



Update on food related information for seniors in Milwaukee County, provided by Sherrie Tussler, Hunger Task Force

1. Emergency Assistance FoodShare benefits were at risk of loss to the State of Wisconsin after the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down the Governor's Emergency Public Health Order. A State and Federal Emergency Order must be in place for residents of our State on FoodShare to receive these supplemental federal FoodShare benefits estimated to be in value at \$56M-\$71M monthly.
2. Karen Timberlake, interim Secretary at Wisconsin DHS signed an Emergency Order on April 8<sup>th</sup>, so these benefits will remain intact through September or longer. Seniors who are income eligible for FoodShare can be assisted to apply telephonically by calling HTF at: **238-6484**. Hunger Task Force speaks English, Spanish, Hmong, Lao and Burmese.
3. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program, known locally as the "Stockbox" program will receive a 15% increase in caseload. Hunger Task Force operates this program in Milwaukee County. Seniors interested in receiving a Stockbox are welcome to pick up a box at any Senior Dining site in Milwaukee County. While the buildings remain shuttered distributions continue as a drive through in the parking lot. Additional fresh and frozen foods are being offered, with seniors receiving as trunk-load of food. Hunger Task Force also offers FoodShare application assistance at these locations, walking car to car. For a schedule of locations and times go to [www.hungertaskforce.org](http://www.hungertaskforce.org).
4. Senior Farmers Market Vouchers are coming soon. These are \$25 in cash value per household that can be spent on Wisconsin grown produce. Hunger Task Force is the administrative agent for the vouchers and is currently exploring an on-line/mail in application for the summer of 2021. Historically vouchers are distributed from senior centers and the State is increasing its flexibility for distribution strategies.