



Eastern Wisconsin

# Partner Primer: Ending of Emergency FoodShare Allotments



# Mission: To Solve Hunger



# The Leading Local Hunger-Relief Organization



# Agenda

- What is FoodShare?
- How to apply?
- What are Emergency Allotments?
- Emergency Allotments Ending
- What's next?









# Overview of FoodShare Outreach Program



# What is FoodShare?



FoodShare is an income-based, safety net program funded through the Federal Government to **supplement monthly income for groceries**. It is available to all persons who qualify. It is also known as SNAP (changed from food stamps in 2008), EBT, and the Quest Card.

The QUEST card is a **debit-like card** that is loaded with your FoodShare benefits on the same day each month. It **can be used at most grocery stores** and some Farmers' Markets to purchase groceries. It can even be used for qualified Community Support Agriculture (CSA) shares and Meals on Wheels!



# What can I buy with my QUEST card?

**You can use your QUEST card to buy grocery items like:**

- Fruits and vegetables
- Breads and cereals
- Meats, fish, and poultry
- Dairy and eggs
- Seeds and plants to grow food for your family to eat

**The QUEST card CANNOT be used for any of the following:**

- Non-food items, like paper goods, toothpaste, soap, or pet food
- Alcohol or tobacco products
- Vitamins or medicine
- Food that you will eat in the store
- Pre-prepared foods (e.g. hot deli food)





# Different Ways to Buy

At stores / retailers approved to accept QUEST

- Grocery stores
- Gas Stations
- Farmers Markets
- And more!

Right now there are also approved vendors that people can purchase food from online (only applicable foods can be covered by QUEST and any delivery fee would need to be paid separately)

- Walmart, ALDI, Target, Meijer, Amazon, and others
- For a complete list visit: [fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot](https://fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot)



# How do I know if I'm eligible?

## Call our Helpline

FoodShare Helpline:

(877) 366-3635

Hours: M-F 8:30AM-4:30PM

## On the helpline you will...

1. Complete a quick telephone interview to determine eligibility
2. If you are determined to be eligible, you will be referred to a FoodShare Specialist who will call the county with you for your FoodShare application and interview.

## Use Access or MyACCESS

[access.wisconsin.gov](http://access.wisconsin.gov)

MyACCESS mobile app for smart phones

## Through Access you will...

1. Be able to screen for eligibility
2. Set a filing date if applicable
3. Submit an application for FoodShare or FoodShare and Healthcare
4. Submit any documents requested for verification



Effective October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023:

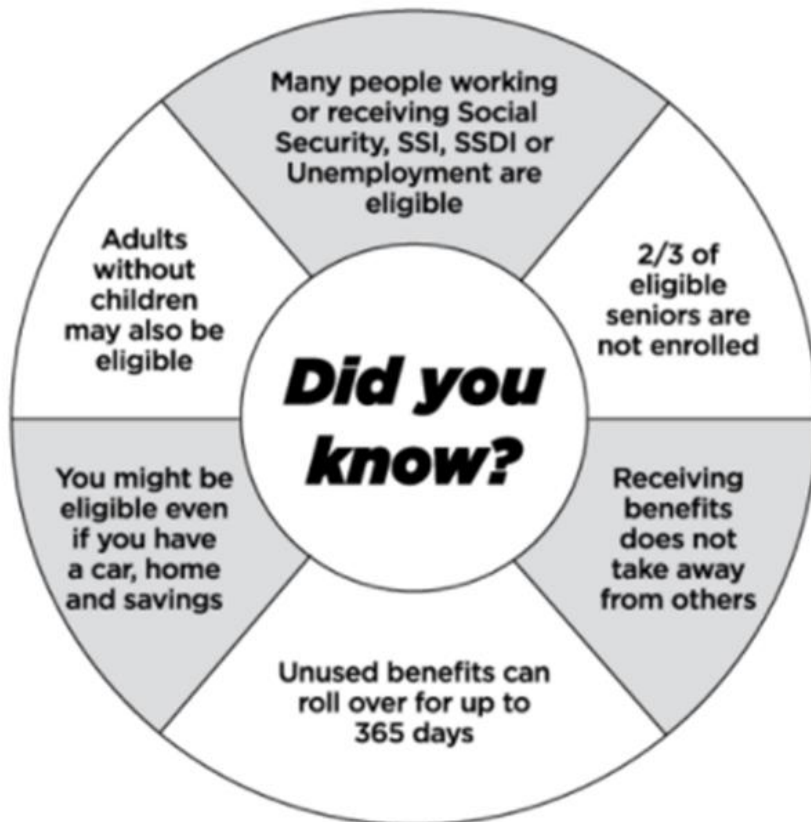
Household size	*200% FPL Gross Income Limit	130% FPL Gross Income Limit Reporting Limit	Maximum Allotment
1	\$2,226	\$1,473	\$281
2	\$3,052	\$1,984	\$516
3	\$3,840	\$2,495	\$740
4	\$4,626	\$3,007	\$939
5	\$5,412	\$3,518	\$1,116
6	\$6,200	\$4,029	\$1,339
7	\$6,986	\$4,541	\$1,480
8	\$7,772	\$5,052	\$1,691
9	\$8,560	\$5,564	\$1,902
10	\$9,348	\$6,076	\$2,133
For each additional person add:	\$788	\$512	\$211

Income guidelines are updated every October 1st.

