

Call to Action

Keep Minnesota seniors healthy and lower future costs

Frail Minnesota seniors are in urgent need of your help. One in two older adults is at risk for malnutrition ([Defeat Malnutrition Today](#)) and many lack access to transportation for crucial appointments and connections. Support services can make the difference between older adults living independently and safely in their homes and needing more expensive institutional care.

The Coalition is asking legislators to support older adults with:

- \$11 million biennial appropriation to **meet minimum nutritional needs**.
- \$2 million biennial appropriation to **address transportation needs**.
- \$2 million biennial appropriation to **provide support services**, including assisted transportation, homemaker services and outdoor chores.



Programs that provide meals and other services for older adults are severely underfunded and do not meet the needs of Minnesota's oldest residents.

Lowering future costs for taxpayers

According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, annual government payments for long-term services and supports for older adults are projected to grow 71% from 2023-2035.

The services and support provided through the aging network — a national network of federal, state, tribal and local agencies — are some of the most cost-effective ways to support older adults. The services are targeted to frail older adults with low incomes or living in rural areas, often both.



SENIOR MEALS & SERVICES COALITION

The coalition is **enlisting authors** for this critical legislation.

visit
seniorservicesmn.org

for the latest updates

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What you need to know

- The [Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#) projects that **487,000 fewer meals** will be available to older adults in 2025 than in 2024. As the aging population grows, the shortfall will reach catastrophic levels.
- Access to **healthy food is a key social determinant of health**. Poor nutrition is associated with obesity, chronic diseases and increased stress. It erodes the quality of life for older adults and increases healthcare costs.
- In 2023, the legislature passed and Governor Walz signed a one-time appropriation of \$11 million for senior meals. **This coalition is now asking the legislature to continue that support with an ongoing appropriation.**
- **Other sources for healthy food are drying up.** The minimum SNAP benefit for an older adult dropped from the COVID-era sum of \$281 per month to just \$23 (Food Research and Action Center). People aged 60+ are the fastest-growing segment of food shelf users.

- Many older adults need transportation to get to doctors' appointments, do grocery shopping and stay connected with friends and family. Without transportation, older adults are at risk for social isolation, hurting physical and mental health. **Additional dollars are needed to meet the growing demand for transportation, particularly in rural Minnesota communities.**
- For aging adults who have become frail, even small tasks can become difficult. Assisted transportation and homemaker and chore services can **provide essential support that helps seniors maintain their dignity, health and independence.**

We need your help!

Will you fight to meet the need for senior meals and services? Help us pass legislation to meet this urgent and growing need.

Learn more and get latest updates at:

seniorservicesmn.org

Join us in raising awareness
of the need to fund
senior meals and services.



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

This advocacy effort is convened by the Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging. A voice for older adults in Minnesota.