

## COVID-19 Food Access Resource Guide for Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette County (May 2020)

People around Wisconsin face challenges in getting the food they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety concerns make it challenging to shop for food, and limited income makes it harder to afford food. Children are no longer getting meals at school, and many food assistance programs are operating differently during the pandemic. This page provides information about public programs, community resources, and food shopping options in Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette County to help meet food needs during this crisis. You can find more detailed, regularly updated information about state-level programs to help afford food at Extension's statewide [Food Resources to Help Get Through COVID-19](#) page.

### EMERGENCY FOOD

Food pantries are available in Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette County for people needing emergency help to get food. Most pantries have switched to curbside or drive-thru pickup to minimize contact between volunteers, staff and visitors.

You can call 211, or go to the [211 website](#), to get information about pantries in your area.

### SHOPPING FOR FOOD

#### Grocery Stores

Grocery stores and other food retailers may be open at different hours and may have different procedures than in the past. For example, some may have special hours for seniors and other at-risk populations, such as people with compromised immune systems. Please check with your local grocery store for hours open, ordering online, food delivery, etc.

#### Food Delivery and Pick Up

Some grocery stores and convenience stores offer online ordering and delivery or pick up. These services are subject to change – be sure to check with the store for current information.

#### FoodShare and Grocery Delivery and Pick Up

SNAP/FoodShare benefits on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card cannot be processed online, so the availability of services to accept benefits during the transaction will vary. Please check with your local grocer/convenience store to confirm what service options they provide for FoodShare participants. And remember these services are subject to change.



### Transportation for food

**Grant** County ADRC - the taxi and bus both offer opportunities for food shopping. The bus is not currently running. The taxi is running. 608-723-6113

<http://www.co.grant.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=25486&locid=147>

**Green** County ADRC - is providing transportation for food shopping for seniors and those with a disability. We are also able to pick up the food at the food pantry for the participant and deliver it to their homes. 608-328-9499 <https://adrcgreencounty.org/transportation/>

**Iowa** County ADRC – the taxi and bus both offer opportunities for food shopping. The bus is not currently running. The taxi is running. 608-930-9835 or 800-514-0066

<https://adrcswwi.org/iowa/services/transportation/>

**Lafayette** County ADRC - offers bus service for food shopping. 608-776-4960

<https://www.lafayettecountywi.org/adrc/page/transportationdriver-escort>

**LIFT Southwest Wisconsin Transit** currently provides rides for essential grocery shopping.

Please call this phone number 608-930-2091 and leave a message. <http://swt-lift.org/>

### Other Services

Some restaurants are offering carryout or contactless delivery. Contact your local restaurants directly for services they are offering and the hours of that service. Be aware these services are subject to change.

### Farmers' Markets

Farmers markets are considered essential businesses and are permitted to stay open, however some farmers markets have altered their operations (one person per vendor at one time, one way traffic, wearing of face covers, etc.), delayed opening, and/or decided to close for the 2020 season. Many of the markets have a website and or Facebook page. You may want to check those sites for updates before traveling to the market. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has issued [guidance for customers](#) about shopping at markets. FoodShare can be used at some markets.

EBT redemption at Dodgeville, Monroe and Platteville Market. Possibly at the Boscobel Market.

Redemption of Senior Farmers Market Vouchers for seniors living in Grant and Iowa County. Watch for the yellow vendor signs at the market indicating redemption with the vendor.

Redemption of WIC Farmers Market Vouchers is available at most Farmers' Markets in Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette Counties. Watch for the yellow vendor signs at the market indication redemption with the vendor.

### Direct Purchase from Farms

Some farms are selling food directly to consumers. Others are offering CSA shares. The Fresh Farm Atlas <https://farmfreshatlas.org/> and the REAP Food Group <http://reapfoodgroup.org/farm-fresh-atlas/> are great resources for Direct Farm purchases and Farmers' Market information.

## PROGRAMS TO HELP ACCESS FOOD:

### FoodShare

[FoodShare Wisconsin](#) helps families across Wisconsin to afford the food they need. The program provides eligible households with a debit card (called the QUEST Card) that is automatically loaded each month with funds to buy food. You can apply online at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/>.

