

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 13, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, related to emergency supplemental food assistance funding

File Type: Informational Report

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### **REQUEST**

This informational report discusses the distribution of \$150,000 in supplemental food assistance and the collective impact on the community authorized under File 25-704 requiring a report back in the March 2026 cycle.

### **BACKGROUND**

In November 2025, the County Board approved File 25-704 authorizing a \$150,000 appropriation transfer from Agency 194-1945 – Appropriation for Contingencies to Agency 800-DHHS for emergency supplemental food assistance in response to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reductions during the federal government shutdown last fall.

The resolution authorized DHHS to:

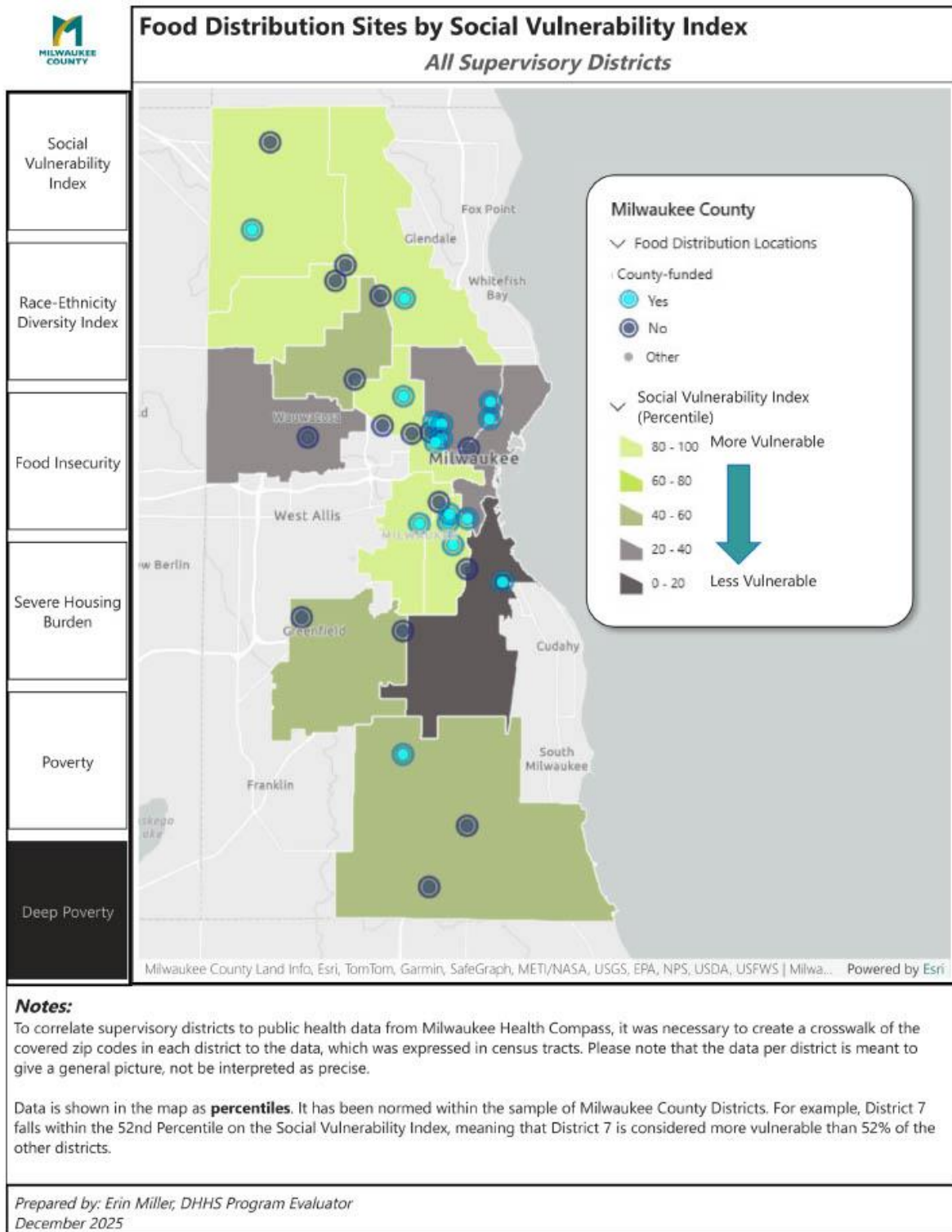
- Allocate the funds for the purpose of providing emergency supplemental food assistance to County residents impacted by the reduction in SNAP benefits
- Enter into agreements with local partners best equipped to provide for emergency supplemental food assistance and include clear performance metrics in the agreements

This report describes how funds were used and provides some detail into the content of weekly discussions with agencies that received funding.

DHHS distributed the funding to local food banks and food pantries that were in strategic geographical areas of the county and had the capacity as well as the need for additional funds. The funds were distributed in the following manner:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>
Nourish MKE	\$18,000
Feeding America	\$18,000
Metcalfe Park Community Bridges	\$28,000
Inpower	\$10,000
Dawah Center	\$10,000
St. Vincent De Paul	\$10,000
Bayview Community Center	\$10,000
Kinship	\$10,000
Dream Team	\$10,000
Jewish Community Center	\$10,000
Hunger Task Force	\$6,000
Kozy & King Center - Milwaukee County Parks	\$9,999
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$149,999</b>

The map below shows pantries in the context of Social Vulnerability Indices of the areas in which the additional funding was distributed. As indicated by the map, there are big gaps on the northwest side when it comes to food access. This does reaffirm the need to address food insecurity and food apartheid in certain areas of Milwaukee County.



**Food Assistance Metrics**

The allocation of \$150,000 allowed for the following tangible metrics to be achieved:

- 201,691 pounds of food was distributed to food pantries
- 5,887 households were served in December and January
  - 20% had children and 15% had at least one household member over 60
  - An estimated 25% of households had a member with a disabling condition.
- Not every agency captured veteran status, but at least 245 people served were veterans.

The types of food purchased included fresh produce, meat, cheese, milk, vegan, and specialty items, in addition to staples like breads, cereals, and canned/boxed goods.

In addition to pounds of food distributed, agencies engaged in a number of outreach events to ensure people in need of food were served:

- Parks Community Centers hosted holiday meals
- DHHS hosted a food giveaway that included recipes for the specific foods included in the giveaway
- Metcalfe Park hosted three giveaways and two Community Joy cooking sessions with food included
- Dream Team United hosted four giveaways and a holiday dinner
- St. Vincent de Paul hosted walking lunch giveaways and used these dollars to support meals at the winter warming sites

The agencies collaborated around things like refrigerator space, use of garden produce, and food stock for special events. In weekly meetings, the agencies were able to discuss logistics, challenges, and successes of distributing food. They were also asked to share community trends and neighborhood issues they had observed and to participate in collective problem-solving. Everyone agreed that a dedicated convening space for discussion, collaboration, and developing pathways to advocacy would significantly enhance efforts to address hunger. Therefore, DHHS has continued to offer this space for agencies on a monthly basis as we collectively address food apartheid.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

This report is informational and has no fiscal impact.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director

**PREPARED BY:**

Emily Kenney, DHHS Strategic Initiatives and Transformation Director

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*  
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Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Director of Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk