



Advocacy and Public Policy Priorities

Feeding Wisconsin is the state association of the six regional Feeding America food banks that provide emergency food to over 1,000 local food pantries and meal programs in all 72 counties of our state. Together with our network of food banks, food pantries, other local food distribution organizations and ending hunger advocates, we advocate for improving public and private solutions for a healthy and hunger-free Wisconsin.

Our work in public policy is guided by our mission to end hunger, improve health and strengthen communities, and consistent with the values that are shared by all Wisconsinites:

- That our Wisconsin families have the access to the food and benefits they need to work, learn, and participate in a healthy, thriving community
- That our Wisconsin children have the nutritious food they need to grow, be healthy and to learn in school
- That our food banks and food pantries have the resources and food they need to provide high quality, nutritious food to the people who need it across all communities in the state

We support and advocate for policies that:

- Increase access to fresh, nutritious food for Wisconsin families
- Maximize the ability of food banks and other organizations to end hunger, improve health, and strengthen communities
 - We advocate for a state funded food bank food purchasing program that support Wisconsin producers and growers and the Feeding Wisconsin network of food banks and pantries in distributing nutritious foods to all Wisconsinites who need it
- Ensure a strong, accessible, and effective Federal and State Nutrition Programs
 - We advocate for well funded and implemented Federal and State Nutrition Programs.
 - We advocate to ensure that policy barriers are not created for program participants and those potentially eligible for programs
 - We advocate for administrative changes that will increase access and eligibility for State and Federal Nutrition Programs
- Work as an ally to support policies and programs that improve the health and economic stability of Wisconsin families
 - We act as an ally in support and sign on to coalitions that advocate for strong health care programs and other family support policies and programs.





2022-2023 Advocacy and Public Policy Agenda

FEDERAL POLICY INITIATIVES

- Pass a 2023 Farm Bill that bolsters the nation's federal nutrition programs, including TEFAP and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Strengthen and protect Federal nutrition programs, SNAP, WIC, and others, to more adequately cover the rising cost of groceries.
- Provide \$450 million for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), including providing the full \$100 million authorized for TEFAP storage and distribution funding in upcoming fiscal year 2023 spending legislation.
- Pass a Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act that improves programs that will work to end childhood hunger by increasing access to school meals, summer and afterschool meals, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).
- Restore the expanded Child Tax Credit providing access to this anti-poverty benefit for the lowest income households.

STATE POLICY INITIATIVES

Provide funding for Wisconsin's food banks to purchase additional Wisconsin food products, increasing access to fresh, nutritious food for Wisconsin families

Wisconsin is in a unique situation to leverage the robust resources of its agricultural, manufacturing, and retail industries to benefit people experiencing food insecurity via donations, food purchasing, and disaster relief.

- Invest \$20 Million to connect Feeding Wisconsin's network of food banks and pantries with Wisconsin producers to provide food to families experiencing food insecurity. A state funded food bank purchasing program would increase the capacity of food banks and pantries to procure, store, and distribute nutrient-dense locally grown food to low-income Wisconsinites who need it.

Ensure a strong, accessible, and effective Federal and State Nutrition Programs

- Maintain a strong, accessible and effective FoodShare Program, Wisconsin's Largest Ending Hunger Program
- Expand the use of federal and state funds for healthy food incentives to provide FoodShare households with discounts on fresh produce and other healthy food options.
- Expand access to free school meals so all Wisconsin students facing food insecurity receive nutritious meals while at school

Support policies and programs that improve the health and economic stability of Wisconsin families

- Support policies and programs that promote financial security and household stability to help Wisconsinites build for a better future, such as increasing access to affordable housing, quality childcare for working families, and increasing access to healthcare and health insurance.