



Transitional FoodShare Benefits (TFS)

Transitional FoodShare, or TFS, extends FoodShare benefits for five months to households leaving Wisconsin Works or Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, known as Tribal TANF. These benefits ease the transition to work, and provide a safety net to families who lose cash assistance.

Enrollment

To be able to enroll, a member of the FoodShare household must have:

- Participated in a Wisconsin Works payment tier (including Tribal TANF),
- Received at least one cash payment from the program, and
- Been getting FoodShare benefits in the month the TFS benefits are determined and the month the last Wisconsin Works or Tribal TANF payment is issued

Benefit Calculation

TFS benefit amount is based on household size, income and expenses for the month prior to the last Wisconsin Works or Tribal TANF payment. The amount of the last Wisconsin Works, Tribal TANF payment is not used. Any changes in income from a job, child support, or other source that occurs during or after the month of the last payment is also not used.

Households are not required to report changes during this five-month period.

The TFS benefit amount will stay the same for the next five months unless the local agency becomes aware of or the household reports:

- Someone in the household starts getting a Wisconsin Works or Tribal TANF payment, or
- Someone from the household moves and applies for FoodShare or joins another FoodShare household

Other changes the agency learns about from either the household or another program will not change the amount of the TFS benefit, unless the household asks for regular FoodShare benefits.

Changes in TFS Benefit Amount

The TFS benefit amount will change during the five-month period if a TFS household member moves out and applies for FoodShare or joins another FoodShare group. The new benefit amount will be based on changes in household size, income and expenses. This new benefit amount will remain the same for the rest of the five-month benefit period.

If the household starts getting a Wisconsin Works or Tribal TANF payment again TFS benefits will end and a new FoodShare benefit will be based on regular FoodShare rules.

Requesting Regular FoodShare Benefits

TFS households may request regular FoodShare from their local agency at anytime during the five-month benefit period. There may be situations when household size increases, income goes down, shelter expenses go up, etc, that would cause a household to get more FoodShare benefits. If the regular FoodShare benefit would be less than the amount of the TFS benefit the household may choose to continue receiving TFS benefits or regular FoodShare.

Receiving FoodShare After the Five-Month TFS Period Ends

To continue getting FoodShare benefits after the five-month TFS benefit ends, the household must complete a renewal for regular FoodShare, including an interview. The TFS household will get a letter about completing the renewal about 45 days before the end of the five-month benefit period. To avoid a gap in FoodShare benefits, the renewal must be completed during the last month the household gets TFS benefits. If the household does not complete the renewal process until the following month, the household may have a gap in benefits. If the household chooses not to apply for regular FoodShare, FoodShare benefits will end.

For More Information:

- Contact Member Services at 1-800-362-3002 or 711 TTY (TTY and translation services are available)
- Go to dhs.wi.gov/foodshare or dhs.wi.gov/em/CustomerHelp
- Contact your local county or tribal agency

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