Call the Southern Consortium Call Center at 1-888-794-5780 and apply over the phone Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4pm.

More detailed Q&A about FoodShare is available at Extension’s [Food Resources to Help Get Through COVID-19](#) page. Program changes are updated at the DHS [Updates for FoodShare and Other Food Benefits](#) page.

### *FoodShare for seeds and plants*

FoodShare can also be used to purchase seeds and plants that provide food. Not all retailers are aware of this so availability of this option may vary. Please be sure to check with the retailer if this option is available before reaching the checkout counter.

### *Assigning a proxy or secondary user to your FoodShare account*

Households that are unable to access grocery outlets to use their FoodShare benefits have the ability to have someone shop for them by adding an Authorized Buyer or Alternate Payee to their account. An Authorized Buyer is added to a FoodShare account and both parties receive EBT cards for the same account. An Alternate Payee receives a card on behalf of the account holder.

FoodShare users can request an authorized buyer or alternate payee be added to their account by completing the following form:

### [Add or Remove an Authorized Buyer or Alternate Payee for FoodShare Benefit](#)

- Available in English, Hmong, Spanish, and Russian

Once the form is received and entered by your [local agency](#), the card issuing agency will send the card to the appropriate individuals. This process may take 5-7 days.

It is important to know that any cards issued remain active unless the client contacts the [local agency](#) and completes and submits the form to remove the client. It also remains active if the case closes and the client reapplies in the future.

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a nutrition program for pregnant women, infants, women who are breastfeeding, postpartum women, and children younger than age 5. The program provides nutritious foods, infant formula, as well as nutrition education and other support. [Eligibility information](#) is available from DHS. To find out more, or to apply for WIC, contact your county WIC office

**Grant** County Health Department 608-723-6416

[http://www.co.grant.wi.gov/localgov\\_departments\\_details.asp?deptid=414&locid=147](http://www.co.grant.wi.gov/localgov_departments_details.asp?deptid=414&locid=147)

**Green** County Health Department 608-328-9390

<https://gcpublichealth.org/programs-services/wic/>

**Iowa** County Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program 800-704-8555 or 608-935-2326 Ext 204 <http://www.swcap.org/service-wic.html>

**Lafayette** County Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program 800-704-8555 or 608-935-2326 Ext 204 <http://www.swcap.org/service-wic.html>

## MEAL PROGRAMS

### Meals for kids

To find out about meals for children when schools are closed, check with your school or school district website. Many sites are listed on the USDA's [Find Meals for Kids](#) website, although that list does not include all available sites. Many of these sites are providing meals for kids ages 0-18.

### Pandemic-EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer)

P-EBT is a new, temporary program that provides benefits for children who normally receive free or reduced price meals at school. It covers the value of meals that would have been provided at school. This program provides funds on an EBT card. Detailed information about this program is available from the Department of Health Services on their [Updates for FoodShare and Other Food Benefits](#) page.

### Meals for seniors

**Grant** County contact Grant County ADRC 608-723-6113

<https://adrcswwi.org/grant/menus/>

**Green** County contact Green County ADRC 608-328-9499

<https://adrcgreencounty.org/nutrition/>

**Iowa** County contact Seniors United for Nutrition 608-930-9845

<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/seniorsnutrition/seniorsnutrition.shtml>

**Lafayette** County contact Seniors United for Nutrition 608-930-9845

<https://www.lafayettecountywi.org/adrc/page/seniors-united-nutrition-sun-program>



## OTHER STATE RESOURCES FROM EXTENSION

For state-level information about food resources and programs, see [Food Resources to Help Get Through COVID-19](#)

For ideas and resources on healthy eating during COVID-19, see [Nutrition tips during COVID-19](#)

For information about food safety during COVID-19, see [Food safety during COVID-19](#)

For financial resources and information, see [Financial Resources to Help Get Through COVID-19](#).

## YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE

**Grant** County 608-723-2125 <https://grant.extension.wisc.edu/>

**Green** County 608-328-9440 <https://green.extension.wisc.edu/>

**Iowa** County 608-930-9850 <https://iowa.extension.wisc.edu/>

**Lafayette** County 608-776-4820 <https://lafayette.extension.wisc.edu/>