



# The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

## Our Work

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provides critical food support for the most vulnerable families in Wisconsin's communities, while also stabilizing our nation's agricultural economy.**

TEFAP provides emergency food to low-income Wisconsinites at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. TEFAP is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of individuals with an emergency three-to-five-day supply of USDA foods at no cost through a network of over 300 local food pantries and meal sites.



**1 in 10**

Wisconsin households struggled with food insecurity in 2024.



**\$24 million**

worth of emergency food was brought into Wisconsin using TEFAP funds.



**300+**

Wisconsin food pantries rely on TEFAP to serve their community.

## Funding

TEFAP is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture in the form of food purchasing dollars and administrative funds to operate TEFAP. The program is authorized by the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 and the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

## Priorities

### Meeting critical food needs

One and a half million Wisconsinites live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

### Providing nutrition

TEFAP distributes a variety of nutritious, high-quality USDA foods to local pantries and meal sites for critical emergency food support.

### Meeting growing demand

Emergency food utilization has increased due to rising costs. TEFAP must grow to meet demand at local food pantries across the state.

## Impact

### Leveraging federal resources for Wisconsin

In 2024, Wisconsin ordered 24 million pounds of TEFAP USDA foods for distribution to food pantries and meal sites.

### Supporting local food pantries

Approximately 95% of TEFAP foods went to 267 food pantries who combined it with locally donated, grown, and purchased foods.

### Building Wisconsin's food safety net

The remaining 5% of TEFAP foods were distributed to 71 meal sites and shelters who combined it with local foods to provide 1,607,604 meals.

## Looking ahead

Emergency food utilization has increased since 2022 due to families struggling with high rates of inflation affecting food, housing, and transportation costs, as well as the loss of substantial federal and state resources. TEFAP is working to expand to meet this increased need.