

# The Federation and the Road Ahead



Mark Lisowski, Hunger Relief Federation Organizer  
Brandon Savage, Hunger Relief Federation Manager

# Federation Overview



# Current Composition

- 152 member organizations primarily in rural and remote spaces
- Located in 60 counties across Wisconsin
- Over 50 organizations and 100 individuals attending the 2024 Summit



# Counties represented at Summit



Marquette	Sheboygan	St. Croix	Racine	Eau Claire
Portage	Monroe	Kenosha	Brown	Waupaca
Marathon	Dodge	Vilas	Oneida	Waushara
Rock	Wood	Marinette	Winnebago	Dane
La Crosse	Ozaukee	Oconto	Waukesha	Milwaukee
Manitowoc	Shawano	Sawyer	Ashland	

# Tigerton Food Pantry (Shawano County)



# Kingdom Come Food Pantry (Oconto County)



**HUNGER RELIEF  
FEDERATION  
OF WISCONSIN**

FREE | LOCAL | INDEPENDENT

**HUNGER TASK FORCE**

FREE & LOCAL

# Community Center of Hope (Marathon County)



**HUNGER RELIEF  
FEDERATION  
OF WISCONSIN**

FREE | LOCAL | INDEPENDENT

**HUNGER TASK FORCE**

FREE & LOCAL

# Purpose of the Hunger Relief Federation

- Technical Support
- Capacity Building
- Educational Opportunities
- Networking and Resource Sharing
- Advocacy





# Technical Support and Capacity Building

## Technical Support

- Grant opportunities, strategies for searching and writing grants
- Alerting members of financial and food opportunities
- Technology solutions such as for inventory management, donor tracking and client services
- Support with enrollment in and compliance for Federal Nutrition Programs



# Technical Support and Capacity Building

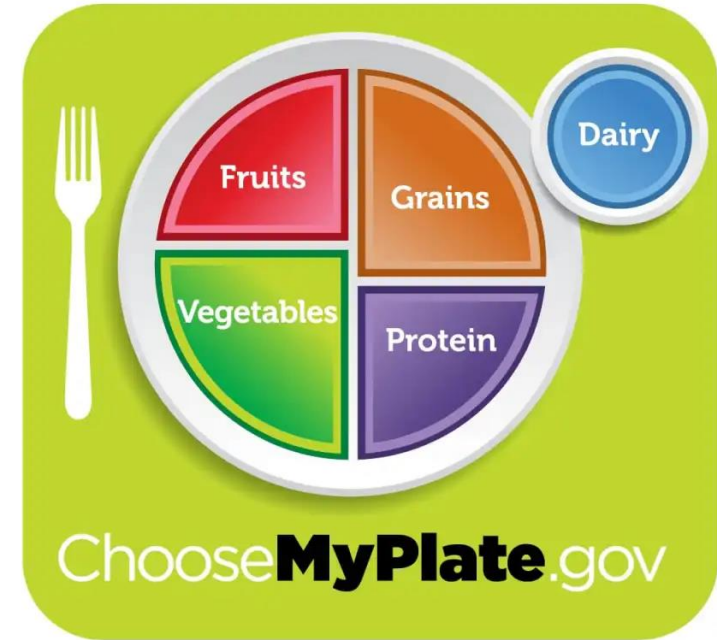
## Capacity Building

- Strategies for volunteer recruitment and retention
- Development and fundraising strategies
- Development of local partnerships
- Leadership and staff trainings
- Infrastructure and equipment infusions
- Access to members of the Hunger Task Force Farm Team



# Education

- Pantry Operations
  - Standards of Excellence, Free & Local Model
- Service Models
  - MyPlate, Client Choice, enrolling in Federal Nutrition Programs



# Networking & Resource Sharing

- Federation monthly calls
- Member-to-member contact
- Direct outreach
  - Site visits
- Federation Summits
  - First since 2019!



