

Food Resources When You're Hungry

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Ashland & Bayfield Counties**

According to the 2006 U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) data for 2004, 14.4% of Ashland County residents and 10.9% of Bayfield County residents live in poverty compared with the Wisconsin rate of 10.9%. These SAIPE estimates rank Ashland County 3rd and Bayfield County 28th of the 72 Wisconsin counties when comparing the percent of population below 185% of poverty. Food insecurity, the assured access of all people to enough food for an active healthy life, is closely linked to poverty. However, community characteristics, economic assistance policies and the availability and use of public and private resources also play an important role.

Following are programs/services available in our two-county area that help residents have access to emergency or on-going food sources.

Food Shelves/Food Pantries

Food shelves/pantries represent mostly private resources, though some of the area food shelves are also sources of government commodities, mostly provided through Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency (NWCSA). All of the area food shelves rely heavily on donations of food and funds from individuals, families, faith communities, organizations and businesses within the various communities or geographic areas they serve. With food shelf usage increasing in all areas, donations of food and/or funds are **always** welcome and needed. When donating food, it is best to check with the specific food shelf, as some have no refrigerated storage space.

The following food shelves serve areas within Ashland and Bayfield Counties. They may require information verifying identity, residency, income etc. It is best to check with the food shelf/pantry for specific requirements.

The **B.R.I.C.K. Food Shelf** is Ashland County's newest food shelf. The B.R.I.C.K. is a result of the former Chequamegon Bay Food Pantry and NWCSA's Food Shelf joining together under the umbrella of a covenant of various area churches.

Contact: Lori Knapp, Director of Operations
(715) 682-7425

Address: 420 Ellis Avenue
Ashland, WI 54806

Area Served: Ashland and Bayfield Counties

Distribution: Monday-Wednesday, 9:00 A.M.- 3:30 P.M.
Thursday, 9:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.
Friday, 9:00 A.M.- Noon

Bad River Emergency Food Shelf

Contact: Bad River Department of Social Services
(715) 682-7127
Address: 72772 Elm Street, (P.O. Box 55)
Odanah, WI 54861
Area Served: Bad River Reservation
Distribution: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

The Bayfield Food Pantry

Contact: Stephanie Bresette
(715) 779-7028 (leave message if no answer)
Address: Alley Entrance behind Bates Art Barn
Bayfield, WI 54814
Area Served: City and Town of Bayfield, Town of Russell
Distribution: Every Wednesday, Noon-3:00 P.M.

Barnes Community Food Shelf

Contact: Rita Johnson (715) 795-2359
Donna Tollefson (715) 795-3139
Address: Barnes Community Church
3200 County Highway N
Barnes, WI 54873
Area Served: People living within a 15 mile radius of Barnes Community Church from
zip codes: Barnes 54873, Cable 54821, Drummond 54832, Gordon 54873
and Grand View 54839
Distribution: 2nd Wednesday monthly, 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Rural Care & Share Food Shelf

Contact: Ann Pellman
(715) 363-2619
Address: St. Michael's Church
68105 South George Street
Iron River, WI 54847
Peace Lutheran Church, Poplar
U.S. Highway 2
Poplar, WI 54864
Area Served: Rural Douglas and Bayfield Counties (School District of Maple)
Distribution: 3rd Saturday monthly, 9:30-11:30 A.M.

Lord's Cupboard Food Shelf

Contact: Jeff Sheffield (715) 762-1958
Parish phone (715) 762-4494
Address: St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Padua Center
276 South Fifth Avenue
Park Falls, WI 54552

Area Served: All areas; Prefer Price County and Butternut/Glidden area
Distribution: 1st – 4th Wednesdays and Saturdays each month, 10:00 A.M.- Noon
(Not open 5th Wednesday or Saturday of any month)

Soup Kitchen

Genesis 1990, Inc. is a mental health recovery center; one of five mental health recovery sites in Wisconsin. Their activities are geared toward mental health consumers. In addition to providing support and social activities, food preparation classes are offered from time to time. The Soup Kitchen is geared toward Genesis members/mental health consumers. A 501c3 organization, they accept donations of food and funds.

Contact: Brad Culligan, Cook
(715) 685-0232
Address: 220 Fourth Avenue West, P.O. Box 421
Ashland, WI 54806
Meal hours: Monday-Friday, 11:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

Other Food Resources

The following 2 food resources are open to the general public. They have no income or age eligibility requirements.

First Saturday Food Distribution, Ashland

Contact: Celebration Fellowship or (715) 682-2502 (church)
J. D. Weber (715) 292-3526 (cell)
Address: 310 Stuntz Avenue (near Ellis School and Park)
Ashland, WI 54806
Area Served: All areas
Costs/Fees: \$20.00 donation/share
Hours: First Saturday of each month beginning at 10:00 A.M.
Note: Bring bags or boxes

S.H.A.R.E. (Self Help and Resource Exchange)

SHARE is a non-profit food buying club that offers good, nutritious foods at reduced cost through a volunteer-run, community-based distribution system. There are no membership fees or eligibility requirements. Participants can save up to 30-50% on frozen meats, fresh produce and other grocery items. All participants are encouraged to give volunteer time in their community. Call for nearest location and information.

