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RACINE COUNTY MOBILIZES COMMUNITY RESPONSE AHEAD OF SNAP BENEFIT PAUSE

RACINE COUNTY— Beginning November 1, SNAP (FoodShare) benefits will be temporarily paused as the federal government shutdown continues, impacting thousands of families and individuals who rely on these funds for their groceries.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has confirmed that no new FoodShare funds will be issued until the shutdown ends. Even if the shutdown ends before November, benefits will not be distributed on their regular schedule. Residents with remaining funds (received before November 1) on their QUEST cards may continue using them, but should be aware that the federal government may restrict card use beginning November 1 if the shutdown continues.

FoodShare applications are still being accepted; however, DHS has advised that approvals for applications submitted on or after October 21 may be delayed until normal federal funding resumes. Women, Infants & Children (WIC) benefits are not affected at this time. DHS has confirmed that Wisconsin's WIC program remains funded through October, with November benefits expected to continue as scheduled.

While this situation is under federal control, Racine County Human Services, in partnership with local schools, churches, nonprofits, and food banks, is preparing a coordinated community response to ensure residents continue to have access to food and essential support.

"Food security is a basic need, and we are committed to making sure no Racine County resident goes hungry during this pause," said Hope Otto, Human Services Director, "We are working closely with community partners to connect families with hot meals, pantry services, and emergency supports."

Where Can I Find Help?

Racine County and its partners are working together to help residents during this disruption. The Racine County Food Bank is "your food pantry's food pantry." Each month, the Food Bank distributes more than 90,000 pounds of food to local pantries, ensuring everyone in our neighborhood has access to healthy, plentiful food. While the Food Bank does not distribute food directly, it collaborates with partner pantries across the county.

"Racine County Food Bank is here to help. We will be working tirelessly to ensure there is enough food to bridge the gap during this pause," said Stephanie Sklba, Executive Director of Racine County Food Bank.

For the most current list of food pantries and meal sites, please visit: unitedwayracine.org/SNAP. This page is updated regularly with information from 211 Wisconsin and local community partners.

If you prefer to search directly, you can also visit [211 Wisconsin's interactive map](#) and:

- Enter your ZIP code
- Search for *Food Pantries* or *Meal Sites*

Note: 211 is currently experiencing very high call volumes, and wait times by phone or text may be long. Online access through United Way or the 211 website will provide the fastest results.

Other Helpful Contacts:

- Racine County/WKRP Call Center for Foodshare/Medical Assistance: 1-888-794-5820
- WIC: (262) 637-7750
- Aging & Disability Resource Center: (262) 833-8777 or toll-free (866) 219-1043.
- Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency: 262-637-8377

"Whether through financial contributions, hands-on service, or connecting to vital resources, we are committed to our Racine County families and strengthening the safety net that holds us all together," said Ali Haigh, President and CEO of United Way of Racine County.

Where Can I Find New Information?

Racine County, United Way of Racine County, and the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) are working together to ensure residents receive clear, consistent, and coordinated information throughout this federal shutdown. Each organization will focus on specific areas of support while sharing aligned messaging and resources.

- Racine County will serve as the primary source for verified updates from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, including information on local food pantries, meal sites, and community resources. The County website will also provide links to United Way and RUSD pages for additional support. Racine County will continue to post updated information as it becomes available.
 - Visit: <https://www.racinecounty.com/departments/human-services-department/foodshare-delay>
- United Way of Racine County will have the most current list of food pantries and meal sites and how to find them. They will also focus on how residents can help—including opportunities to donate, volunteer, or host food drives. United Way's SNAP Resource page will link directly to Racine County and RUSD resources.
 - Visit: <https://unitedwayracine.org/SNAP>
- Racine Unified School District (RUSD) will provide information related to school meal programs and child nutrition resources through their typical channels, ensuring families know how to access meals for students. RUSD will also link to Racine County and United Way for broader community updates.
 - Visit: <https://www.rusd.org/snap>

Residents are encouraged to follow Racine County, United Way of Racine County, and RUSD on social media for coordinated updates and the latest information on available services and support as this situation develops.

- Facebook:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/RacineCounty>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/UWRacine>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/racineunified>
- Instagram
 - [@racinecounty](#)

- [@unitedwayracinecounty](#)
- [@racineunified](#)

How Can I Help?

Racine County encourages community members, businesses, and organizations to come together in support of local food resources during this time. Here's how you can help:

- **Donate food** to the Racine County Food Bank, which supplies pantries and meal programs across the community.
 - **Drop off donations** at designated Pick 'n Save and Piggly Wiggly stores, proud partners of the Racine County Food Bank.
 - Focus on the *Food Drive Five*:
 - Protein foods: Nuts, canned seafood, canned poultry
 - Fruit: Packed in juice, dried, or sauced
 - Soups: Containing protein and vegetables
 - Whole grains: Pasta and cereal
 - Vegetables: Colorful, canned varieties
- **Host a food drive** at your workplace, church, civic organization, or school.
- **Volunteer** with a local pantry or at the Racine County Food Bank.
- **Make a monetary donation** through the United Way of Racine County website and select "*Food Insecurity*" from the drop-down menu under *Designate my donation*.
- If you are interested in hosting a drive, volunteering, or donating, visit [United Way of Racine County's website](#).

"Now is the time for Racine County to come together as a community," said Ralph Malicki, Racine County Executive, "Whether you are seeking help or offering help, we will get through this together."

Racine County urges community members to **share verified information** from Racine County and DHS to prevent misinformation and help connect others to trusted resources. Racine County appreciates the continued partnership of our community as we work together to ensure every resident has access to food and essential resources during this time.

Note: The Racine County Food Bank does not distribute food directly to individuals or families but supports local programs that do.

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