

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)



What is TEFAP?

TEFAP is a federal program that provides food commodities to distribution sites. Food pantries and prepared meal sites receive commodities and they are distributed with other foods.

If you need food assistance, you may be eligible to receive food from food pantries, or prepared meals at meal sites.

TEFAP is not the same as the nutrition program called FoodShare Wisconsin (formerly known as Food Stamps).

The FoodShare Wisconsin website explains [how to get FoodShare benefits](#). There is a separate page showing [FoodShare contacts for Milwaukee County](#).

How can I find a participating TEFAP food pantry?

Call [211 Wisconsin](#)([link is external](#)) and ask for the location and hours of the nearest TEFAP food pantry in your county.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible to obtain groceries once per month if your gross household income does not exceed 300% of the poverty level. Check the [eligibility and income guidelines](#) for more information.”

What are food pantries and free meal programs?

Food pantries are places where people can receive food assistance at no cost for home preparation.

Free meal programs, such as those provided at prepared meal sites, are places where people can receive prepared meals at no cost.

What types of food are available?

The groceries provided usually include a variety of canned vegetables and fruits, pasta, beans, rice and/or grain products. The protein items may include canned salmon, tuna, peanut butter, and occasionally chicken or meat.

The food assistance is intended to be a supplement. Supplies and amounts vary; typically the foods will provide groceries for a period of 3-5 days.

What do I need to bring to get the food?

You should bring identification and proof of residence, such as a utility bill. You should expect to complete a brief eligibility application when you pick up the food.

[Email the State TEFAP Office\(link sends e-mail\).](#)

Nondiscrimination Statement

- [Nondiscrimination Statement in English](#)
- [Nondiscrimination Statement in Spanish](#)
- [Nondiscrimination Statement in Hmong](#)

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