

2008 Senior Nutrition Task Force

Goal: Older Minnesotans will maintain their independence through access to healthful foods.

Workgroups: Recommended Next Steps

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To be shared at September 16 Meeting

Below are “Next Steps” identified by the three workgroups (Maximize Resource, Build Relationships and Improve Sustainability) of the 2008 Senior Nutrition Task Force during their first meetings in August. These Next Steps are a result of consensus of at least one of the workgroups. Some of the Next Steps represent near-term action items. Others are pieces that will be included in the revised Senior Nutrition Program Priorities and Directions.

- **Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Senior Nutrition Program.** Develop and implement collaborative activities during the last week in October. These efforts will raise the visibility of the program, recognize the value this program and the staff that deliver it brings to the lives of older adults.
- **Work together to improve program administration at all levels and achieve greater efficiencies (specifically focusing on the contracting process and data collection).** By doing this, we can build trust and a transparent program while gaining an understanding of what each group contributes to the overall health of older Minnesotans.
- **Identify the Senior Nutrition Program target population(s).** To do so, we need to understand who we are serving now and determine what changes are needed for the next five years. We also need to understand the unmet needs for nutrition services and the role that Title III-funded services can play within the larger service system context.
- **Identify cost-effective practices in Minnesota for delivering the different components of the Senior Nutrition Program** (outreach, assessment (NAPIS), meals, delivery, transportation, nutrition education). This process will involve determining which entity can most effectively deliver each of the components and implications for the contracting process. Replicate these practices across the state.

- **Learn from other states and communities regarding effective Senior Nutrition Program practices.** Special attention will be given to understanding how other states are addressing the financial and targeting challenges that we are all facing. Pilot these practices in Minnesota.