

WHO CAN GET FOODSHARE (FOOD STAMPS)?

WHAT IS FOODSHARE (FOOD STAMPS)?

FoodShare is a program that helps low-income families and individuals buy nutritious food.

WHO CAN GET FOODSHARE?

Anyone can apply for FoodShare. You may be eligible if:

- Your household income is less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level;
- You are a Wisconsin resident; and
- You are a US citizen or qualifying immigrant.

Monthly Income Guidelines:

<u>Family</u>	<u>200% FPL</u> <u>(Gross)</u>	*All individuals who purchase and prepare food together are considered a family group for Food Stamp purposes and must have their eligibility determined together. Actual eligibility and the amount of benefits are based on net income after certain deductions are made from the group's gross income.
1	\$2,082	
2	\$2,820	
3	\$3,556	
4	\$4,292	
5	\$5,030	
6	\$5,761	
7	\$6,502	
8	\$7,240	
9	\$7,978	

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FOODSHARE?

- Apply online at www.access.wisconsin.gov
- Apply by mailing your application (available at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F1/F16019B.pdf>) to: CDPU, P.O. Box 5234, Janesville, WI 53557-5234
- Apply with your local agency in person or by telephone.

Application Steps:

1. Complete an application and provide the verification or proof that is requested (such as income; social security number; address and housing costs; citizenship or immigration status). The FoodShare agency should help you get verification if you can't get it after making reasonable attempts to get it.
2. Complete an interview. The interview will be by telephone, unless you request an in person interview.

FOR HELP APPLYING CALL THE FOODSHARE HELPLINE: 877-366-3635

PRIORITY FOODSHARE SERVICES

You may be able to get FoodShare within 7 days of applying if you:

- Have \$100 or less available in cash or in the bank; and
- You expect to have less than \$150 of income this month; or
- Your rent/mortgage or utility costs add up to more than your total gross monthly income, available cash or bank accounts for this month; or

- Your household includes a migrant or seasonal farm worker whose income has stopped.

HOW CAN I USE MY FOODSHARE BENEFITS?

When you get FoodShare, you will be given an account with a plastic card called the Quest card. Each month, your FoodShare benefits are put into your account. You can use your Quest card at grocery stores, convenience stores, certain farmer's markets and co-ops the same way someone would buy food with a debit card.

You can use your benefits to buy:

- Breads and cereals
- Meats, fish and poultry,
- Fruits
- Dairy products
- vegetables
- Seeds and plants to grow food for your family to eat

You cannot use your benefits to buy:

- Nonfood items (pet food, paper products, soap, household supplies etc.)
- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco
- Food that will be eaten in the store, or
- Hot foods (food that is purchased and cooked at the store)

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Get a written eligibility decision 30 days or less from the date you submit your application.
- Get FoodShare benefits 7 days after applying if you are in immediate need and qualify for faster service.
- Decisions denying you FoodShare benefits can be wrong and can be appealed, but only if you apply and get a written decision.
- Ask for a fair hearing if you do not agree with any action of the agency.

LEGAL ACTION OF WISCONSIN LAWYERS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH FOODSHARE CASES

www.legalaction.org

855-947-2529

The above is intended to provide general information only and is not a substitute for thorough and specific advice on an individual case. Depending on the complexity of your legal problem you may need to consult an attorney for advice or representation.

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