

Food Shelf Facilities Capital Grant

Many Minnesotans face food insecurity and visit over 350 food shelves throughout the State that provide emergency food programs. The Food Shelf Facilities Capital grant funds support capital investments such as designing, acquisition, or renovation of emergency food distribution facilities.

In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature awarded the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Office of Economic Opportunity (DCYF, OEO) a one-time appropriation to fund food shelf facility capital projects. Funding is outlined in session law, [Chapter 70, Article 20, Section 2, Subdivision 24, paragraph i](#).

Funding and Eligibility

- In SFY 2024, the legislature appropriated a one-time \$7 million to Food Shelf Facilities Capital grant funding to DCYF, OEO to be distributed through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP).
- Funds must be spent by June 30, 2027.
- The purpose was to fund food shelves to improve or create facilities that improve or increase the availability of and access to food services.
- Eligible projects include planning and designing, acquisition, or renovation.
- Eligible applicants were Tribal Nations or bands in Minnesota, nonprofit organizations, and local units of government who operate food shelves.
- Projects and recipients of the grants must operate a food shelf in accordance with the Minnesota Food Shelf Program (MFSP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and comply with Civil Rights requirements.

SFY 2024 Grant process and awards

Funds were awarded through a competitive RFP process. DCYF, OEO convened a committee of volunteers comprised of DCYF, OEO staff, other state staff, and external partners with lived and/or professional experience with food insecurity. This committee reviewed and scored applications.

Food Shelf Capital Improvement Grants were awarded to 2 Tribal Nations, 8 non-profit organizations, and 3 local units of government across Minnesota.

Projects funded vary widely and include:

- Installation of running water
- Expansion of food shelf space and re-design
- Acquisition of new space in an under-served community
- Upgraded heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system
- Installation of walk-in coolers for expanded food storage capacity
- Repair of a hazardous site layout for more storage space and improved safety
- Repair of roofs, floors, foundations for building integrity

Impact

This funding is new in SFY 2024 and further details on services, projects funded, and impact will be available in SFY 2025.