\* See if your family's gross monthly income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). If it is, your family passes the Gross Income Test. You'll earn certain credits to be subtracted from your gross income. Learn more about credits and how we calculate your benefits in the [ForwardHealth Enrollment and Benefits Handbook, P-00079](#).



# More on eligibility...



## In order to enroll in FoodShare, you must:

- Submit a FoodShare application;
- Complete a quick telephone interview with a case worker;
- Meet basic eligibility rules and income limits.

## If you meet the following guidelines, you may be eligible for FoodShare:

- You are a US citizen or legal permanent resident of at least 5 years;
- You are a Wisconsin resident;
- You meet gross monthly income guidelines (on previous slide).



# How do I apply?

At the FoodShare Helpline, we want to make applying for FoodShare as simple and stress-free as possible. We offer **free** help with the FoodShare application, either in person or over the phone. You can call the **FoodShare Helpline at 1-877-366-3635.**

How it works:

- Friendly FoodShare Helpline staff will ask you a few confidential questions to see if you might be eligible for FoodShare.
- The Helpline staff will set up an appointment for you to get help filling out the application.
- An Outreach Specialist will help you fill out and submit the application either in person or over the phone.



# Eligibility Screening

- Done using the state's [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov) site
- Quick, Easy and Confidential
  - No need to include client's name
  - Takes 5 minutes
- **Does not *determine* eligibility** but can provide an indication whether the client falls within the income limits





# Access.Wisconsin.Gov

February 2023 will be the last month for extra FoodShare benefits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in March 2023, members will only get their regular FoodShare benefits. Learn more on the [FoodShare webpage](#). ✕

ACCESS

[Help](#) [Español](#) [Log in](#)

ACCESS connects you with the help you need when you need it.

Need help getting health care coverage, paying for groceries or child care costs, finding a job, or building your career skills?

With ACCESS, you can apply for and manage your state of Wisconsin benefits and programs in one place, at any time.

Apply now

[Finish an application](#)

Log in

[Create an account](#)



# Screening folks with Access



## [See if you can get help >](#)

Before applying, answer a few questions to find out which programs may be able to help you.



## [Apply for benefits >](#)

Apply for just one program or multiple programs at the same time. To get started, you'll need to create an ACCESS account.



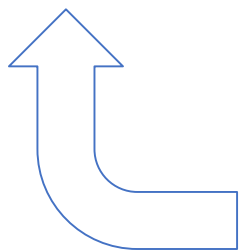
## [Manage your benefits >](#)

Log into your ACCESS account to view letters, get reminders, report changes, submit documents, and more.



## [Renew or apply for more >](#)

Submit renewals or apply for other programs right from your ACCESS account.



**Select the “See if you can get help” button to screen for all state benefit programs, including FoodShare and BadgerCare. FoodShare and BadgerCare are the only two programs you can apply for at the same time.**



## Food

ACCESS

### FoodShare

FoodShare helps people with limited money buy the food they need for good health.

[Program details](#)▼

### The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP provides food to food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. You can go to these places to get food for no cost.

[Program details](#)▼

## Health care coverage

ACCESS

### Medicaid

There are many different Medicaid programs. Depending on the program, people with limited income can get health care coverage, long-term care, help paying for Medicare costs, and more.

[Program details](#)▼



# Other common questions we are asked...

How do I check the balance of my card? / I lost my card, how do I get a new one?

- Call QUEST Card Service at 877-415-5164.

Can I also apply for health care?

- Yes! You can apply for Medicaid at the same time as applying for FoodShare benefits.

How can I renew my benefits?

- A FoodShare Specialist can assist you in renewing your benefits either in person or over the phone. Call our helpline at 877-366-3635 to get an appointment with a Specialist.

How can I find local food pantries?

- Call our helpline for assistance locating pantries or other resources near you at 877-366-3635. Or, visit our website at <https://feedingamericawi.org> and hit the “Find Help” button at the top left of the page. You can search for pantries here by zip code.

How can I check the status of my programs and benefits?

- Log in to your account online at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/> or download the mobile app, MyAccessWisconsin, and use your Case Number to create an account.



# Pandemic-EBT

There are 3 types of P-EBT

School P-EBT: Eligible school children who would have received free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Act if their schools were not closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance for at least 5 consecutive days are eligible to receive P-EBT benefits.

Pre-6 P-EBT: Also provides benefits to younger children (0-5 years) in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) whose covered child care facility is closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance, or who live in the area of schools that are closed or operating with reduced hours or attendance.

