



Good Food
ACCESS FUND



'MAKING HEALTHY FOOD AVAILABLE, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL MINNESOTANS'

The Challenge:

Hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans currently live in areas where they have limited or no access to healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables, low fat dairy, whole grains, and lean meats and poultry. More than 340,000 Minnesotans face both distance and income as a barrier to obtaining healthy, affordable food.¹ Approximately 235,000 Minnesotans live more than 10 miles away from a large grocery store or supermarket.¹ An additional estimated 40,000 MN households do not have a vehicle and live more than one mile from a grocery outlet.¹ This means that people, particularly those who are lower-income and on fixed incomes, face much greater challenges finding affordable foods necessary to maintain a healthy diet.

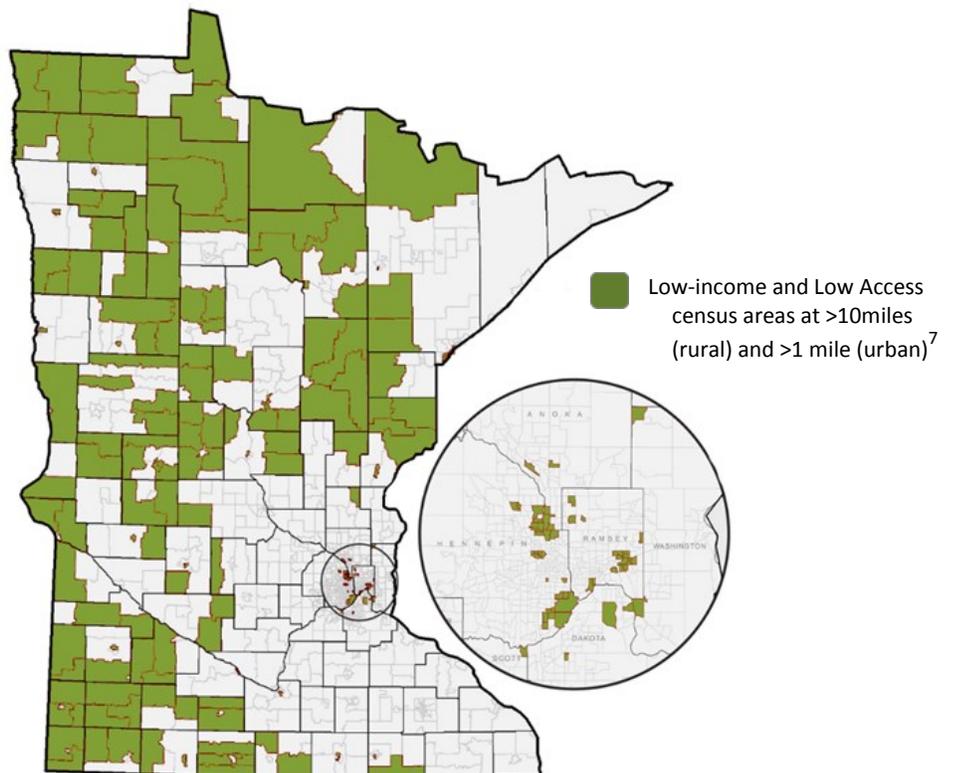
For those living in these regions, limited access to healthy and affordable foods results in disproportionately higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related health problems.^{2,3} Minnesota spends an estimated \$2.8 billion each year on obesity-related healthcare costs alone.^{4,5}

Addressing the Challenge:

A bill was passed in 2016 establishing the Good Food Access Program within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to support the retail sale of healthy, affordable food in areas of the state where better access to those foods is needed. The state invested \$250,000 in seed money to begin providing resources such as grants, low-cost loans, and technical support for food-related enterprises. A range of community-driven solutions will be considered including new or enhanced grocery stores, mobile markets, farmers' markets, fresh food refrigeration, community supported agriculture and other innovative approaches.

The Good Food Access Campaign will be seeking a \$10 million annual appropriation in the 2017 legislative session to address the need for healthy food access solutions all around the state.

- From 2007 to 2012, 53 of Minnesota's 87 counties witnessed a reduction in the number of grocery stores per 1,000 residents.¹
- A lack of access to healthy, affordable foods exists in 63 of Minnesota's counties. Nearly 54 percent of these locations are in rural areas of Minnesota.¹
- Nearly half of Minnesotans – 49 percent – report that not having a store nearby that sells healthy food directly impacts what they eat.⁶



The Distance Factor: An estimated **235,000 Minnesotans** live more than **10 miles** away from a large grocery store, supermarket, or supercenter.¹



Bringing Healthy, Affordable Food to Minnesotans:

- The Good Food Access Program would help establish facilities for the sale of healthy, affordable food in areas of the state where better access to those foods is needed. The Program would provide grants, low-cost loans, and technical support for food-related enterprises such as new or enhanced grocery stores, mobile markets and farmers' markets, fresh food refrigeration, and other innovative community-driven solutions.
- The Good Food Access Program would create a workable, common sense program under which Minnesotans who currently do not have convenient access to healthy and affordable foods will have that access. That, in turn, will help decrease the risk of diet-related disease and poor health and improve health equity by race and income in underserved communities across Minnesota.
- Good Food Access Program supported initiatives can help boost local economies, create jobs and generate tax revenue in communities that need it most.^{8,9}
- By increasing access to healthy, affordable food for Minnesotans, health outcomes can be improved.

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¹ Mattessich, P. & Rausch, E. (2016). Healthy food access: A view of the landscape in Minnesota and lessons learned from healthy food financing initiatives. *Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and Wilder Research*. <http://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Healthy%20Food%20Access/Healthy%20Food%20Access%20-%20Landscape%20in%20Minnesota%20and%20Lessons%20Learned%20From%20Healthy%20Food%20Financing%20Initiatives,%20Full%20Report.pdf>

² Manon, M. & Kim, E. (2012). Food for every child: The need for more supermarkets in Minnesota. *The Food Trust*. www.healthyfoodaccess.org/resources/library/food-for-every-child-the-need-for-more-supermarkets-in-minnesota

³ Treuhaft, S. & Karpyn, A. (2010). The Grocery Gap: Who has access to healthy food and why it matters. Oakland, CA. *PolicyLink and The Food Trust*. www.thefoodtrust.org/uploads/media_items/grocerygap.original.pdf

⁴ Minnesota Department of Health (2015). Overweight and Obesity Prevention. [Online] updated 9/24/15. www.health.state.mn.us/obesity

⁵ Trogdon, J.G., Finkelstein, E.A., Feagan, C.W. & Cohen, J.W. (2011). State and payer-specific estimates of annual medical expenditures attributable to obesity. *Obesity*. doi:10.1038/oby.2011.169

⁶ Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. (May 2015). The grocery gap. Eagan, MN www.centerforpreventionmn.com/~media/sites/cfp/files/pullingtogether/fact-sheet-grocery-gap.ashx

⁷ USDA Data. www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx

⁸ The Reinvestment Fund.(2008). Access to supermarkets in inner city communities. *Reinvestment Brief*, (5). www.trfund.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/CDFIStudySummary.pdf

⁹ Hagen, E. & Rubin, V. Economic and community development outcomes of healthy food retail. (2013) PolicyLink. www.policylink.org/site/apps/lnet/content2.aspx?c=1klXLbMNjRE&b=5136581&ct=12761513