# Expansion of the Federation

- Goal: expand representation throughout Wisconsin
  - Membership in all 72 counties across the state
  - Maintain member relationships in counties with current representation

# Grassroots Advocacy for Better Nutrition Policies



# The Advocacy Behind Badger Box

*One of Hunger Task Force's largest undertakings and the greatest example of emergency hunger relief provided to Federation members across the state of Wisconsin.*

*It's also our greatest example of advocacy in action – and it is only the beginning.*



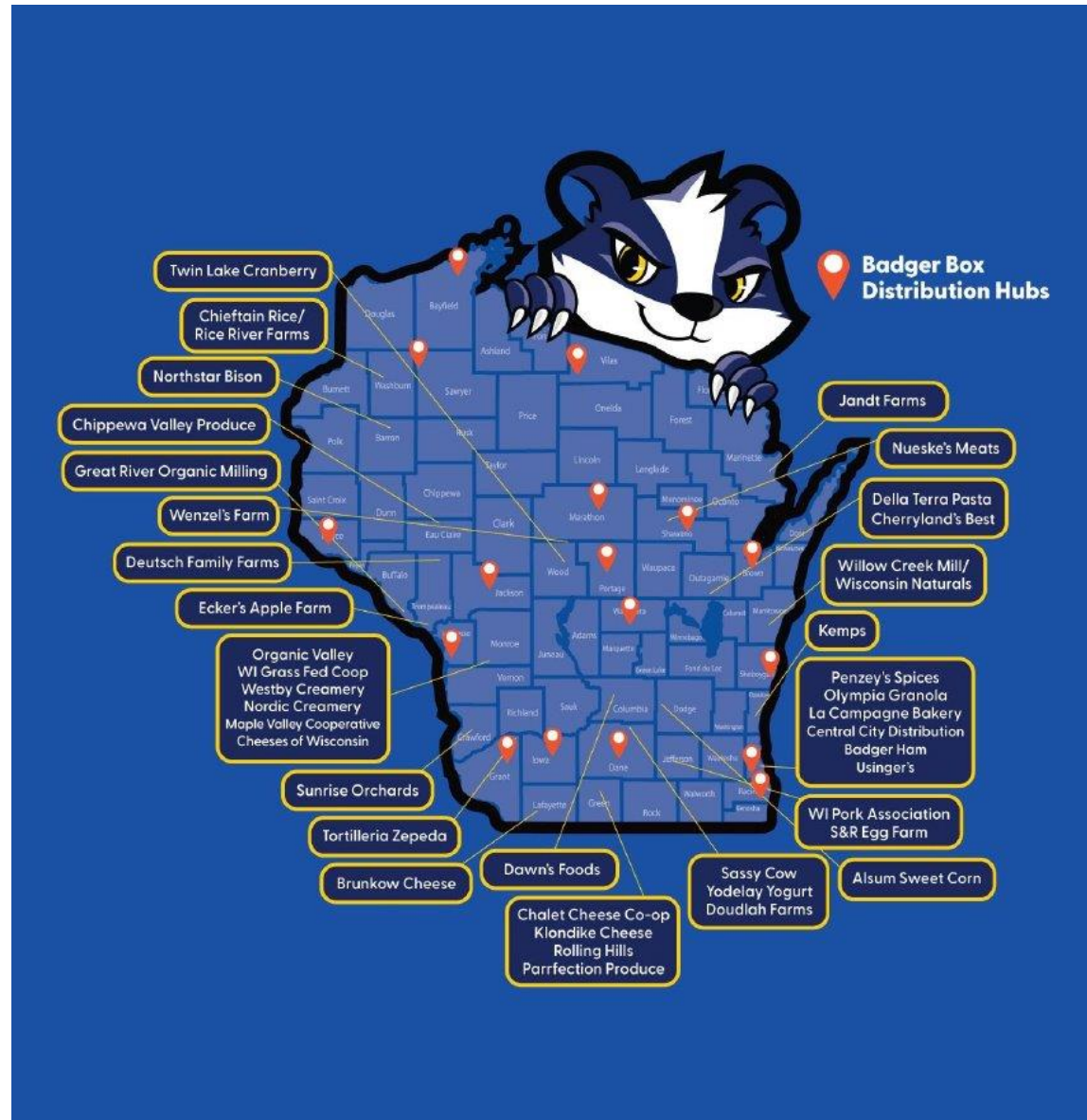
# The Advocacy Behind Badger Box

- Fresh, Wisconsin-sourced food from small and medium-sized farms, ranchers, co-ops, and more from over 40 providers
- 227,284 total Badger Boxes distributed across 61 counties from March 2022 through September 2023
- Over \$16 million spent on direct hunger relief for Federation members





