

About the FoodShareChallenge

What is the FoodShare Challenge?

The “FoodShare Challenge” seeks to highlight what it is like to eat on the average FoodShare benefit – approximately \$1 per meal. Participants live on the average FoodShare benefit of approximately \$3.00 per day or \$1.00 a meal.

The Food Stamp Program (called FoodShare in Wisconsin) makes a difference in the lives of millions of Americans across the country, but in many cases, the benefits received are too low to allow families to purchase nutritious food and to feed their families healthy meals on a consistent basis.

Members of Congress, governors, state officials, journalists and other community leaders have taken the Challenge and have learned first hand what it is like to try to make ends meet on the average FoodShare benefit.

While the average FoodShare benefit is approximately \$3 per day, depending on income and situation, some households qualify for the maximum benefit, while others get as little as \$10 a month. After paying for housing, energy and health care expenses, many low-income households have little or no money remaining to spend on food without FoodShare benefits. In addition, most FoodShare households report that their benefits do not last the entire month and many are forced to turn to food pantries and soup kitchens.

While living on a FoodShare budget for just a week cannot come close to the struggles encountered by low-income families week after week and month after month, it does provide those who take the Challenge with a new perspective and greater understanding.

Purposes of Wisconsin’s FoodShare Challenge

- To experience the difficulty of obtaining enough food to stay healthy using the current FoodShare benefits
- To understand what it is like to struggle to put a meal on the table
- To raise awareness of how difficult it is to purchase a healthy, nutritious diet on a FoodShare budget
- To raise the visibility of hunger in Wisconsin