



Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin FoodShare Outreach Program Info Sheet



ELIGIBILITY

You may qualify if your household's gross monthly income is less than...

		\$1,962
		\$2,656
		\$3,350
		\$4,042

Income guidelines are valid through September 30, 2016

What is FoodShare?

FoodShare (federally known as SNAP-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a nutrition assistance program that saves you money on groceries. Once a month benefits are deposited on a debit-like card called the QUEST Card.



FoodShare Talking Points...

- **FoodShare is a benefit to clients**—FoodShare puts healthy food within reach of people struggling to stretch their budget and put food on their tables - USDA states that SNAP is the nation's first line of defense against hunger
- **FoodShare participation reduces the strain on local emergency food providers** (food pantries, meal sites, etc.)
- **FoodShare participation helps the community**—The USDA estimates that every \$5 spent in FoodShare generates nearly \$9 in local economic activity.
- Claiming your FoodShare benefits never takes benefits away from anyone else. It is an entitlement program available to anyone who is eligible.
- You've paid into this program through your federal taxes – take advantage of your own tax dollars!
- There's no asset limit. You can have a savings account or own a home and car.
- Many households are eligible for more than \$16/month, but \$16 is still worth it- that's like a \$16 coupon you don't have to clip. A year's worth of benefits is \$192!

Working with Second Harvest makes applying for benefits **EASY!**

Our FoodShare Specialists can help with the following services:

- Educate clients about FoodShare benefits, eligibility, and policy changes
- Quick, easy and confidential screening to see if clients may be eligible for FoodShare
- Provide one-on-one assistance to complete and submit FoodShare applications
- Assist with submitting verification documents
- Provide client advocacy in navigating the application process
- Assist clients in maintaining benefits, including assistance with recertifications, reporting changes, reporting a QUEST card lost or stolen, etc.
- Make referrals to other community resources
- Assist with navigating the ABAWD work requirement by:
 - Assisting with verifying work hours and income
 - Referring to employment and training resources to fulfill the requirement
 - Sending documentation for ABAWD exemption status

Here are a few ways we can partner:

- **Host an FSO Specialist for on-site application assistance**—Specialists can be onsite to assist clients in applying for FoodShare benefits. Specialists bring a compute, secure internet connection and a FoodShare sign
- **Referral forms**—If your organization has direct client interaction and can ask clients if they are already receiving benefits or not, clients who are interested in more information about benefits can fill out a referral form. The FoodShare Outreach Specialists can then call the client to screen to see if they may be eligible and then set up an application assistance appointment. Referrals can also be sent to the FoodShare Helpline through www.GetAQUESTCard.org.
- **Include some FoodShare literature in your waiting room or in your next newsletter**—We can provide you with flyers and posters for you to make available to your clients. Also, if you have a newsletter or listserv, we could supply you with a brief blurb on FoodShare to include in your next edition. A lot of community members learn about FoodShare because they read about it in on a flyer/poster, or a newsletter/email from a trusted community organization.
- **Host FoodShare Bingo**—FoodShare Outreach Specialists visit partner sites to play a game of FoodShare Bingo – a way to learn about FoodShare via a fun game of BINGO. This always includes prizes! After playing, many individuals are eager to apply for FoodShare.
- **Staff Education**—Second Harvest staff would be happy to come by during a meeting to briefly present to your agency staff to help them understand how FoodShare works, who's eligible, and how it can help folks make ends meet. We can also provide policy updates that impact clients they work with.



Call the **toll-free**, confidential FoodShare Helpline at:

1-877-366-3635

To contact a FoodShare Outreach Specialists in your area go to:

<http://www.getaquestcard.org/meet-the-foodshare-team/>