

## Food Insecurity and Other Basic Need Resources

During the academic year, the Campus Kitchen (CK) at Minnesota State University, Mankato collects food from local restaurants and makes it into meals for people facing food insecurity. The meals are delivered to community agencies for the agencies to distribute. The Campus Kitchen is a program of Minnesota State Mankato and rents space from Crossroads Campus Ministry, 331 Dillon Avenue. Within Crossroads, the CK is located adjacent to The Campus Cupboard, a student food pantry managed by Crossroads. The Campus Kitchen provides food to students through the Campus Cupboard; the CK will also host a bread cart and the Campus Kitchen Little Fridge (mini-fridge stocked with food) in the entry level hallway of Crossroads. Knowing that some students don't have access to a kitchen, there is a microwave next to the Campus Kitchen Little Fridge to heat the food. This provides the opportunity for students to pick up at least some food if Crossroads is open, but other area food pantries are not open. Access to the bread cart and Campus Kitchen Little Fridge is generally Monday - Friday, from 8 am to 9 pm.

In September 2020, University Dining Services and Student Government brought Swipe Out Hunger to campus. A limited number of Dining Center meal swipes are donated to a pool and students can apply to have meal swipes added to their MavCARD. When a student is awarded swipes, they will learn about other food resources available in the area. This is meant to supplement other food resources listed on this handout and not to be a student's only source of food. To apply, visit [https://mnsu.sodexomyway.com/explore/swipe\\_out\\_hunger](https://mnsu.sodexomyway.com/explore/swipe_out_hunger). In January, 2021, Minnesota State University, Mankato opened the Maverick Food Pantry. Located at 142 Carkoski Commons, this food pantry is supported by Student Government funding. Students can pick up food once a week. Hours vary by term, so check their web page for this semester's schedule: <https://mankato.mnsu.edu/university-life/campus-services/maverick-food-pantry/>

Sometimes students are reluctant to seek out support. In situations like that, suggest volunteering for one of the agencies, so the person might have a greater understanding of how the system works. For example, if they volunteer with Campus Kitchen, they could take food home after their shift straight from that shift, the Campus Kitchen Little Fridge or bread cart. The Community Engagement Office provides volunteer shifts 6 days per week for students to support the Campus Kitchen; sign up to volunteer via the CEO's page on the Involve U platform: <https://mankato-mnsu.presence.io/> and search for Community Engagement Office.

For more information about a full range of services available, visit Campus Kitchen at Minnesota State University, Mankato's Facebook page: [https:// www.facebook.com/CKMNSUMankato/](https://www.facebook.com/CKMNSUMankato/). There you can find a map identifying locations of food resources. Resources are always changing/ updating, so please check that page often. Below is a short list of sources to address food insecurity. You can find additional resources for other basic needs at <https://mankato.mnsu.edu/university-life/campus-services/student-affairs/student-emergency-resources/>

### FOOD

**Crossroads Ministries** - Campus Cupboard (Typically Tuesdays from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Thursdays [hours to be determined]). Please check Facebook page for updated times. Food can be picked up once a week, open year round. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/campuscupboard> for the latest updates. 331 Dillon Avenue, (507) 625-6779

**ECHO Food Shelf** - Emergency food provided 12 times per year. 1014 S. Front St., Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 345-7508 Students can order online for pick up. <https://www.echofoodshelf.org/need-food>

**Blue Earth Co. Human Services** - Provides SNAP sign up, food, and emergency cash. 410 S. Fifth St., Mankato, MN 56001, (507) 304-4435 <https://www.blueearthcountymn.gov/742/Apply-for>

**SNAP OUTREACH Second Harvest Heartland** - Free SNAP Application Assistance. If you have questions about SNAP/Food Stamps, want to be screened, or are struggling with the application, please call (507) 514-3535; toll free (844) 764-5513; main line (651) 209-7963

**Centenary Church** - Their Holy Grounds program serves a hot take away meal Mon-Sat from 9-10 a.m., 501 South Second Street, Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 225-6370. <https://www.mankatocentenary.org/holy-grounds>

**Salvation Army** - Grab and Go meals daily from 12-1 p.m. and holiday food baskets available. 700 S. Riverfront Dr. Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 345-7840

**PACT Ministries** - PACT's Food for All program is at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Goodrich Construction. Drive-up and pay \$5 for a food basket. 105 W. Lind St., Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 625-7228

**Fare for All** - Fare for All is a food co-operative. The public may purchase wholesome food for 40-60% discount. For schedule, visit <https://fareforall.thefoodgroupmn.org/>. The Mankato distribution site is located at 1124 N. River Dr., Mankato, MN 56003

For more information, contact Campus Kitchen at Minnesota State Mankato. **CK@MSUM** is a program of the Community Engagement Office, 173 CSU, 507-389-5789 or 507-389-6076.