

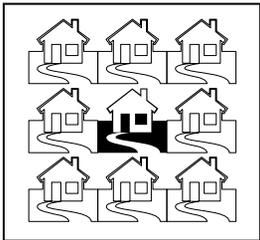
## How many families in Wisconsin struggle to put food on the table?

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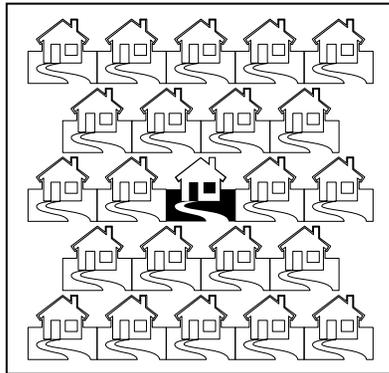
*Happy are those whose hope is in the LORD their God  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
(Psalm 146:5-7, abridged)*

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In reporting on who is hungry or at risk of hunger in America, The US Department of Agriculture talks about “food insecure” households.



In Wisconsin, **247,000 – one in nine – households are food insecure.** They may manage to get enough to eat but have to reduce the quality of their meals. They may not suffer from feeling hungry, but they are at higher risk for health problems and children’s physical, mental, and social development can be harmed.



And **97,000 – 1 in twenty-three – Wisconsin households experience very low food security.** Sometime in the past year, adults in these households were hungry and did not eat because there wasn't enough money for food. In the most severe cases, children as well as adults have had to go without food.

Households that are poor, or Black, or Hispanic, or headed by a single woman with children are most at risk of food insecurity. But **food insecurity affects people in every part of Wisconsin, in all kinds of communities, urban and suburban as well as rural.**

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*What do you know about your neighbors who face hunger in your community? How could you find out more?*

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## SNAP is a vital program that helps people in Wisconsin get enough to eat.

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*Is this not the fast that I choose: to share your bread with the hungry?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.  
(Isaiah 58:6-8, abridged)*

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Congress is now working on the 2018 Farm Bill, which will fund for the next 5 years agricultural, conservation and rural development programs – but by far the largest part supports the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our most effective national program for fighting hunger.



In 2017, over 700,000 Wisconsinites were helped by FoodShare, our state’s name for SNAP. Almost half were children and another quarter were elderly, blind, or disabled. Around a third of SNAP households had at least one person working, and many more had someone who worked before or after the household received SNAP. Most of those who can work, do.



The House of Representatives and the Senate have each passed different versions of the 2018 Farm Bill. Now, Congress has to come up with a compromise by September 30, or else temporarily extend current funding until they can reach an agreement.

Unfortunately, the House version makes irresponsible changes to the way the program works that will result in indiscriminate cuts to SNAP benefits for seniors, children, veterans, and working families. **Wisconsin families could lose at least 165 million meals in the next decade under the House bill.**

In contrast, the Senate bill makes commonsense changes that will strengthen SNAP -- supporting workers and employers, improving program integrity, and combatting fraud.

What can you do? **Ask your members of Congress to support the Senate version of the Farm Bill.** An easy way to send your message is through Mazon’s Take Action page - <https://mazon.org/take-action>



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From the Wisconsin Council of Churches, with information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service and Feeding Wisconsin. For more information about hunger in Wisconsin and what you and your congregation can do, visit <https://www.wichurches.org/resources/hunger-resources/>