



## 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:** Minnesota Department of Agriculture/Ashley Bress

**Title of Request:** Expanded Meal Access

**Date:** 12/17/2021

**Request Amount:** \$ 3,000,000

**Expenditure Time Period:** 12/15/2021 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)

The need for food support continues to be in high demand due to the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 5 percent of Minnesota households (more than 200,000 people) report food insufficiency, and the proportion increases to nearly 10 percent of households with children. As cases increase and availability of food shifts with seasons and supply chain disruptions, prepared meals can be especially difficult for people to access. These challenges disproportionately affect those with limited mobility and ability to prepare their own food. Additionally, Minnesota has seen a 24% increase in the number of people participating in SNAP between February 2020 and June 2021. This increase is expected to persist throughout the pandemic and the subsequent recovery period. Access to food ensures that people have the resources to thrive in school, work, and their communities.

This proposal will provide food and meals to people experiencing increased food insecurity as a result of the pandemic. We estimate up to 1.5 million fully prepared meals will be made available as a result of this funding. Meals will be targeted towards populations such as the unhoused, adults 18-60 (including families for times when other Federal meals are not available), and individuals with disabilities. Meals will be incremental (not replacing a meal funded through another Federal program and in addition to meals that they would typically serve).

The MDA will administer the funds through a grant contract agreement with Second Harvest Heartland (SHH). SHH will identify and award subagreements to organizations that have the capacity to serve these populations and are able to tailor meals to cultural, religious, and dietary needs of the populations served. Preference will also be given to organizations that have demonstrated commitment to sourcing from Minnesota producers/processors, are invested in serving the BIPOC population at greater risk for hunger, have strong connections to the community, and demonstrated success in past prepared meal programs or past innovation.

SHH will make the funds available regionally across the state, based on a methodology similar to the formula used for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

The request is inclusive of MDA's administrative costs needed to administer the funds and SHH's and any subawardees' costs to purchase, prepare, package, transport, and distribute the food.

Without these investments, Minnesotans will experience food hardship and insecurity stemming from the ongoing public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. To the greatest practical extent possible, these investments will be structured to leverage investments from other levels of government (e.g., local government commitments of Fiscal Recovery Funds or Federal reimbursement).

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Department Head Signature

12/17/2021

Date