

ACTION ALERT Update: Ask Your State Senator and Representative to Support Funding Request for FoodShare

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Action is needed now to ensure that Wisconsinites continue to have access to food assistance.

Federal changes to the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), known as [FoodShare](#) in Wisconsin, will put people at risk of losing access to needed food assistance if the state doesn't take action quickly.

The federal reconciliation bill (([H.R.1](#)), signed into law July 4, 2025, made cuts and changes that require Wisconsin to increase its share of the financing needed to run the FoodShare program. The new law also requires states to do more work to meet the new requirements; this further increases the costs of running the program, at the same time federal funding is being reduced.

State and county budgets are insufficient to cover the increased costs and reduction in federal funding. That means the state legislature must allocate more state money so Wisconsin can keep running the FoodShare program well and in the way the federal government now requires.



HELP STATE LEGISLATORS UNDERSTAND

Let your state legislators know how important food assistance is to you and your community!

Take Action: It is important for state lawmakers to know what it would mean if FoodShare benefits were delayed, reduced, or went away. Share the importance of this program for you, your family, community members you serve, and others. Use this [Advocacy Alert](#) from Feeding Wisconsin to ask your state Senator and Representative to support DHS's funding request by amending [AB 387/SB 390](#) (the budget correction bill already introduced) to include this essential funding. If you prefer to contact your state legislators directly, go [here](#) to find contact information. Encourage others to take action using this [Social media content](#).

Organizations: Please consider signing onto this [letter](#) supporting increased state funding to keep the FoodShare program running well and in compliance with federal requirements.

See additional information and talking points below.

Core member organizations

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA) • Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) • Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS) • Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND) • Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC) • Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) • Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) • Wisconsin Senior Advocates • Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) • Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

Mission

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FUNDING NEEDED TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- **\$16.1M** for 56 more workers to make sure Wisconsin's error rate stays low. Keeping Wisconsin's error rate low helps Wisconsin avoid penalties of up to \$205M that the federal government would charge the state beginning in Oct. 2027.
- **\$32.4M** for administrative costs that the federal government used to pay but is now shifting to states.
- **\$20.7M** to make sure all the people who get SNAP are working enough to get food assistance benefits or qualify for an exemption.

WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL CHANGES TO FOODSHARE?

Changes to Wisconsin's FoodShare program resulting from H.R. 1 include:

- Expanding work requirements to include many more people as of July 4, 2025.
- Changing what is considered an error as of October 1, 2025. More things will now be counted as errors than before. If states have more than a 6% error rate, they will be penalized and will have to pay a lot more state money to keep getting federal money for the program, starting Oct 1st, 2028.
- Increasing the workload of county workers. Beginning November 1, these workers will have to do everything they are doing now to run the FoodShare program and serve many more people who need to prove they are working or exempt from work requirements without any more workers or money to do the extra work.
- Reducing how much money the federal government gives to states to run the program, beginning October 1, 2026, creating a budget hole for states. Now, federal funding pays 75% of what it costs counties to administer the program. That will be reduced to 50% on Oct. 1, 2026.

QUICK WISCONSIN FOODSHARE FACTS

- 700,000 people in [Wisconsin receive FoodShare benefits](#).
- County workers help local people and verify whether they are eligible to get FoodShare.
- People rely on counties to have enough workers and do a good job so that they can apply and get FoodShare in a timely way.
- Wisconsin does a good job running FoodShare and has one of the lowest error rates in the country (4.47%) compared to the national average (10.93%).
- Now, Wisconsin must continue all the work it currently does to run a successful program, and the additional work that is required by H.R. 1.

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- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) estimates 43,700 more people will have to “prove they are working” to keep FoodShare. Other changes will add to the time and complexity of individual cases.
- People with disabilities and adults over age 65 who are exempt from work requirements need a FoodShare system that works well to make sure their benefits are not delayed or mistakenly denied.
- Of Wisconsin FoodShare recipients:
 - More than 60% are in families with children,
 - More than 45% are in working families, and
 - More than 36% are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled.
- People with low, fixed incomes are especially vulnerable to rising costs of living (housing, prescriptions, food).
- As other costs go up, people lose jobs, or the economy worsens more people may not be able to afford food without SNAP.

Go [here](#) to see who is enrolled in FoodShare (SNAP) in Wisconsin.

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