



# WISCAP

## Food Security Programs

One in ten Wisconsin households experience food insecurity, meaning they cannot afford or have uncertain access to sufficient food for an active healthy life. Rates are highest among single parent families, households with children, and Black and Hispanic households. Food insecurity is a direct consequence of poverty. When families lack enough money to meet their basic needs, they prioritize paying fixed expenses first – rent or mortgage, electricity, heat, gas, car repairs, phone, medicine – leaving less money for food. Thus, the lack of family supporting jobs with benefits, or access to affordable housing, health care, energy, childcare, or reliable transportation, frequently evolves into food insecurity.

**ONE IN TEN  
WISCONSIN HOUSEHOLDS  
EXPERIENCE FOOD INSECURITY**



### The foundation of true food security rests on four components:

1

Establishing economic security through family supporting wages and benefits, education, affordable housing, health care, childcare and transportation

2

Access to affordable & healthy food through retail markets

3

Utilization of federal nutrition programs

3

Access to a robust emergency food network

WISCAP's network strives to implement structural solutions to increase economic self-sufficiency while responding to the urgent needs of low-income households today.

## Our Work

### The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP is a federal program that provides USDA commodities to emergency food providers to supplement the food packages & meals they provide to families at risk of hunger. In Wisconsin:

#### WISCAP's Role

For 25 years, WISCAP has provided logistical support to TEFAP, including food ordering and data management, while advocating to expand federal food programs.

#### The Network's Role

12 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and 8 non-CAA partners coordinate the distribution of millions of pounds of food annually to 350 participating food pantries, meal sites, shelters, and local food banks in all 72 counties.

#### TEFAP's Scope

The network has distributed over 100 million pounds of commodities to families over the past 5 years; 300 million pounds since 1998.

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