

Carver County Free Food Market 2026 Report



**Free Summer
Food Market**
Carver County

Why?

Summer is the hungriest time of year for families – kids are home and don't have access to free school meals.

Food insecurity is rising across Minnesota.

There is high community interest and support for this program.

Food costs are rising.



PARTICIPANTS

Nearly 2,000 unique families

7000+ people

VOLUNTEERS

150+ people for over
1,000 hours



100,000+
pounds of
food
distributed



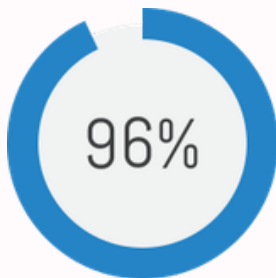
90,542
estimated
number
of meals
provided



27
varieties of
fresh
produce
offered
throughout
the summer

LOCATED AT:

- **Norwood**
- **Young America**
- **Chaska**
- **Watertown**



of families said the
program made them feel
like they belong in the
community



82% of
families
experienced
food
insecurity in
the past 12
months

66% of families
reported needing
food assistance
due to recent
higher prices of
basic necessities

40% of
families
experience
ongoing need
for food

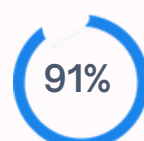
Because of the Free Summer Food Market program...



of families eat
more fruit and
vegetables



of families
eat
healthier



of families have
less financial
stress



Norwood Young America



Partners

- Carver County Public Health
- Southwest Carver County Food Shelf

- NYA West
- Carver Lions
- Cologne Fire Association
- American Legion 343
- Hamburg Lions
- Kwik Trip
- Medica
- NYA Lions

Financial Sponsors

- Southwest Carver County Food Shelf
- Second Harvest Heartland
- VFW 1783
- Health Partners
- Blue Cross Blue Shield MN



Watertown

Partners

- Gather and Grow Food Shelf
- City of Watertown
- Second Harvest Heartland
- Carver County Public Health

Financial Sponsors

- Watertown Legions
- Watertown Lions
- Medica
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN
- Health Partners



Chaska

Partners



- A Better Society
- Carver County Public Health
- Health Equity Carver County Schools
- Bountiful Basket Food Shelf
- Eastern Carver County Schools
- Mi C.A.S.A



Financial Sponsors

- 112 Foundation
- Health Partners
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota
- Chanhassen Legion
- Nicolet Bank
- Medica



- Will continue to collaborate with hunger relief partners to increase capacity and improve services to meet the needs of the community and surrounding area.
- Plans for 2027 are underway



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