

Key Points about FoodShare Wisconsin

The Food Stamp Program (known as FoodShare in Wisconsin) is the nation's single most important program in the fight against hunger. The program is designed to improve the nutrition level and food purchasing power of people with low incomes.

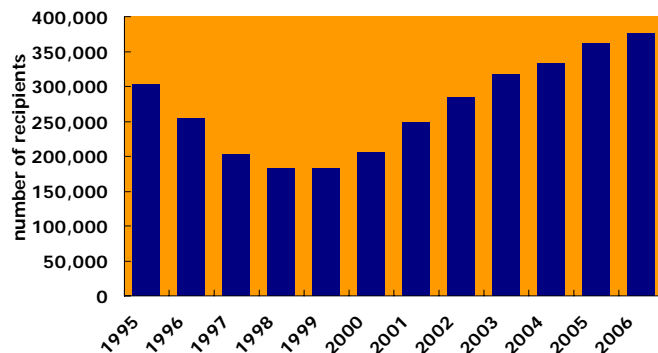
The average benefit per assistance group in Wisconsin is \$186 per month, or about \$3 per household member per day. While most FoodShare households are expected to spend a portion of their income on food, many are challenged considering the typical cost of food. A gallon of milk costs close to \$3, a box of cereal is more than \$3 and a single apple can cost \$0.30 to \$0.50. These numbers add up quickly.

FoodShare recipients receive assistance in one monthly allotment. Food "stamps" are no longer used, and have been replaced by an electronic benefit transfer system, known as QUEST in Wisconsin. QUEST cards operate similarly to a bank card.

In 2006, there were 554,020 participants in FoodShare Wisconsin.

Participation in Wisconsin more than doubled between October 1999 and October 2006. This recent increase is among the highest in the nation.

**Number of Wisconsin FoodShare recipients
October monthly totals 1995-2006**



More facts about FoodShare Wisconsin:

- More than half of food stamp recipients are children, and approximately 18% are elderly, blind, or disabled;
- Working families make up 28% of recipient groups;
- Most individuals and families who use the FoodShare Wisconsin do so in order to get themselves back on their feet and receive benefits for a limited period.
- In addition to helping families make ends meet, FoodShare Wisconsin also gives back to a state's economy. For every \$5 in food stamps that are used in grocery stores or at local farmer's markets, close to \$10 is generated in local economic activity.
- FoodShare Wisconsin is designed to help in times of need. When economic downshifts or natural emergencies, like the recent flooding in southwest Wisconsin occur, FoodShare Wisconsin provides benefits to an increased number of people. When need increases or decreases, the funds for the program respond accordingly.

Sources:

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/em/rsdata/index.htm>

http://www.frac.org/pdf/FSC_Toolkit.pdf