnesota by motivating decision-makers to take supportive action on state and national hunger policy issues.

Our 2019 Partners to End Hunger Legislative Agenda identifies state-level priorities for anti-hunger legislation, including:

- Fully fund the Good Food Access Program
- Improving school breakfast
- End school lunch shaming
- Continue mobile food shelf funding
- Farm to School and early care
- Urban Agriculture Grant Program

[Read the full agenda](#)

Minnesota Partners to End Hunger
State Legislative Agenda 2019

Fully fund the Good Food Access Program
The Good Food Access Program helps eligible farmers and ranchers for the sale of locally produced food in a way that is fair to the farmer and the consumer. The program provides technical assistance and financial support for food-related activities such as food and improved growing practices, food safety, farm-to-school, farm-to-institution, and other innovative community food solutions.
Lead organization: Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Committee: Agriculture

Improving school breakfast
When children have breakfast available to them at school, it makes them more ready to learn. The legislative agenda has a goal to improve the program so that all eligible children can benefit from this important meal. This year, we propose a bill to improve the program to ensure that all eligible children can benefit from this important meal.
Lead organization: Hunger Solutions Minnesota & Legal Aid
Committee: Education

End school lunch shaming
In Minnesota, we have a goal to end the practice of school lunch shaming when a child's application to receive free or reduced lunch benefits is not approved. Children who don't have lunch at school may be shamed, but some children who are unable to pay a full-priced lunch may be shamed as well. This year, we propose a bill to end school lunch shaming. This year, we propose a bill to end school lunch shaming.
Lead organization: Legal Aid & Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Committee: Education

Continue mobile food shelf funding
Mobile food shelf programs increase access to nutritious food for individuals who are unable to visit an existing food bank or food pantry. Food shelves are important in providing emergency food relief to people who are unable to visit an existing food bank or food pantry. In 2019, we propose a bill to continue funding of mobile food shelves to ensure that all eligible individuals can benefit from this important program.
Lead organization: Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Committee: Human Services

State Legislative Session Begins



The Minnesota Legislature started the 2019 session earlier this week and lawmakers have been [announcing their priorities for the session](#). Among the hot topics this session: healthcare, paid family leave, and addressing wage theft.

Governor Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan were sworn in to office on Monday and quickly got to work. Among their first actions, creating the [“One Minnesota Council on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity.”](#) aimed at addressing disparities by race, geography, and economic status.

Federal Government Shutdown

The federal government shutdown has stretched to 21 days. Today, 32,000 federal employees in Minnesota are going without a paycheck. For the 420,000 Minnesotans using SNAP, each day without a federal budget means concerns over future benefit payments grow. While the situation is serious, here is what we know:

- The USDA announced Tuesday that they are working with states to distribute February SNAP benefits. These benefits will go out to SNAP participants on or around January 20.
- For now, the program will operate largely as it would normally (with the notable exception that February benefits will be issued early), ensuring that SNAP participants and those newly applying have access to food assistance in January and February.
- If the shutdown continues, we do not yet know what will happen to SNAP benefits.

The good news is SNAP should be ok through February. Stay tuned for information on March benefits.

DHS is hosting a webinar meeting for community stakeholders on **Monday, January 14 at 1:00 p.m.** to discuss what they know about the impact of the federal shutdown on SNAP and the early issuance of SNAP benefits. Webinar and conference call details will be sent out shortly. [Let us know you want to participate](#) and we will send you info on the webinar as soon as we have it.

In the meantime, if you know someone who has questions about SNAP, or needs help finding other food resources in their community, tell them to call the [Minnesota Food HelpLine](#) at 888-711-1151.

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