

March 2, 2026

**Take Action:**

- 1. If your State Assembly Representative supported the additional FoodShare funding included in AB 180, contact them and thank them for supporting the needed funding.**
- 2. Then contact your State Senator to share with them how important the FoodShare program is for low-income older people and family caregivers and ask them to support the funding needed to ensure that Wisconsinites continue to have access to food assistance. Let them know how continued FoodShare funding, as well as benefit restrictions, would impact you, others you care about, and/or people in your community. To find out who your Assembly Representative and Senator are enter your home address in the “Who Are My Legislators?” box found on this page - <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>.**

In the Assembly’s last session day on Fri., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, [Assembly Bill 180](#) – legislation requiring the Department of Health Services to seek any necessary waiver to prohibit the purchase of candy or soft drinks with FoodShare benefits - **was amended and passed on a bipartisan vote (72-22)**. To see how your Assembly Representative voted, go to: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/vote/2025/av0291>. **The amendment included adding funding needed** to meet additional state administrative cost share expenses for FoodShare, additional funding for the FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) program, and funding for more than 40 new quality control project positions. **The next step in getting the needed state funding for the program is to get this same legislation passed by the full Senate by mid-March.**

The [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP), known in Wisconsin as [FoodShare](#), is jointly run by federal, state, and local governments with the goal of stopping hunger across the country. In Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services (DHS) administers this program in partnership with county governments. SNAP provides nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including older people, people living with disabilities, children, and families, with basic food necessities.

A new federal law passed last summer made several significant changes to SNAP, including reducing the federal governments share of the administrative cost share for the program; expanding work requirements to include adults through age 64 (previously work requirements applied to adults ages 54 and under who didn’t have a child under age 18 living in their home); and for the first time in SNAP’s 80-year history, requiring states who are unable to achieve and maintain an error rate below 6% to cover 5-15% of SNAP benefit costs (this requirement could cost Wisconsin taxpayers up to \$205.5 million in penalty fees every year).

**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**

*The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) works with and for all older adults by educating community members and policy makers on priority issues while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more at [gwaar.org/waan](https://gwaar.org/waan).*

State and county budgets are insufficient to cover the increased costs and reduction in federal funding. **The Wis. Department of Health Services (DHS) asked the Legislature for \$69.2 million in state funding** to help Wisconsin comply with new federal requirements.

Aging advocates, as well as and many other advocates, **feel Assembly Bill 180 as amended, is a “mixed bag”**. Imposing extra restrictions on what FoodShare benefits can be used to purchase is worrying, as it may harm low-income older people, family caregivers and other Wisconsinites participating in the FoodShare program. Maintaining the freedom to choose what we eat allows individuals to navigate the medical, cultural, and financial realities that define their health and daily lives. That said, **delays in providing this funding will put all Wisconsin taxpayers at risk of paying for increased costs (due to higher error rates) and will negatively impact communities, businesses, and FoodShare recipients across Wisconsin.**

Please contact your state Senator and ask them to support the additional funding needed for FoodShare.

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