# The Advocacy Behind Badger Box



# Advocacy in Action: Lobbying to Secure More Funding



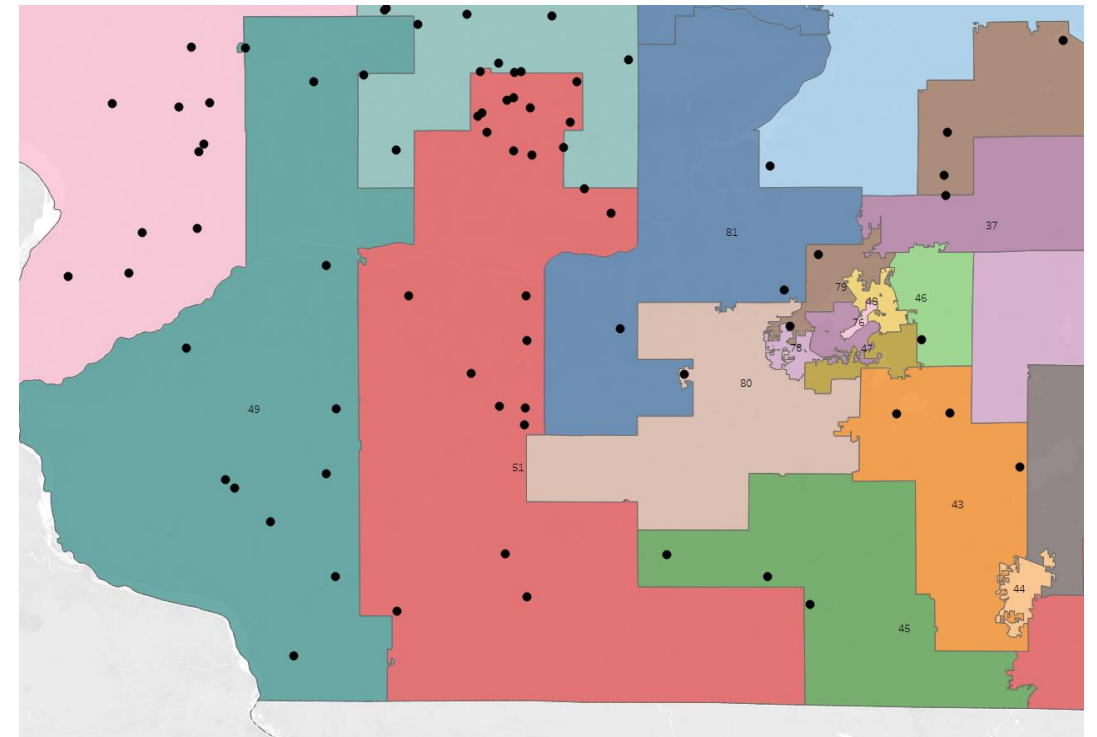
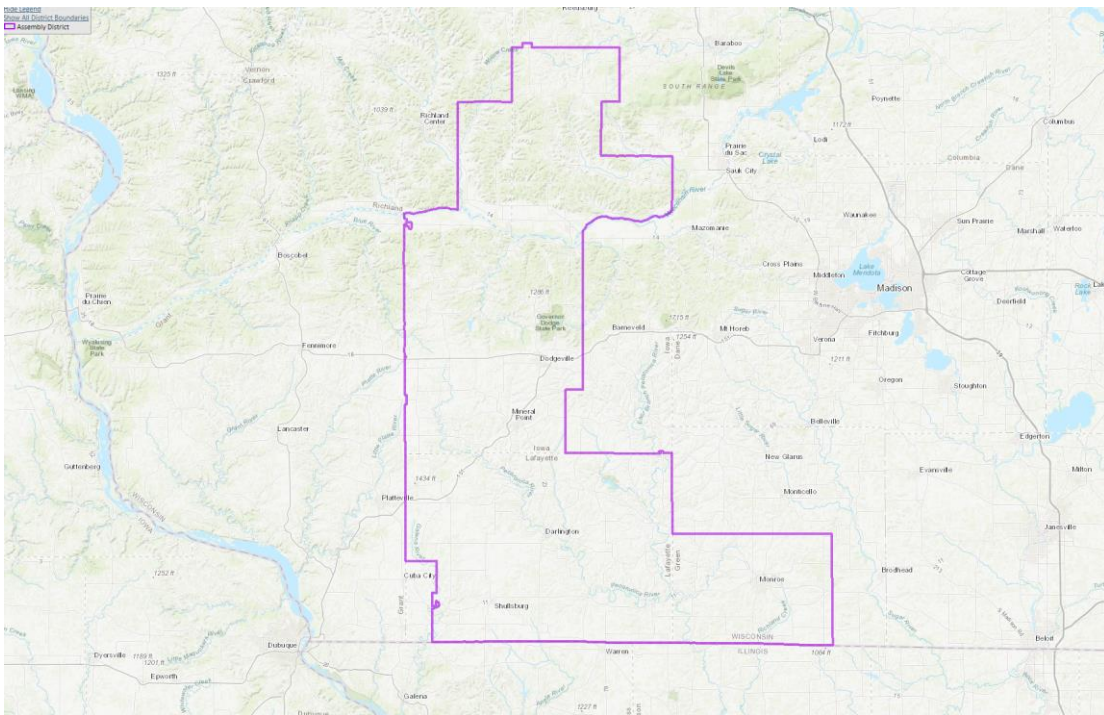
We went to the State Capitol with a clear agenda: partner with us and provide \$36 million over two years to continue this program




