

Subject Senior nutrition program appropriation

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Summary

This bill appropriates \$11,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2026-2027 biennium from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for senior nutrition programs.

Senior nutrition programs are administered by the Minnesota Board on Aging. The Minnesota Board on Aging is a 25-member board whose members are appointed by the governor. Board staff are provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the board is housed within that agency. One of the duties of the board is to administer programs funded through the federal Older Americans Act (OAA). The board is the agency designated by the state to receive OAA funds for distribution to Area Agencies on Aging.

Senior dining services (also referred to as congregate meals) provide nutritionally-balanced meals to individuals age 60 and over, and their spouses, at various sites in the community. Home-delivered meals provide meals to homebound individuals age 60 and over in their place of residence. There is no charge for these services, but donations are requested to pay for the cost. Each year about 21,100 individuals are served congregate meals, 23,300 are served home-delivered meals, and grocery delivery is provided to at least 70 individuals. In fiscal year 2023, \$2,695,000 was appropriated from the state general fund for senior nutrition services.