

American Rescue Plan (ARP) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Sarah Aughenbaugh, DHS, sarah.aughenbaugh@state.mn.us, 651-431-3825

Title of Request: Federal Recovery Funds for Food Support

Date: 6/22/2022 **Request Amount:** \$ 5,100,000

Expenditure Time Period: 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 (no later than 6/30/2023)

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

Food support continues to be an ongoing concern due to the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. Minnesotans made more than 3.6 million visits to food shelves in 2021. Children represented 34.8% of food shelf visits in 2021, and seniors represented 14% of food shelf visits; an increase of 31% since 2019. And in 2020, 83% of Black and 70% Hispanic/Latino Minnesotans reported food insecurity compared to 32% of white residents. Fifty-two percent of Asian Americans and 55% of people of other races reported some degree of food insecurity and almost half of American Indians nationwide have reported not having enough food. Access to food ensures children and families have the resources to thrive in school, work, and their communities.

Minnesota faces an intense food security challenge: responding to immediate household food needs in the face of high gas prices, increasing COVID case rates and rising food costs. DHS and the Food Security Work Group are proposing this allocation of Fiscal Recovery Funds to address this challenge.

This proposal requests \$5.1 million to support immediate household food needs, to provide a nimble, fluid response to changing needs across the emergency food response system. This proposal would provide grant funds to food shelves, food banks, and meal programs, operated by community based organizations, Tribal Nations, and local units of government.

Allowable uses of funds would include:

- Purchasing, producing, processing, transporting, storing, and coordinating the distribution of nutritious food to needy individuals and families. This includes the purchase of baby formula and culturally connected food items to meet Minnesotans' diverse needs across the state.
- Purchasing PPE, hygiene supplies, cleaning and disinfecting processes to promote COVID-mitigation strategies
- Supporting plans for appropriate distribution methods to ensure COVID-19 safety
- Supporting systems, marketing and communication for low contact food distribution and SNAP application assistance
- Administrative expenses to support distributing funds quickly
- Up to \$100,000 may be conveyed to the Department of Education to expand access to school-based food assistance for Tribal children

Without these investments, Minnesotans will experience food hardship and insecurity due to the ongoing public health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

Jodi Harpstead

Digitally signed by Jodi Harpstead
Date: 2022.06.24 11:34:06 -05'00'

Department Head Signature

6/24/2022

Date