# Advocacy in Action: Lobbying to Secure More Funding

*We did the research, created the message, and put the pressure on.*

*Example: Representative Todd Novak's District*




# Advocacy in Action: Lobbying to Secure More Funding

 Representative Todd Novak  · [Follow](#)  
Apr 12, 2023 · 

Yesterday I met with Brandon Savage from Hunger Task Force. It was great learning more about their legislative priorities for this session.

We had a productive conversation on the Hunger Task Force's "Badger State Box", which is a box that is made up solely of food products grown or produced by an individual who is a resident of the state or by an entity that is domiciled in the state. These boxes are then distributed to food banks around the state.



# Advocacy in Action: Lobbying to Secure More Funding

**IF YOU DON'T CALL TODAY,  
BADGER BOX WILL GO AWAY!**

**We need you to make a simple phone call today**

**Badger Box funding will run out soon!** Badger Box is 100% Wisconsin foods, purchased from Wisconsin's smaller farmers and food producers. Funding for the Badger Box is running low, and people in your community need help. **State Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Travis Tranel have the influence to make Badger Box permanent!**

**Call Howard Marklein and Travis Tranel Right Now!**

Call State Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Travis Tranel today and ask them to support funding the Badger Box!



 **Marklein (608) 266-0703**  
 **Tranel (608) 237-9149**

After asking Senator Marklein and Rep. Tranel to support the Badger Box, tell them the ways the Badger Box makes a difference in your life!

**Hunger Task Force**  
5000 W. Electric Avenue  
West Milwaukee, WI 53219  
[www.HungerTaskForce.org](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org)



The action:  
Flyers at distributions,  
emails, phone calls, letters  
of support, and more  
  
All from Badger Box  
vendors, Federation  
members, and recipients of  
the box

# Advocacy in Action: Lobbying to Secure More Funding

*We convinced several members to support our bill (that we wrote)*



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2883/P2  
MCP:emw&cjs

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 AN ACT to create 20.115 (3) (ad) and 93.485 of the statutes; relating to: grants  
2 for assembling and distributing Badger State Boxes to food pantries and  
3 making an appropriation.

