



HUNGER & THE WISCONSIN STATE BUDGET

SUPPORTING OUR FARMERS: Create opportunities for Wisconsin farmers while working to end hunger in our communities

FEEDING WISCONSIN is the state association of the six Feeding America food banks in Wisconsin.

We anticipate that demand will continue far beyond 2021 as the pandemic and resulting economy crisis continues to take a toll on our communities, especially those experiencing food insecurity.

Together, they serve almost

**1,000 Local
FOOD PROGRAMS**

and in 2020 distributed

**79 Million
POUNDS OF FOOD**

That is a

**62% Increase
OVER 2019**

“Purchases made of Westby butter in the fourth quarter of 2020 by Second Harvest Food Bank positively impacted the Creamery’s fiscal health after we witnessed a decline in food service business. These purchases supported our Cooperative’s mission to use 100 percent of our farmer-owners’ milk.”

Emily Bialkowski

*Westby Cooperative Creamery
Sales and Marketing Manager*



**Our farmers, producers and processors
are the heart of this state and without
them we are unable to do our work of
ending hunger.**

INVEST IN WISCONSIN FARMER’S MARKETS

- FoodShare is the largest anti-hunger program in Wisconsin. Investing in EBT technology supports local farmers while also creating an avenue for fresh produce for low-income families.
- Providing \$187,500 annually to supply EBT processing equipment to farmers markets and direct marketing farmers will help markets overcome barriers to accepting FoodShare purchases.
- Farmers markets provide a vital role of connecting Wisconsinites to fresh, locally grown produce. As of April 2021, only 53 farmers markets were approved to accept FoodShare in Wisconsin.

INVEST \$20 MILLION TO CONNECT FOOD BANKS WITH WISCONSIN PRODUCERS

- Wisconsin farmers fuel our economy. Investing in our farmers and Wisconsin producers while helping our neighbors struggling with food insecurity is a win-win.
- Wisconsin’s Food Security Initiative started in 2020 was a successful start, building relationships between Wisconsin Ag and local food banks, this investment in the Wisconsin budget strengthens these partnerships.
- The Food Insecurity Initiative pumped much needed dollars into our ag economy and provided over 6.2M pounds of product including beef, pork, cheese, butter, canned, frozen and fresh produce to Feeding Wisconsin network food pantries across the state. Funding through the state budget could operate in a similar manner to support food banks and pantries as they continue to meet the need and distribute more food than ever before.



The list below indicates the locations of the public hearings.

Make your voices heard!

The Joint Finance Committee will hold four public hearings on the proposed 2021-2023 biennial budget. Three hearings will be held in person, and one hearing will be virtual. All of the hearings will be streamed on Wisconsin Eye (wiseye.org).

If you are planning on attending one of the public hearings, here are a few important things to note:

- The primary purpose of the public hearings will be to hear from Wisconsinites. This is your opportunity to share your story.
- No one in Wisconsin should be hungry. We need your help speaking up on these important issues.
- Speakers (virtual and in-person) will be given two minutes to speak.
- The Joint Finance Committee will be following the guidelines from local public health departments for the host location regarding masking, social distancing and room capacity.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Irvin L. Young Auditorium
930 W. Main St.
Whitewater, WI 53190

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hodag Dome
665 Coolidge Ave.
Rhineland, WI 54501

THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

University of Wisconsin-Stout
Great Hall of the Memorial Student Center
302 10th Ave E
Menomonie, WI 54751

VIRTUAL HEARING:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Virtual

The virtual hearing will require pre-registration. Details will be released via The Joint Finance Committee website: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/virtual/>

Comments may also be submitted via email to Budget.Comments@legis.wisconsin.gov and on the Joint Finance Committee Budget Comment Website <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomments/submit-comments/>

www.feedingwi.org/statebudget