

Semcac Senior Nutrition Budget Outside Agency Funding Request Form

Budget		Estimated 2025	Estimated 2026
Revenues			
Waivered Revenue	Fees:	\$442,875	\$465,018
United way/Other	Grants:	\$95,000	\$99,750
State/Federal/NSIP Grants	State/Federal Funding:	\$2,029,981	\$1,599,810
Client Donations	Donations	\$477,097	\$467,959
	Contracts/Other	\$630,595	\$630,595
	Agency/Reserves	\$216,840	\$250,000
Total Revenues:		\$3,8923,88	\$3,513,132
Expenses			
	Salaries:	\$1,595,413	\$1,675,183
	Benefits:	\$431,224	\$452,785
	Professional Services:	\$369,178	\$387,636
	Raw Food Costs:	\$916,681	\$962,515
	Supplies & Materials:	\$65,000	\$68,250
	Other Expenses:	\$514,982	\$514,982
	(Reductions needed)	0	-\$573,969
Total Expenses:		\$3,892,388	\$3,513,132
Requested Funding From County:	Included in above "other" revenue	\$5,000	\$5,000
Number of Staff		82	82



A Community Action Agency Serving Southeast Minnesota Since 1966!

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2026 Semcac Senior Nutrition Request for Funding from Goodhue County

Agency Description: Semcac is a 501 C 3 nonprofit organization designated to provide services in the eleven counties of region Ten. Semcac administers 25+ programs which “help people to achieve or maintain independence and self-reliance through their own and community resources”. Since 1973, Semcac has operated the Senior Nutrition Program for seniors.

Program Description: The Semcac Senior Nutrition Program offers a well-balanced, nutritious meal service for persons that are 60 years of age or older. Our mission is to promote the independence, dignity, good health, and nutritional well-being of older persons. The “congregate” service, often referred to as Senior Dining, is provided in all eleven counties of Region X in Southeastern MN, with 3 meal sites in Goodhue County, Pine Island, Red Wing, and Zumbrota. The dining sites are focal points in the communities and offer seniors the opportunity to gather for a low-cost meal. The meal provides 1/3 of the Daily Dietary Recommendations and offers several special diet modifications to those needing them. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about vital resources that are available to the retired community. In 2024 we served 11,500 congregate meals to 205 unduplicated seniors in Goodhue County. Approximately 10% of the seniors we serve are enrolled in a “Waivered” service thru DHS/Goodhue County.

The Older American’s Act does not allow us to “charge” a fee for our service, but the diners are given the opportunity to donate what they can toward the cost of the meal. Currently our suggested donation is \$4.00 per meal, while our full meal cost has increased to \$10.75 per meal. Client contributions are subsidized with the “other” funding that we receive. Currently about 55% of our revenue is Federal and State, 35% is client contributions, and 10% is local/other funds. EBT (SNAP- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) cards are accepted.

The waived reimbursement rate (currently we are reimbursed at \$9.36/meal) gets a small cost of living increase each year, however this increase does not offset the rising costs of food, labor, and transportation and it falls short of meeting our full meal cost. This requires us to secure additional “other” funding that will also “subsidize” these waived meals.

Description of clients/beneficiaries: The Senior Nutrition Program is for the use of any person who is 60 years of age or older, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, disability, or national origin. This service is also extended to their spouses (If under 60) and any potential caregiver that might join them at the dining site. The service targets the low-income, nutritionally at risk senior in jeopardy of nursing home or institutionalized placement. From the client data we collect, our “typical” client is age 80 + years old (43%), female (59%), living alone (52%), and at or below 150% of poverty (66%).

Benefits/outcomes of the Program: Low-cost, nutritional support is a very important, yet basic need for the senior community. Nutritional neglect leads to bodily harm, which can lead to very costly medical bills. Nutritional support has always been a vital part of health care. In 2024 the average cost of one day in a Minnesota nursing home was approximately \$470. For those same dollars, Senior Nutrition can provide about 70 meals that will allow a senior to remain healthy and living in their own home. The daily socialization and volunteer opportunities provide seniors relief from loneliness, depression and suicide, and delays premature institutionalization. This service offers an effective way to help keep health care costs manageable. In a self-declared survey of our seniors in the spring of 2025, 91% indicated they eat a healthier diet as the result of

receiving our meals; 85% say they eat a healthier variety of foods; 79% say they have more money to spend on other necessities; and 92% indicate the service has enabled them to continue living in their own homes. Also an additional 45% of our clients have indicated that the increase in household goods has impacted their ability to buy essential items.

Request: For 2026, we are requesting a funding allocation of \$5,000 to help maintain the level of service to seniors in Goodhue County.

I would also like to take time to address the county board on the importance of advocacy for seniors across rural Minnesota. As pandemic relief runs out and with the state is looking at budget cuts, I would like to point out on our program budget that if costs stay the same and we look to maintain the same level of service we will need to cut expenses by over 500,000. This is not sustainable and the only way to balance the budget ourselves is to reduce services.

How will the funds be used: These funds will be used to help offset the current rise in wages and the increase in both food and transportation and to cover the difference in reimbursement vs actual costs of the waived meal program.

Impact if funding was not awarded: If program funding was not available, the service would need to be limited. We would either limit the number of meals we could serve or the number of days we could serve.

Questions: Please contact

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