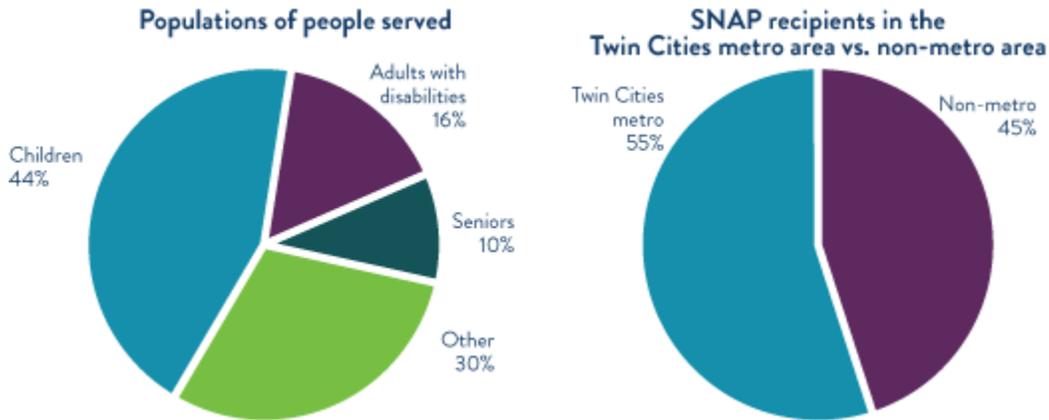


Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Minnesota

SNAP helps Minnesotans with low incomes to buy food.

More than 621,000 Minnesotans – almost 11 percent of the state’s population – received SNAP at some point in Federal Fiscal Year 2016. Their incomes are below 165 percent of the federal poverty level, roughly \$34,000 a year for a family of three.¹



Because Minnesota does not have an asset limit and uses a one-page application for seniors on SNAP, the state has been successful in reaching more seniors living in poverty.²



SNAP does not meet all the food needs of Minnesotans with low incomes.

- The average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member is \$112.
- The average SNAP benefit per person per meal is \$1.24.³
- One in 10 Minnesotans, or 540,820 people, doesn’t have enough food for an active, healthy life.⁴
- Since 2011, Minnesotans have visited food shelves more than 3 million times per year.
- Almost half of food shelf visits are by seniors and families with children.⁵

Many SNAP recipients are workers with low wages.

- 67 percent of families with children participating in SNAP are working.⁶
- Many SNAP recipients work while receiving SNAP, earning wages that are low enough to qualify for the program. Some apply for SNAP because they are unemployed. In both cases, more than half of their jobs are in health care, retail, hotel/restaurant and temporary agency industries.⁷ These jobs are often part-time, with high turnover.

Since 2012, the number of able-bodied adults without dependents receiving SNAP has fallen from 65,000 per month to fewer than 6,300 per month.⁸

- In November 2013, Minnesota had to re-impose time limits on able-bodied adults without dependents in most counties. A statewide waiver to the time limit had been granted during the economic crisis.
- These adults have to be working or looking for a job for at least 20 hours per week in order to receive SNAP for more than three months out of every 36 months.
- Local waivers still apply to areas of high unemployment in Minnesota including: 12 American Indian reservations and tribal areas and 29 counties – Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Norman, Pennington, Pine, Red Lake, Roseau, St. Louis, Todd, and Wadena.
- Many of these men and women struggle with low skills, poor health and histories of incarceration.
- They often lose SNAP benefits before finding jobs and getting help to address their barriers to employment.

Services are available through SNAP Employment and Training in Minnesota.

- In Federal Fiscal Year 2018, Minnesota received \$2.74 million from USDA for SNAP Employment and Training services.
- The most common services provided include assessing individuals' employability and helping them with job searches. A small fraction receive basic education, vocational services or social services.
- To create more options for SNAP recipients to gain skills and enter the workforce, Minnesota is working to leverage almost \$12 million of state, local government and community workforce services investments with the goal of accessing up to \$6 million in a federal match.

SNAP pumped about \$602 million into Minnesota's economy in 2017.⁹

- More than 3,500 stores and many farmers markets have customers whose SNAP benefits help pay for groceries.

Minnesota streamlines assistance to poor children and their families.

- A provision in the farm bill allows Minnesota to integrate SNAP benefits with cash assistance in its welfare-to-work program, the Minnesota Family Investment Program.
- This integration allows families and frontline workers to track only one benefit amount when income or household membership changes, and have only one set of program rules with which to comply.
- The food portion of the integrated benefit can only be spent on the same food items that SNAP allow.

¹ Minnesota Department of Human Services, FFY 2017 unduplicated annual caseload.

² Minnesota Department of Human Services, based on average monthly count of seniors receiving SNAP benefits compared to an estimate based on the American Community Survey of seniors with an income of 125 percent of poverty or less.

³ Reports and Forecasts Division Family Self-Sufficiency and Health Care Program Statistics for January 2018 (page 28): https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/family-self-sufficiency-health-care-0118_tcm1053-328005.pdf

⁴ Gundersen, C., A. Satoh, A. Dewey, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2015: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America, 2015.

⁵ Hunger Data Center, Hunger Solutions, <http://www.hungersolutions.org/learn/hunger-data-center-2/>

⁶ Minnesota Department of Human Services, Characteristics of People and Cases on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program December 2016, <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5182K-ENG>

⁷ Analysis done by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, 2011.

⁸ Minnesota Department of Human Services Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division Research Unit LOG 590 regular report for January 2018

⁹ Moody's analytics estimates that in a weak economy, every dollar increase in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity. Minnesota estimate from Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, March 2018. http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_minnesota.pdf