*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to make grants to a single nonprofit organization that operates as a federation of hunger relief organizations. The grant recipient must purchase food products that have been grown or produced in this state for the purpose of assembling Badger State Boxes (boxes made up solely of Wisconsin food products) and distributing them to food pantries throughout the state. The food included in a Badger State Box must be grown or produced by an individual who is a resident of this state or by a small- or medium-sized farm or business that is domiciled in this state. A "small- or medium-sized farm or business" is defined in the bill as a farm or business with no more than 125 employees, not including any cooperative members if the farm or business is a cooperative.

Under the bill, a grant recipient may not charge a fee to a food pantry in exchange for receiving Badger State Boxes and may not distribute Badger State Boxes to any food pantry that charges a fee to any recipient of a Badger State Box. Grant funds may be used only for purchasing food and assembling and transporting Badger State Boxes for distribution and may not be used for other purposes, such as grant administration or food storage.

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LRB-2883/P2  
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For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert  
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

2023-24 2024-25

3 20.115 Agriculture, trade and consumer

4 protection, department of

5 (3) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

6 (ad) Badger State Box grants GPR B 18,000,000 18,000,000

7 SECTION 2. 20.115 (3) (ad) of the statutes is created to read:

8 20.115 (3) (ad) *Badger State Box grants.* Biennially, the amounts in the  
9 schedule for Badger State Box grants under s. 93.485.

10 SECTION 3. 93.485 of the statutes is created to read:

11 93.485 **Badger State Box grants.** (1) In this section:

12 (a) "Badger State Box" means a box that is made up solely of food products  
13 grown or produced by an individual who is a resident of this state or by a small- or  
14 medium-sized farm or business that is domiciled in this state; and that is intended  
15 for distribution to qualified food pantries.

16 (b) "Qualified food pantry" means a nonprofit organization that distributes food  
17 to low-income individuals to alleviate hunger.

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LRB-2883/P2  
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SECTION 3

1 (c) "Small- or medium-sized farm or business" means a farm or business that  
2 has no more than 125 employees, not including any cooperative members if the farm  
3 or business is a cooperative.

4 (2) The department shall award grants from the appropriation under s. 20.115  
5 (3) (ad) for the purpose of organizing and expediting the assembly and distribution  
6 of Badger State Boxes. Grants shall be made to a single nonprofit organization that  
7 operates as a federation of hunger relief organizations and that has operated a  
8 program of comparable size to distribute Badger State Boxes for at least one year  
9 before receiving a grant under this section.

10 (3) An organization that receives a grant under this section shall purchase food  
11 products grown or produced in this state by an individual or a small- or  
12 medium-sized farm or business for the purpose of assembling Badger State Boxes  
13 and shall distribute assembled Badger State Boxes to qualified food pantries  
14 throughout this state. A grant received under this section may be used only for  
15 purchasing food products and assembling and transporting Badger State Boxes for  
16 distribution, and may not be used for other purposes, including grant administration  
17 and food storage.

18 (4) An organization that receives a grant under this section may not charge a  
19 fee to a qualified food pantry in exchange for receiving Badger State Boxes under this  
20 section and may not distribute Badger State Boxes to a qualified food pantry that  
21 charges a fee to a recipient of a Badger State Box.

22 SECTION 4. **Effective date.**

23 (1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after  
24 publication of the 2023 biennial budget act, whichever is later.

# Advocacy in Action: Lobbying to Secure More Funding

*From one-on-one conversations to the state's budget committee*



# Advocacy in Action: Lobbying to Secure More Funding

*But even when things don't go your way, you don't give up*





# Legislative and Policy Priorities Moving Forward



# Advocacy in Action: Working to Build Stronger Communities

*The Federation continues to work to improve access to programs and food and advocates for better policies*

- FoodShare enrollment
- Summer Meals
- School Meals
- Advisory council of food pantries with the state Department of Health Services
- Registering on state bills and submitting testimony
- Maintaining a clear slate of legislative and policy priorities at the state and federal levels



# State Legislative Priorities: Moving Forward

*We will continue to be strong advocates for better nutrition policies at the state level*

- Food Security Grant
- Universal School Meals
- Expand "Farm to School" program
- "Farm to Fork" program
- State investments to expand LFPA
- Food waste reduction grants
- Payment processing equipment for SNAP
- Expand Tribal Elder Box program
- Funding for increased TEFAP administrative support
- Create a "senior food box program"



# Federal Legislative Priorities: Moving Forward

*Calling on members of Congress to fund vital programs at the federal level*



Feeding People Today  
Ending Future Hunger



## THE FARM BILL

The Farm Bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation passed by the United States Congress roughly every five years and most recently in 2018. It covers various aspects of agriculture, nutrition, conservation and rural development policies in the United States. It authorizes funding for various federal nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/FoodShare in Wisconsin), the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP/Stockbox in Wisconsin).

