



EMERGENCY FOODSHARE BENEFITS: What you need to know

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is issuing *Emergency FoodShare* supplements to many FoodShare households to help purchase food during the pandemic crisis. As provided for by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, all FoodShare households in Wisconsin will receive the maximum FoodShare benefit.

Will I get extra FoodShare benefits?

If your monthly FoodShare benefit is less than the maximum for your household, you will get a supplemental benefit up to the maximum FoodShare allotment. Right now, *Emergency FoodShare* will be provided for March and April. If you already receive the maximum FoodShare benefit, you will not get extra benefits. This is because of a decision made by USDA (the federal government), not Wisconsin's DHS.

Household size	Max. FoodShare	Examples	
		Supplement	No Supplement
1	\$194	Family A gets \$200/month in FoodShare for one adult and 2 kids. This family will get a FoodShare supplement of \$309 – boosting monthly benefits to \$509 (max for 3).	Family B gets \$509/month in FoodShare for one adult and 2 kids. This family will NOT get any extra FoodShare , as they already get the max for 3.
2	\$355		
3	\$509		
4	\$646		
5	\$768		
6	\$921	Individual A gets \$16/month in FoodShare. This individual will get a supplement of \$178 – boosting FoodShare to \$194/month (max for 1).	Individual B gets \$194/mo in FoodShare. This individual will NOT get receive extra FoodShare , because they already get the max for 1.
7	\$1,018		
8	\$1,164		
Each add'l	+\$146		

If I qualify for extra FoodShare, when will I get it?

Eligible households will receive two (2) *Emergency FoodShare* payments on their QUEST/EBT cards and will be notified by Wisconsin DHS on status.

- March *Emergency FoodShare* will be distributed on April 11, 2020.
- April *Emergency FoodShare* will be distributed on April 25, 2020.

How do I learn how much I get in FoodShare and if I get extra benefits?

Eligible households should receive a letter from Wisconsin DHS. You do NOT need to apply for *Emergency FoodShare*.

What if I do not currently get FoodShare?

FoodShare helps people with limited money buy the food they need for good health. Any low-income individuals are encouraged to apply. If you are approved, you may also qualify for *Emergency FoodShare*. To apply:

- The fastest way to apply is online or on your smartphone:
access.wisconsin.gov
- Find your county's agency contact information:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/index.htm>

There may be longer wait times to speak with a worker due to high call volume.



What if I need meals for my school age children?

While schools are closed, many school districts are providing pre-packaged school meals for children. To find out what your school district is doing and when you can pick up meals, visit your school district website.

Also, children who receive FoodShare or are approved for free or reduced-price meals could get additional EBT benefits, likely in April and/or May.

What if I need help food shopping?

Any member of your FoodShare household can use the EBT card to shop for food. Their name or picture do NOT need to be on the card. You can also give your EBT card temporarily to a trusted friend or relative to food shop for you. The store should not inspect the card or refuse to serve any customer with an EBT card and PIN. You can add an authorized representative to your card and case by logging onto your account at access.wisconsin.gov.

What other resources can help me?

Emergency Food:

- Visit www.211Wisconsin.org, Call: **211** or Text: **zip code to 898211**

Other Helpful Information:

- WIC (Women, Infants & Children): <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wic/index.htm>
- Unemployment and equal rights: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/>
- Apply for unemployment benefits: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/UIBEN/>
- School closures, administrators and teachers:
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- Child care and child welfare: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19>
- State universities: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/coronavirus/>
- State technical colleges: <https://www.wtcsystem.edu/initiatives/covid-19-updates>
- Emergency internet resources and utility: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Find healthy ways to cope, crisis support:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/resilient.htm>
- For all DHS Community Resources, visit:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>

Do you think you need to see a doctor?

Contact your physician or complete an online health screening assessment and a licensed health practitioner will contact you: <https://www.wihealthconnect.com/>

2020 Census

- Take the 2020 Census at: <https://2020census.gov/en.html>

For questions or immediate needs related to COVID-19:

- Text: COVID19 to 211-211
- Call: 211
- Visit: [211Wisconsin.org](https://www.211Wisconsin.org)

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