



Healthy Food Access For All Minnesotans



Good Food Access Program Grant Recipient Profiles

THE FOOD GROUP Operates Statewide

Adding more food storage to help serve more Minnesotans.

“There are a whole group of people who don’t qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), but are still struggling to make ends meet,” says Lori Kratchmer, the Executive Director of The Food Group, formerly the Emergency Foodshelf Network. “Food is one of the first things to get cut when family budgets are tight, especially healthy foods. With our Fare for All Program, we’re really trying to reach that group of people.”

Fare for All is a traveling grocery sales program that purchases nutritional foods at wholesale, assembles those foods into packs of produce and meats, and sells those packs at up to 40% off retail prices at nearly 40 sites across Minnesota. The program sets up shop at their walk-in sales sites once a month and has additional pre-pay sites that serve mainly Greater Minnesota residents. Fare for All encourages people of every income level to shop with them, since the more shoppers who buy from the program, the better deals the program can get on their wholesale purchasing, keeping prices low for everyone.



“The further out into rural Minnesota we have gone, the more success we’ve had, because people in those communities have to drive so far for healthy food. Unfortunately, storage has been a major limiting factor in being able to add program sites.”



A group of volunteers from The Food Group proudly stands for a photo. They are focused on fighting hunger across the state of Minnesota.

“We go where we’re needed,” says Lori. And that need is great—there is currently a waiting list of towns and cities that want to bring the program to their communities, particularly in more rural areas.

“The further out into rural Minnesota we have gone, the more success we’ve had, because people in those communities have to drive so far for healthy food,” says Lori. Unfortunately, storage has been a major limiting factor in being able to add program sites. “We have giant coolers and freezers that you can drive a forklift into, but we’re already at maximum capacity,” she adds.

That’s where the Good Food Access Fund comes in. In order to serve more communities, the Food Group has started construction on a second freezer, piecing together grants from a number of sources to fund the several hundred thousand dollars necessary for a project of this scale. The Good Food Access Fund grant is supporting the final steps on the freezer construction, adding a racking system and sealing the outside. “We so appreciate this grant,” says Lori. “It’s perfect in helping us complete the freezer.”



ABOUT THE GOOD FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM

Recognizing the need for food access solutions in Minnesota, the American Heart Association, together with local and state coalition partners, advocated for the creation of the Good Food Access Program within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in 2016. The program provides grants, loans and technical assistance to local enterprises for innovative food access solutions.

Learn more at www.mnhealthykids.org