

# The United States Department of Agriculture



*Stevey Poppe  
Lead Program Specialist  
Food Nutrition Service  
Midwest Regional Office*



*Merdis Hudson  
Lead Program Specialist  
Food Nutrition Service  
Midwest Regional Office*

# Food and Nutrition Service

- **Who We Are**



**Stevey Poppe**  
**Lead Program Specialist**  
**SNAP**



**Merdis Hudson**  
**Lead Program Specialist**  
**Child Nutrition**

## ■ About FNS

**Our MISSION is to increase food security and reduce hunger in partnership with cooperating organizations by providing children and low-income people access to food, a healthy diet and nutrition education in a manner that supports American agriculture and inspires public confidence**

**We work to end hunger and improve food and nutrition security through a suite of 16 nutrition assistance programs, such as the school breakfast and lunch programs, WIC and SNAP.**

**Together, these programs serve 1 in 4 Americans over the course of a year, promoting consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable food essential to optimal health and well-being.**

# Nutrition Assistance Programs



Farmers Market Nutrition Program



Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program



SNAP



WIC



Child and Adult Care Food Program



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program



Commodity Supplemental Food Program



Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations



The Emergency Food Assistance Program



USDA Foods in Schools



National School Lunch Program



School Breakfast Program



Special Milk Program



Summer EBT



Summer Food Service Program



The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program

[USDA FNS 101 Fact Sheets](#)



# ■ SNAP is just a food benefit, right?

## SNAP – Ed

- Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program
- How to cook healthy meals
- How to make SNAP dollars stretch
- How to lead physically active lifestyles

[SNAP-Ed Connection | Home \(usda.gov\)](#)

## SNAP - E&T

- Job Training program
- Offers supportive services to participate
- Job Retention Services
- One way to meet a SNAP work requirement

[SNAP Employment and Training | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

## D - SNAP

- Approved in response to disasters
- Replacement benefits for regular SNAP recipients
- Benefits for non-SNAP households

[Disaster Assistance | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

## SNAP – Outreach

- Help potentially eligible participants learn about and apply for SNAP
- Help current participants complete required actions
- Funds written materials, staff, operations

[SNAP Outreach | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

# ■ What Is SNAP Outreach?



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – **SNAP or FoodShare** helps people living on low-income buy nutritious food, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. (Wisconsin Quest Card)

Through SNAP outreach, FNS works with state and local agencies, advocates, employers, community and faith-based organizations, to reach people who are not currently participating in SNAP but may be eligible.

Outreach efforts share information about the nutrition benefits of SNAP.



# ■ SNAP Outreach Priority Areas

- Students
- Veterans
- Immigrant and mixed status households
- Older Adults
  - Other underserved communities like Rural, LGBTQ+, limited English proficiency, unfamiliarity with programs, transportation difficulties, and need for specialized services





## ■ What You Can Do

**Educate and Inform:** Provide information about SNAP benefits and eligibility to pantry visitors. This can include brochures, posters, and one-on-one conversations.

**Application Assistance:** Help clients complete SNAP applications. This can be done through dedicated staff or volunteers trained to assist with the application process.

**Outreach Events:** Host or participate in community events to raise awareness about SNAP. Partner with local organizations to reach a broader audience.

**Benefit Management Support:** Assist current SNAP recipients with the recertification process and reporting changes to ensure they continue receiving benefits without interruption.

**Targeted Outreach:** Focus on specific groups that may be underrepresented in SNAP participation, such as college students, older adults, immigrants, and the newly unemployed.



## ■ Helpful Wisconsin Resources

[FoodShare: A Recipe for Good Health | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#): FoodShare program information including how to apply for benefits, using a Quest (EBT) card, keeping benefits safe from fraud, program data

[ACCESS Wisconsin | Apply for and manage state of Wisconsin benefits](#): ACCESS is Wisconsin's benefit management portal. This website can be used to apply for FoodShare (along with Medicaid, childcare assistance and cash assistance) or check if you may be eligible. FoodShare members can also use this portal to complete their required renewals, report changes, check their benefits, submit needed documents and more.

[Income Maintenance and Tribal Agency Contact Information | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#): Contact information for local agencies including addresses, phone numbers, and hours.

[Food Support Resources | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#): Information about other resources to help people who do not qualify for FoodShare or who need additional support including information about local foodbanks, tribal commodity programs and work programs.

[FoodShare: At a Glance Dashboard - Individual Summary | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#): Interactive FoodShare participant data.

[FoodShare Employment and Training: About FSET | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#): Information about FSET, FSET providers, and how to enroll.

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(govdelivery.com\)](#): Sign up for community partner emails from Wisconsin DHS. (This will include updates about FoodShare and Medicaid).



# ■ Farm Bill and SNAP

The farm bill is wide-ranging legislation that sets funding and directs priorities for a variety of federal food consumption and production programs in the U.S.