Summer P-EBT: Wisconsin's Summer P-EBT program provides benefits to families of eligible school-age children and eligible non-school-age children to help cover the cost of meals between school years. **Updates for 2022-2023 Summer pending.**



# Emergency Allotments

- In 2020, during the beginning of the pandemic, the federal government provided the opportunity for states to receive “Emergency Allotments” of FoodShare benefits. This meant each household received the maximum benefit available to them. Later, another bill was passed that allowed those already receiving the maximum to receive an additional \$95 per month.





# EA Changes

- In December of 2022, the federal government passed a bill that ended the extra FoodShare benefits, called Emergency Allotments.
- The existence of these emergency benefits was always tied to the state of the pandemic across the country and in Wisconsin. The State of Wisconsin took advantage of this option, as well as others that streamlined program application and reduced red-tape, making it easier for households to access these benefits.



# EA Impact & Importance

- Wisconsin as a state is losing over **\$84 million dollars per month** in FoodShare allotments
- Milwaukee County alone is losing almost **\$29 million dollars per month** in FoodShare allotments
- Average loss in benefits for each family is **\$225**
- Seniors that live on social security could see their benefits drop from **\$281 to \$23** a month.



# State-wide Impact of FoodShare Cuts

**\$84 million of grocery benefits, each month, will disappear at the end of February, 2023.**

All 700,000+ FoodShare participants in Wisconsin will be impacted, with the average household losing \$225 per month.

See below for the estimated loss of FoodShare per county per month

Brown	\$3,145,500	Langlade	\$407,250	Ozaukee	\$425,250
Calumet	\$265,275	Lincoln	\$406,350	Portage	\$702,675
Dodge	\$954,225	Manitowoc	\$936,675	Racine	\$3,430,125
Door	\$252,450	Marathon	\$1,487,700	Shawano	\$539,775
Florence	\$75,600	Marinette	\$668,025	Sheboygan	\$1,424,700
Fond du Lac	\$1,124,325	Marquette	\$228,600	Vilas	\$239,625
Forest	\$159,975	Menominee	\$208,575	Walworth	\$1,024,425
Green Lake	\$237,150	Milwaukee	\$28,961,325	Washington	\$851,175
Jefferson	\$849,825	Oconto	\$421,875	Waukesha	\$2,039,625
Kenosha	\$2,630,475	Oneida	\$477,000	Waupaca	\$576,000
Kewaunee	\$165,825	Outagamie	\$1,524,375	Waushara	\$341,550
				Winnebago	\$1,892,925
				Wood	\$1,191,375

\*Estimated average decrease per WI household per month: \$225 (calculated from USDA Feb data)

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/WI-SNAP-COVID-EA-Extension-February-2023-Acknowledged.pdf>



# Ending of Emergency Allotments (EA)

**The extra FoodShare payment, officially called Emergency Allotments, will end in February 2023.**

Starting in March, people will only get their regular FoodShare payment loaded to their QUEST (EBT) card in the first half of the month. There will be no second payment later in the month.

## **What should people do?**

Without the extra FoodShare, the benefit amount is based on the household income and the expenses the program allows people to report. Program participants should report up-to-date information as soon as possible so that they are receiving all of the benefits they are eligible for.



# EA Cont'd - Information to Update

- Their Address.
- Income and the income of others in the FoodShare household.
  - Did anyone lose work hours or have their pay cut? If people are earning less, they may qualify for more FoodShare benefits.
- Expenses and other allowable deductions.
  - Paying more for child care?
  - If a person in the household is a senior or have a disability, do they pay more than \$35 in medical expenses per month? Providing proof of these expenses may help them qualify for more FoodShare.

Learn more at [www.cutt.ly/Wldeductions](http://www.cutt.ly/Wldeductions). Did your rent, mortgage, or property taxes increase? In some cases, reporting this may help you qualify for more FoodShare benefits.



# EA Cont'd - Information to Update

Program participants can keep FoodShare benefits on their QUEST (EBT) card up to 12 months. If they find that the extra FoodShare EA is giving them a little more money for food than they need to spend, people can save them to spend in a later month.

This can be especially important for folks who are only receiving the minimum allotment.





# What Can We Do?



# FoodShare Outreach

FoodShare Outreach Specialists can offer their services!

Email us at **foodshare@feedingamericawi.org** or contact your specialist directly

## Northeastern Counties

Jaki Eno: 414-312-3090

Lisa Penterman: 414-865-0776

## Southeastern Counties

Nancy Arce-Aguilar: 262-581-2216

Brooklynn Gray: 414-204-2373

Jack Carmody: 262-581-2220



# FoodShare Support

Please feel free to find your area's local FoodShare Outreach Specialists on

<https://www.getaquestcard.org/meet-the-foodshare-team>

You can also always refer people to our state-wide helpline at **1-877-366-3635** (English and Spanish)

If you have any specific FoodShare questions, please feel free to contact us or refer to the [FoodShare Handbook](#)



# Together We Can Solve Hunger







**FEEDING  
AMERICA**  
Eastern Wisconsin