

92.1 **ARTICLE 7**

92.2 **ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE**

92.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.03, is amended by adding a subdivision

92.4 to read:

92.5 Subd. 35. **Electronic benefits transfer; contracting and procurement.** Notwithstanding

92.6 chapter 16C, the commissioner is exempt from the contract term limits for the issuance of

92.7 public benefits through an electronic benefit transfer system and related services. These

92.8 contracts may have up to an initial five-year term, with extensions not to exceed a ten-year

92.9 total contract duration.

92.10 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142F.14, is amended to read:

92.11 **142F.14 FOOD SHELF.**

92.12 Subdivision 1. **Distribution of appropriation.** The commissioner must distribute funds

92.13 appropriated to the commissioner by law for that purpose for purposes of this section to

92.14 ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food Group, a statewide association of food shelves organized as a

92.15 nonprofit corporation as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of

92.16 1986, to distribute to qualifying food shelves. A food shelf qualifies under this section if:

92.17 (1) it is a nonprofit corporation, or is affiliated with a nonprofit corporation, as defined

92.18 in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or a federally recognized Tribal

92.19 nation;

92.20 (2) it distributes standard food orders without charge to needy individuals. The standard

92.21 food order must consist of at least a two-day supply or six pounds per person of nutritionally

92.22 balanced food items;

92.23 (3) it does not limit food distributions to individuals of a particular religious affiliation,

92.24 race, or other criteria unrelated to need or to requirements necessary to administration of a

92.25 fair and orderly distribution system;

92.26 (4) it does not use the money received or the food distribution program to foster or

92.27 advance religious or political views; and

92.28 (5) it has a stable address and directly serves individuals.

92.29 Subd. 2. **Application.** In order to receive money appropriated under this section, ~~Hunger~~

92.30 ~~Solutions~~ The Food Group must apply to the commissioner. The application must be in a

92.31 form prescribed by the commissioner and must indicate the proportion of money each

93.1 qualifying food shelf shall receive. Applications must be filed at the times and for the periods

93.2 determined by the commissioner.

93.3 Subd. 3. **Distribution formula.** ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food Group must distribute

93.4 money distributed to it by the department to food shelf programs in proportion to the number

93.5 of individuals served by each food shelf program. The commissioner must gather data from

448.1 **ARTICLE 16**

448.2 **ECONOMIC SUPPORTS**

448.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142A.03, is amended by adding a subdivision

448.4 to read:

448.5 Subd. 35. **Electronic benefits transfer; contracting and procurement.** Notwithstanding

448.6 chapter 16C, the commissioner is exempt from the contract term limits for the issuance of

448.7 public benefits through an electronic benefit transfer system and related services. These

448.8 contracts may have up to an initial five-year term, with extensions not to exceed a ten-year

448.9 total contract duration.

93.6 ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food Group or other appropriate sources to determine the proportionate
93.7 amount each qualifying food shelf program is entitled to receive. The commissioner may
93.8 increase or decrease the qualifying food shelf program's proportionate amount if the
93.9 commissioner determines the increase or decrease is necessary or appropriate to meet
93.10 changing needs or demands.

93.11 Subd. 4. **Use of money.** At least 96 percent of the money distributed to ~~Hunger Solutions~~
93.12 The Food Group under this section must be distributed to food shelf programs to purchase,
93.13 transport, and coordinate the distribution of nutritious food to needy individuals and families.
93.14 The money distributed to food shelf programs may also be used to purchase personal hygiene
93.15 products, including but not limited to diapers and toilet paper. No more than four percent
93.16 of the money may be expended for other expenses, such as rent, salaries, and other
93.17 administrative expenses of ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food Group.

93.18 Subd. 5. **Enforcement.** ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food Group must retain records
93.19 documenting expenditure of the money and comply with any additional requirements
93.20 imposed by the commissioner. The commissioner may require ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food
93.21 Group to report on its use of the funds. The commissioner may require that the report contain
93.22 an independent audit. If ineligible expenditures are made by ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food
93.23 Group, the ineligible amount must be repaid to the commissioner and deposited in the
93.24 general fund.

93.25 Subd. 6. **Administrative expenses.** All funds appropriated under this section must be
93.26 distributed to ~~Hunger Solutions~~ The Food Group as provided under this section with
93.27 deduction by the commissioner for administrative expenses limited to 1.8 percent.

