



Social Service Programs

For the Mower County Community

Office located at 409 1st Ave NE, Austin, MN 55912

Phone Number: 507-437-4566 (Updated 12-2023)

Please Note: Food Shelf, Community Meals, Free Shelf, Clothing Vouchers, Household Items vouchers are walk in programs, during their days and times.

For Rent, Utility, Lodging, Prescription or gas card, please call 507-437-4566 to make an appointment.

Food Programs:

Food Shelf: Effective 1-5-24 hours will be: Tuesday 9-11:30 and 1-3:30, Wednesday 1-3:30, Thursday 9-11:30 and 1-3:30, Friday 9-11:45 Prepacked boxes only. For those who have a hard time shopping the food shelf, you can designate a proxy to shop for you. Just give the proxy your participant card and send them during a food shelf day and time. If you would rather pick up a prepacked box of food, call ahead of your arrival to request one and let us know when you will be arriving to pick it up. For those who shop the food shelf, we ask you bring your own boxes/bags to take your food home in, we cannot guarantee having boxes for you.

Community Meals: Anyone who may need a prepared meal can come to our building Monday through Thursday, 5-5:30 pm. Meals are served in our fellowship hall upstairs. We are also offering take out meals. If you prefer to pick up a meal rather than eating in, you can come up to the fellowship hall and request a meal to go.

Free Shelf: This is usually day old bread from the local stores, the items will be available during office hours as we have product available.

Other Programs:

Clothing Vouchers: On days the thrift store is open, a household can come to the office to obtain a clothing voucher. This can be done two (2) times a year, two (2) different seasons.

Household Items Voucher: This is available for a household that has had a recent move and is in need of basic items for their home. A recent lease will need to be shown for verification of the move. Voucher can be obtained at the office on days the Thrift Store is open.

Emergency Medical Care Assistance: If a household does not have medical insurance and is in need of a life quality medication, such as insulin, blood pressure, etc. you may be able to obtain assistance with one month's medication. Or if you have a medical appointment out of Mower County, you may be able to obtain a gas card one time to get to the appointment. You must be able to provide written proof of the appointment, show current driver's license and car insurance.

Emergency Housing Assistance: This program can provide one of the following: 1 month's assistance with rent or utility. If a household has become behind with either rent or utility and you have experienced a recent emergency within the last 120 days, a request for assistance can be started by calling 507-437-4566. The Salvation Army does not assist with deposits for rent or utility. **Emergency Shelter:** If there has been a disruption with housing and the person requesting assistance can provide written verification (such as a lease) as to where they will be moving into upon leaving the lodging venue, we can possibly assist with 1-3 nights lodging. Intake with the caseworker is required for this program to determine eligibility.

Pathway of Hope: If you are struggling and ready to make a change in your life, Pathway of Hope may be for you. In Pathway of Hope, you pick out 3 goals that can be achieved within 12 months' time, such as employment, budgeting, housing, etc. The participant agrees to meet with the caseworker weekly or biweekly to update and set action steps towards the goals you have created. We also connect you with community resources that can help you be more stable. For more information, call 507-437-4566.