

# Increasing access to Meals on Wheels for veterans



## The Issue

Last year Metro Meals on Wheels (MMOW) members served nearly 1.7 million meals to 9,844 individuals. Included in that number were more than 200 veterans in the Twin Cities served through the Meals for Veterans program approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023. Many veterans don't meet the age, income or disability criteria that would help them cover the cost of meals and this program has provided access to healthy food and a social connection. Continued funding for this program will ensure veterans at risk of food insecurity and social isolation can receive meals. Funding for this program expires June 30 and we are asking the Legislature to renew funding to continue this service for veterans.

## Legislation

Meals for Veterans bills would provide \$995,540 in renewed funding over the next two fiscal years to serve Meals on Wheels to veterans of any age in the Metro Meals on Wheels service area. The funding would go to the Department of Veterans Affairs and reporting on the use of funds is required.

## Status

Bills have yet to be introduced.

## Goals of the program

- 🤝 Enroll veterans as volunteers to deliver portion of meals (Veterans Helping Veterans)
- 🤝 Annually provide more than 200 veterans daily meal service
- 🤝 MMOW works with the VA to identify recipients
- 🤝 Aid VA's Suicide Prevention Program by reducing social isolation
- 🤝 Report on outreach activities, service units, and recipient demographics

## The Ask

- 🤝 Ask your legislator to support continuation of Meals for Veterans funding.

## For more information

To learn more about this issue, visit [meals-on-wheels.com/advocacy](https://www.meals-on-wheels.com/advocacy).

