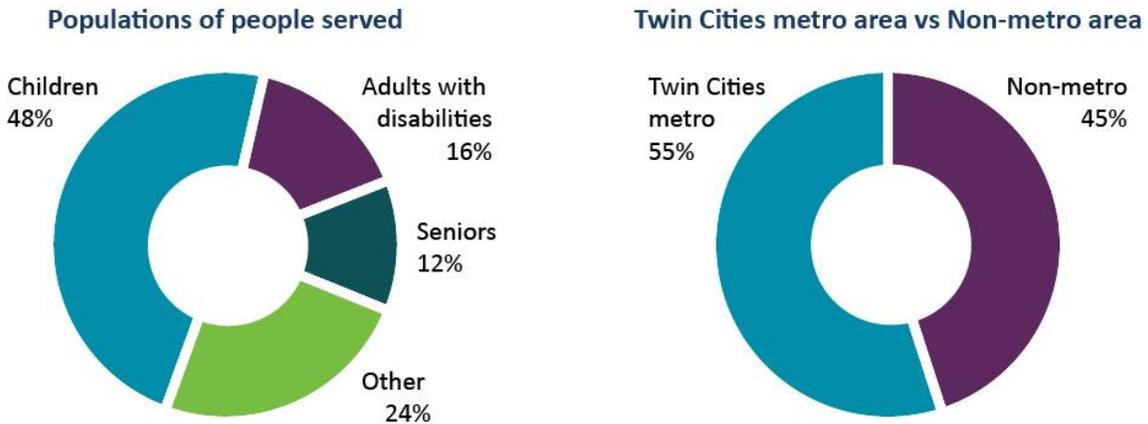


## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Minnesota

### SNAP helps hungry Minnesotans buy food.

479,000 Minnesotans – 9 percent of the state’s population – receive SNAP.<sup>1</sup> Their incomes are below 165 percent of the federal poverty level (roughly \$34,000 a year for a family of three).



Because Minnesota does not have an asset limit and uses a one-page application for SNAP, the state has been successful in reaching more seniors living in poverty.

Year	Average number of seniors receiving SNAP/month	Percentage of all people receiving SNAP who are seniors	Percentage of seniors in poverty receiving SNAP
2006	22,000	8	27.7
2015	Almost 51,000	11	58.3

### SNAP does not meet all the food needs of Minnesotans with low incomes.

- The average monthly SNAP benefit for each household member is \$105.
- The average SNAP benefit per person per meal is \$1.17.
- Since 2011, food shelves in Minnesota have seen more than 3 million visits per year.
- Almost half of food shelf visits are by seniors and families with children.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap\\_factsheet\\_minnesota.pdf](http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_minnesota.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Hunger Data Center, Hunger Solutions, <http://www.hungersolutions.org/learn/hunger-data-center-2/>.

## Many SNAP recipients are low-wage workers.

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- Many SNAP recipients work while receiving SNAP, earning wages that are so low that they still qualify for the program. Some apply for SNAP because they are unemployed. In both cases, more than half of their jobs are in health care, retail, hotel/restaurant and temporary agency industries.<sup>3</sup> Jobs in these industries often are part-time and have high turn-over and inconsistent work schedules.

## Since 2012, the number of able-bodied adults without dependents receiving SNAP has fallen from 65,000 per month to fewer than 7,500 per month.

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- In 2013, Minnesota had to re-impose time limits on able-bodied adults without dependents. A statewide waiver to the time limit had been granted during the economic crisis.
- These adults have to be working or looking for a job for at least 20 hours per week in order to receive SNAP for more than three months out of every 36 months.
- Local waivers still apply to areas of high unemployment in Minnesota including: 11 American Indian tribes and 15 rural counties – Aitkin, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomon, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Norman, Pine and Wadena.
- Many of these men and women struggle with low skills, poor health and histories of incarceration.
- They often lose SNAP benefits before finding jobs and getting help to address their barriers to employment.

## Services are available through SNAP Employment and Training in Minnesota.

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- Minnesota receives about \$139,000 per month from USDA for SNAP Employment and Training services.
- The most common services provided include assessing individuals' employability and helping them with job searches. A small fraction receive basic education, vocational services or social services.
- To create more options for SNAP recipients to gain skills and enter the workforce, Minnesota is working to leverage almost \$11 million of state, local government and community workforce services investments with the goal of accessing up to \$5.5 million in a federal match.

## SNAP pumped about \$603 million into Minnesota's economy in 2016.<sup>4</sup>

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- More than 3,400 stores in Minnesota have customers whose SNAP benefits help pay for their groceries.

## Minnesota streamlines assistance to poor children and their families.

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- A provision in the farm bill allows Minnesota to integrate SNAP benefits with cash assistance in its welfare-to-work program, the Minnesota Family Investment Program<sup>5</sup>
- This integration allows families and frontline workers to track only one benefit amount when income or household membership changes and have only one set of program rules with which to comply.
- The food portion of the integrated benefit can only be spent on the same food items that SNAP allow

<sup>3</sup> Analysis done by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Moody's analytics estimates that in a weak economy, every dollar increase in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity. Minnesota estimate from Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, March 2017, [http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap\\_factsheet\\_minnesota.pdf](http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/snap_factsheet_minnesota.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Section 22 in the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.