Congress usually debates and renews the farm bill every five years. The first farm bill was passed in 1933, with 18 farm bills having been passed in all.

The most recent farm bill passed as the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 — meaning it was set to expire at the end September 2023, the end of the federal fiscal year.

Congress extended the current farm bill through September 2024, with funding for some elements potentially lasting through the end of the year.

SNAP falls under the nutrition policy area of the farm bill, which is administered by USDA. It affects the greatest number of people of any farm bill program, and it is hotly debated in Congress and in the news media.

SNAP typically gets the largest funding share of any program in the farm bill.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates roughly \$120 billion in SNAP spending per year over the coming decade. The number of people who get SNAP benefits tends to rise or fall along with the unemployment rate.



# ■ Summer Meals Programing

**SFSP:** kids of all ages can eat meals and snacks during the summer at no cost at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations.

**SUN Meals-to-Go (Non-congregate SFSP):** allows for nutritious summer meals to be delivered to children or caregivers of children

**SUN Bucks or Summer EBT:** is FNS's newest program. A grocery benefits on a debit-type card during the summer months for families. \$40 per month for three months.





# Summer Food Service Program

Summer Food Service Program) helps to ensure children are fed during the summer months when schools are not in session.

A federally funded, state administered program that reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer months, when children do not have access to school meals.

Kids of all ages can eat meals and snacks during the summer at no cost at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations. Every child aged 18 and under can enjoy summer meals.

## ■ Summer EBT



- Summer Grocery Benefit for Kids is a NEW grocery benefit available across most of the U.S. Families with eligible school- aged children can get \$120 per child to
- Families can receive summer EBT on top of other benefits like SNAP and WIC, and children can continue to enjoy free summer meals from local meal sites or with Meals To-Go.
- **Already enrolled in benefits like SNAP, TANF, or FDPIR**, school- age children will automatically be enrolled in Summer EBT.
- If a child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP), and the child's household income meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meals, that child may automatically be enrolled in Summer EBT.

# Summer Non-Congregate



**Meals to Go** allows for nutritious summer meals to be delivered to children or caregivers of children who are unable to attend congregated meal sites.

Rural communities where SFSP sites are hard to access.

Picked up or delivered at no cost.

- **What We Learned.**

**Success and Challenges.**

**Let's talk about it!**





## ■ What You Can Do

### Raise Awareness

- Wisconsin's SFSP Site Promotional Materials has Banners, Door Hangers, Lawn Signs, Poster, etc.
- USDA Website: printable posters, flyers, PSA, and Outreach Toolkit for Sponsors and Feeding Sites.
- Call 2-1-1: a free, easy-to-remember phone number connecting callers with health and human services in their community. Or Text 'food' to 304-304.
- Summer Meals Site Finder (However, the site finder does not list sites offering meal delivery for Meals To-Go.)
- Next year, Apply for Turnip the Beet

### Become a Site or Sponsor

#### Use USDA's Capacity Builder Map

- Identify areas in your community that qualify for summer meals and find potential partners.

***Get Involved:***

***Contact Amy Kolano at DPI***

***(608) 266-7124***

# ■ TEFAP

- Awaiting the Food Distribution Programs Access and Parity Final Rule-Expected October 2024
- Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act or CCC deliveries will continue into the early part of 2025. Implemented because of COVID supply chain issues.
- Stop Gap and 2025 Farm Bill Uncertain Funding.



# Good News!

## ■ JUST ANNOUNCED

- USDA intends to proceed with a transfer of \$1.7 billion from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to support emergency food network and local food purchases.
- This includes \$500 million to purchase USDA foods for emergency food providers.
- This also includes \$1.2 billion for local foods to be provided by early fall 2024 to allow food banks, schools, and childcare institutions to integrate this food into their planning for the coming year.

Previously provided local food support has created new marketing opportunities for smaller producers near schools and food banks. Continued investment in local purchasing will solidify the new supply chain connections that are forming, which benefits both the producers and the recipients of the food.



# Commodity

## ■ Supplemental Feeding Program (CSFP)

Multi-Food Warehouse Issues (Paris Bros.) continue to impact the service of CSFP. Additional emergency warehouse has been established to assist with deliveries. Expected to be up and running in October.

Case Management team should be reaching out weekly to communicate information about status of orders.

Long term solution is being worked on.



- Question and Answer



## ■ Contact Us



✉ [Merdis.hudson@usda.gov](mailto:Merdis.hudson@usda.gov)

✉ [Stevey.poppe@usda.gov](mailto:Stevey.poppe@usda.gov)

✉ [Tamara.larma@usda.gov](mailto:Tamara.larma@usda.gov)

✉ [Penny.weaver@usda.gov](mailto:Penny.weaver@usda.gov)

🌐 [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)

📍 Midwest Regional Office  
Chicago, IL

**Thank You**