

TWIN CITIES HUNGER INITIATIVE

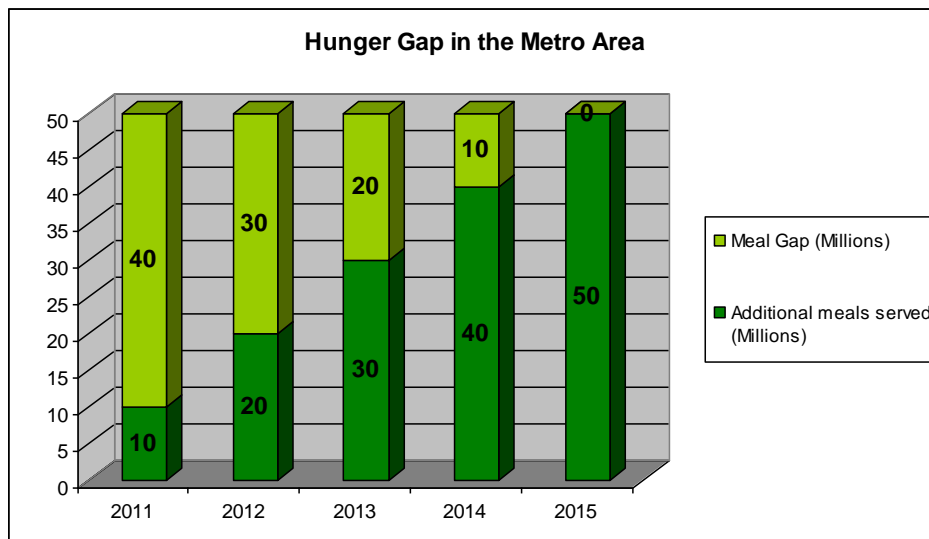
A group of leaders with a common mission to end hunger have increased the effectiveness of the hunger relief system based on clear goals, support of grassroots organizations and a commitment to collaboration.

What is the Twin Cities Hunger Initiative (TCHI)?

- A group of 15 leaders representing each of the important components that make up the emergency hunger relief system including food banks, food shelves, meal programs, the state of Minnesota, advocacy organizations, Greater Twin Cities United Way, the faith community and the major food producing companies in the region.
- Convened by Greater Twin Cities United Way in 2006. Developed *Community Recommendations to End Hunger* in 2007.

Principles of the Twin Cities Hunger Initiative:

- Commitment to collaboration
- Support for community-based organizations and local initiatives
- Support efforts to increase impact and to ensure sustainability by leveraging resources
- Build on the strengths of the hunger relief system and create innovation.
- Focus on the nine counties in the Twin Cities metro area.
- Serve as a model of effective collaboration for other hunger efforts throughout the state.



Overall Goal: To close the meal gap (50 M or 30 million pounds) in the nine-county metro area by 2015

Measurable Goals 2011-2015

<p>Goal One: Hunger relief organizations increase food distribution by an additional 25 million meals by increased sourcing and capacity building efforts.</p>	<p>Goal Two: To work collaboratively with DHS, the nine counties, and food support organizations to increase enrollment in Food Support so that each county reaches a level of participation between 75 percent and 90 percent by 2015.</p>	<p>Goal Three: Increase access to an additional 10 million meals for children through summer meals program, school meals, and the utilization of WIC.</p>
<p>Source 30 million additional pounds of food for distribution in the nine-county area by 2015 to close the meal gap (baseline is 45 million pounds in 2007).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food banks implement cost effective food procurement programs through cooperative purchasing and donated/below cost food. • Food banks and corporate partners to develop cost savings on shared transportation and logistics. • Lead efforts to improve facility planning, configuration, equipment & automation, labor, transportation, technical assistance to increase capacity of food shelves and meal programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce barriers for administering food support in collaboration with the state and with counties. • Provide all food shelves access to Bridge to Benefits to screen clients for federal nutrition programs • Support outreach workers and pilot best practice of partnering with county financial workers • Increase senior enrollment through Eat Well to Be Well marketing campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase special grant programs for summer meal programs • Engage more metro area school districts to develop and implement summer meal programs

Results to Date:

- Increased distribution of food to hungry people by 33 percent in past four years.
- Enrollment in Food Support programs in counties increased by 21 percent overall.
- Food corporations have donated over 1 million additional pounds of food to food banks.
- Greater Twin Cities United Way granted an additional \$3.2 million to build the capacity of the hunger relief system.
- Supported efforts to reform asset limit testing for food support effectively extending support to 70,000 additional Minnesotans

Twin Cities Hunger Steering Committee Members in 2011: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Community Emergency Assistance Program, Emergency FoodShelf Network, Hope for the City, Hunger Solutions Minnesota, Intercongregational Communities Association, Keystone Community Services, Loaves and Fishes Too, Minnesota FoodShare, Neighborhood House, Neighbors, Inc, Office of Economic Opportunities/Minnesota Department of Human Services, Second Harvest Heartland, Greater Twin Cities United Way, Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People