## PRIORITIES

As a leading anti-hunger public policy organization, Hunger Task Force encourages Congress to pass a Farm Bill in 2024 that increases funding for vital federal nutrition programs and expands access to nutritious food for low-income people, families and seniors. Hunger Task Force supports the following 2024 Farm Bill priorities:



TEFAP



CSFP/STOCKBOX



SNAP/FOODSHARE



NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Hunger Task Force is Milwaukee's Free & Local food bank and Wisconsin's anti-hunger leader. The organization's core values are Dignity, Justice, Equity, Compassion and Stewardship. Hunger Task Force feeds people today by providing healthy and culturally appropriate food to hungry children, families and seniors in the community absolutely free of charge. Hunger Task Force also works to end future hunger by advocating for strong public policies and nutrition programs at the local, state and federal level.

## PRIORITIES

### TEFAP

- Reauthorize TEFAP and increase to \$200 million annually for discretionary funding for storage and distribution. Increase mandatory funding for TEFAP food purchases to \$500 million annually.
- Authorize up to \$20 million to be appropriated for TEFAP infrastructure grants.
- Extend the Farm to Food Bank Projects and provide \$8 million in annual mandatory funding while eliminating the required 50% nonfederal match.

### CSFP/STOCKBOX IN WISCONSIN

- Fund CSFP at a rate of \$325 million annually and guarantee a national caseload allocation of at least 760,000 participants.
- Exempt Medicare payments from the gross income calculation to determine CSFP eligibility.

### SNAP/FOODSHARE IN WISCONSIN

- Permanently allow college students enrolled half-time or more to get SNAP benefits and eliminate the 80-hour work requirement.
- Streamline the process for college students so no SNAP application is needed if a FAFSA form is submitted.
- End the prohibition on the use of SNAP benefits to purchase hot prepared foods from food retailers.
- Update the Thrifty Food Plan without being cost neutral during mandated adjustment periods.
- Provide support for funding and technical support for farmers to facilitate online SNAP sales.
- Eliminate the prohibition on individuals with drug felony convictions from participating in SNAP.
- Require states to review EBT contracts to reflect the most up-to-date security standards.
- Reevaluate the three-month time limit on SNAP eligibility for working-age individuals who do not secure employment within that time period.
- Reevaluate the five-year waiting period for immigrants to attain SNAP eligibility.

### GENERAL/OTHER NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- Oppose moving dollars from the Nutrition Title to any other Title.
- Amend Section 32 to enable the USDA to issue direct grants to food banks for the purpose of making commodity purchases from within its own state.
- Support block grant programs that would enable food banks to purchase specialty crops directly from farmers.
- Support Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDIR).

## CONTACT US

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# A Look at the Future



# What Does the Future of the Federation Look Like?

*We will work to expand your voice and your power*

- Increasing your purchasing power
- Stronger networking
- Educational opportunities and higher technical support
- In-person visitations
- Access to Hunger Task Force experts



# Voices Against Hunger



**HUNGER TASK FORCE**

[www.HungerTaskForce.org/VOICES](http://www.HungerTaskForce.org/VOICES)



**USE YOUR VOICE!**  
Join Voices Against Hunger.

*Voices Against Hunger is  
Hunger Task Force's  
citizen advocacy group.*

# What You Can Do Today

*A call to action for members across Wisconsin*

- Join Voices Against Hunger
- Participate in our activities
- Ask us for help whenever needed
- Take ownership of your community
- Learn more about our initiatives
- Be on the lookout for messages
- Invite others to learn about and join the Federation

