

State Makes Additional \$10 Million Investment in Food Security Initiative

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Investment is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, brings total of \$65 million to support food security networks in response to challenges presented by COVID-19.

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today, with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), announced an additional investment of \$10 million in the state’s two largest hunger relief organizations. This announcement brings the Governor’s total investment in food security to \$65 million since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

“Today’s announcement recognizes Wisconsin’s place as an agricultural leader and our obligation to fight food insecurity together,” said Gov. Evers. “The Food Security Initiative has allowed us to strengthen relationships between local producers, processors, pantry networks, and residents as we ensure that families have food to put on the table at the end of a long day. I look forward to continuing to work to eliminate food insecurity in rural communities, urban centers, Tribal Nations, and homes across Wisconsin.”

This investment is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force, proven partners in the fight against food insecurity, will each receive up to \$5 million for food expenses incurred by the close of June 2023. Food purchased through this program will support residents experiencing food insecurity in Wisconsin.

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“Gov. Evers continues to support agriculture and reduce food insecurity in Wisconsin,” said Randy Romanski, DATCP Secretary. “Through his work to support food security networks, remove barriers to the workplace and education, and strategically invest in Wisconsin farmers, the Governor is working to address food insecurity in Wisconsin.”

Since May 2020, Gov. Evers has allocated a total of \$65 million to support food security networks adapt to challenges presented by COVID-19, purchase Wisconsin food products, and invest in food security infrastructure.

“The Food Security Initiative is such an important win-win program—we are grateful to see it extended,” said Feeding Wisconsin Executive Director Stephane Jung Dorfman. “As families are struggling to make ends meet, some pantries are seeing demand beyond peak pandemic levels, and food banks are paying more for food and fuel, these funds provide us with a sense of relief. We look forward to working in partnership with the Governor's Office, DATCP, and Wisconsin producers to continue our efforts to source nutritious food products to support Wisconsinites across the state.”

“On behalf of the members of the Hunger Relief Federation including Wisconsin’s Tribal Nations, Free & Local food partners, and food banks in rural areas, we applaud Governor Evers for his in-depth understanding of the needs of hungry families and the farmers who have benefited from the Food Security Initiative investments,” said Sherrie Tussler, Executive Director for Hunger Task Force. “The Governor has demonstrated innovation, leadership, and true care for the Wisconsin agriculture industry and people across Wisconsin who need access to emergency food.”

Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force have demonstrated their effectiveness in providing emergency food distribution to all corners of the state through their networks. Their continued work reaching communities statewide will be critical in successfully executing the Governor’s continued [Food Security Initiative](#).