93.28 Subd. 7. **Data classification.** Data collected on individuals from which the identity of
93.29 any individual receiving services may be determined are private data on individuals as
93.30 defined in section 13.02.

93.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

448.10 Sec. 2. **[142F.141] PREPARED MEALS FOOD RELIEF GRANTS.**

448.11 Subdivision 1. **Establishment** The commissioner of children, youth, and families must
448.12 establish a prepared meals grant program to provide hunger relief to Minnesotans
448.13 experiencing food insecurity and who have difficulty preparing meals due to limited mobility,
448.14 disability, or limited resources.

448.15 Subd. 2. **Eligible grantees.** (a) Eligible grantees are nonprofit organizations or Minnesota
448.16 Tribal governments, as defined in section 10.65, with a demonstrated history of providing
448.17 and distributing prepared meals that are customized for the population that the organization
448.18 or Tribal government serves, including tailoring meals to cultural, religious, and dietary
448.19 needs.

448.20 (b) An individual or nonprofit organization affiliated with Feeding Our Future is
448.21 prohibited from receiving grant funds under this section.

448.22 Subd. 3. **Application.** Eligible grantees applying for grant money under this section
448.23 must apply to the commissioner on the forms and in the time and manner established by
448.24 the commissioner.

448.25 Subd. 4. **Allowable uses of grant funds.** (a) Eligible grantees must use grant money
448.26 awarded under this section to fund a prepared meals program that primarily targets individuals
448.27 18 years of age or older and under 61 years of age, and their dependents experiencing food
448.28 insecurity. Grantees must not receive funding from other state and federal meal programs
448.29 for activities funded under this section.

448.30 (b) Grantees must prepare meals in a licensed commercial kitchen and distribute meals
448.31 according to ServSafe guidelines.

449.1 Subd. 5. **Duties of the commissioner.** (a) The commissioner must develop a process
449.2 for determining eligible grantees under this section.

449.3 (b) In granting money, the commissioner must prioritize applicants that:

449.4 (1) have demonstrated the ability to provide prepared meals to racially, ethnically, and
449.5 geographically diverse populations who are at greater risk for food insecurity;

449.6 (2) work with external community partners to distribute meals targeting nontraditional
449.7 meal sites to reach those most in need; and

449.8 (3) have a demonstrated history of sourcing at least 50 percent of the prepared meal
449.9 ingredients from:

449.10 (i) Minnesota food producers and processors; or

449.11 (ii) food that is donated or would otherwise be waste.

449.12 (c) The commissioner must consider geographic distribution to ensure statewide coverage
449.13 when awarding grants and must minimize the number of grantees to simplify administrative
449.14 burdens and costs.

449.15 Subd. 6. **Reporting.** (a) Grantees receiving money under this section must retain records
449.16 documenting expenditure of the money and comply with any additional documentation
449.17 requirements imposed by the commissioner.

449.18 (b) Grantees must report on the use of money received under this section to the
449.19 commissioner. The commissioner must determine the timing and form required for the
449.20 reports.

449.21 Subd. 7. **Ineligible expenditures.** If the commissioner determines that ineligible
449.22 expenditures are made by a grantee under this section, the ineligible amount must be repaid
449.23 by the grantee to the commissioner and deposited in the general fund.

449.24 Sec. 3. **[142F.16] REGIONAL FOOD BANK GRANTS.**

449.25 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of children, youth, and families must
449.26 establish regional food bank grants to increase the availability of food to individuals and
449.27 families in need.

449.28 Subd. 2. **Distribution of appropriation.** The commissioner must distribute funds
449.29 appropriated under this section to regional food banks and Minnesota Tribal governments,
449.30 as defined in section 10.65. The commissioner must distribute the funds under this section
449.31 in accordance with the federal The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) formula
450.1 and the guidelines of the United States Department of Agriculture. The commissioner may
450.2 increase or decrease a qualifying recipient's proportionate amount if the commissioner
450.3 determines the increase or decrease is necessary to meet community needs or demands for
450.4 food in Minnesota. Food banks and Minnesota Tribal governments must be in compliance
450.5 with TEFAP regulations from the United States Department of Agriculture in order to
450.6 receive funding under this section, as applicable.

