

MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Minnesota Grocers Association Partners with Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Good Food Access Program

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to expand access to fresh foods. Funding is currently available through the MDA for two grant programs to help expand access to fresh and culturally appropriate foods to low- and moderate-income areas.

The GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant helps grocery stores and small food retailers purchase equipment or make physical improvements that will allow them to increase the availability of and access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods for underserved communities in low- and moderate-income areas.

The GFAP Technical Assistance Grant is available to assist nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and for-profit businesses in providing appropriate technical assistance to eligible food retailers — such as grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers' markets — interested in providing affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods.

To be eligible, applicants for both grants must be located in or serve a census tract designated as a food desert or must serve a substantial subpopulation, such as the elderly or disabled or those in a low- or moderate-income census tract, who have low supermarket access. Learn more at the MDA Good Food Access <u>website</u>.

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The Minnesota Grocers Association is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are a legacy organization, having served the industry for over 125 years. We have over 300 retail, manufacturer, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.