450.7 Subd. 3. **Allowable uses of funds.** (a) Grant funds distributed to regional food banks
450.8 under this section must be used to purchase, transport, and coordinate the distribution of
450.9 food to TEFAP providers.

450.10 (b) Grant funds distributed to Minnesota Tribal governments under this section must be
450.11 used to purchase, transport, and coordinate the distribution of food to individuals and families
450.12 in need.

450.13 (c) Grant funds distributed under this section may also be used to purchase personal
450.14 hygiene products, including but not limited to diapers and toilet paper.

450.15 Subd. 4. **Reporting.** (a) Food banks and Minnesota Tribal governments receiving grant
450.16 funds under this section must retain records documenting expenditures of the grant funds
450.17 and comply with any additional documentation requirements imposed by the commissioner.

450.18 (b) Food banks and Minnesota Tribal governments must report on the use of grant funds
450.19 received under this section to the commissioner. The commissioner must determine the
450.20 timing and form required for the reports.

450.21 Subd. 5. **Ineligible expenditures.** If the commissioner determines that ineligible
450.22 expenditures were made by a food bank or Minnesota Tribal government under this section,
450.23 the ineligible amount must be repaid by the food bank or Tribal government to the
450.24 commissioner and deposited in the general fund.

450.25 Sec. 4. **FAMILY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM.**

450.26 Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** The commissioner of human services must
450.27 establish a family supportive housing grant program to award competitive grants to eligible
450.28 applicants operating supportive housing for families.

450.29 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

450.30 (b) "Family" means a nontemporary household unit that includes at least one child and
450.31 one parent or legal guardian.

450.32 (c) "Family permanent supportive housing" means housing that:

451.1 (1) is not time limited;

451.2 (2) is affordable for those at or below 30 percent of the area median income;

451.3 (3) offers specialized support services to residents tailored to the needs of children and
451.4 families; and

451.5 (4) is available to families with multiple barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing,
451.6 including but not limited to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; those with
451.7 mental illness, substance use disorders, and other disabilities; and those referred by child
451.8 protection services.

451.9 (d) "Resident" means a resident of family permanent supportive housing.

451.10 Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for a grant under this section, an applicant must be
451.11 currently operating family supportive housing and be a nonprofit organization or a Minnesota
451.12 Tribal government.

451.13 Subd. 4. **Application and administration.** (a) When applying to the commissioner for
451.14 a grant under this section, each applicant must include the number of families they estimate
451.15 to serve.

451.16 (b) Within available appropriations, the commissioner must award grant money to eligible
451.17 grantees based on the estimated number of families served. The commissioner must use
451.18 best efforts to ensure that 60 percent of the families served are within the seven-county
451.19 metropolitan area and 40 percent of the families served are outside the seven-county
451.20 metropolitan area. The commissioner must use best efforts to ensure that ten percent of the
451.21 overall families served are members of Minnesota's Tribal Nations.

451.22 (c) By June 30, 2026, each grantee must provide a report to the commissioner on how
451.23 many families the grantee served and what services the grantee provided.

451.24 Subd. 5. **Eligible uses of grant money.** An eligible applicant that receives grant money
451.25 under this section must use the money for the services described in subdivision 6.

451.26 Subd. 6. **Specialized family support services.** Specialized family support services are
451.27 nonmandatory, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate services designed to help family

- 451.28 residents maintain secure, dignified housing and provide a safe, stable environment for
451.29 children. Services provided may include but are not limited to:
- 451.30 (1) age-appropriate child-centric services for education and enrichment;
451.31 (2) stabilization services such as:
451.32 (i) educational assessment and referrals to educational programs;
452.1 (ii) career planning, work skills training, job placement, and employment retention;
452.2 (iii) budgeting and money management;
452.3 (iv) referral for counseling regarding violence and sexual exploitation;
452.4 (v) referral for medical or psychiatric services or substance use disorder treatment;
452.5 (vi) parenting skills training;
452.6 (vii) self-sufficiency support services or life skills training, including tenant education
452.7 and support to sustain housing; and
452.8 (viii) aftercare and follow-up services; and
452.9 (3) 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week on-site staffing, including but not limited to front
452.10 desk and security.