Contact: S.H.A.R.E.
(800) 548-2124
Address: P.O. Box 403, 13111 West Silver Spring
Butler, WI 53007
E-mail: info@sharewi.org
Web site: www.sharewi.org

Emergency/After-Hour Resources – Police and Sheriff Departments
(These resources should only be used when all other appropriate offices are closed.)

Ashland County Communications Center

Phone: (715) 682-7023 – press #1 for dispatcher

Walk-in: Tell dispatcher you are requesting a Salvation Army Food Voucher
220 East Sixth Street, Ashland (Use 6th Street entrance only)
Pick up phone in lobby area; request a Salvation Army Food Voucher

City of Ashland Police Department

Phone: (715) 682-7023 – press #1 for dispatcher

Walk-in: Tell dispatcher you are requesting a Salvation Army Food Voucher
601 Main Street West (Use City Hall back entrance only)
Pick up phone in entrance area (phone connects directly to dispatcher);
request a Salvation Army Food Voucher

Iron River Police Department

Phone: (715) 372-4285 – leave a message regarding your location/phone #;
request a Salvation Army Food Voucher. Officer will contact you
when messages are checked.

Bayfield County Jail

Phone: (715) 373-6117 – tell officer on duty you are in need of a Salvation Army
Food Voucher
Walk-in: 615 Second Avenue East – pick up intercom; request a Salvation Army
Food Voucher

Federal Nutrition Programs

SNAP/FoodShare Wisconsin

Starting 10/01/2008, the federal Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the minimum monthly benefit for a household of one or two persons was increased to \$14.00 and a provision was added that includes indexing to adjust for changes in the cost of living. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, increases SNAP benefits by raising maximum allotments by 13.6% of the June 2008 value of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). For example, the maximum monthly allotment for a 4-person household in the 48 States and DC increases \$80.00, from \$588.00 to \$668.00. That legislation also increases the minimum monthly benefit amount for households of one and two persons from \$14.00 to \$16.00. The new benefit amounts become effective April 1, 2009.

SNAP is a federal entitlement program that serves just more than half of Wisconsin's eligible people. The Wisconsin program is called FoodShare. SNAP/FoodShare improves access to food through normal retail grocery stores rather than charitable food providers. It improves participant access to ethnically

appropriate foods and foods meeting special dietary needs such as low salt, sugar and fat. USDA research shows that participation in WIC and/or SNAP/FoodShare reduces the risk of child abuse or neglect, the occurrences of anemia and nutritional deficiency. Use of this program brings federal dollars into the state/area, which could result in increased employment. Federal studies have found that for every \$5.00 of food stamp benefits, \$9.75 is generated in community economic activity. In Wisconsin, participation by the elderly is the lowest of any group. Second Harvest research reports that only a third of Wisconsin food shelf/pantry households participate in FoodShare, though an estimated 90% are financially eligible. This increases demand on local food shelves/pantries and has resulted in service to 60% more households over the past 5 years. From 1977-September 2008, the minimum Food Stamp benefit was \$10.00/month. Many senior citizens chose not to participate in the program as the minimum monthly benefit was so low. However, they perhaps didn't know that the monthly benefits can be accumulated for nearly a year. That resultant \$100-\$110 could have been a welcome assist to the household budget during the more expensive winter months of northern Wisconsin. The new \$16.00 minimum monthly benefit (an increase of 60% in six months) can accumulate to \$160-\$176 before it must be used. Seniors, or anyone eligible for the minimum monthly benefit, should seriously consider becoming a SNAP/FoodShare participant. Consumers can check their eligibility for benefits including FoodShare, Medicaid, BadgerCare, SeniorCare, etc. by using ACCESS, an online tool that simplifies access to information as well as program administration. Check out the ACCESS website at <http://access.wisconsin.gov>

Ashland County Health and Human Services Department

Contact: Intake Unit or FoodShare Contact
(715) 682-7004
Address: 630 Sanborn Avenue
Ashland, WI 54806
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.

Bad River Department of Social and Family Services

Contact: Social Services Department
(715) 682-7127
Address: 72772 Elm Street, (P.O. Box 55)
Odanah, WI 54861
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

Bayfield County Department of Human Services

Contact: Economic Support
(715) 373-6144
Address: 117 East Fifth Street, P.O. Box 100
Washburn, WI 54891
Hours: M, W, Th, F, 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.
Tuesdays, 7:30 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.

Red Cliff Department of Human Services

Contact: Red Cliff Tribal Office
(715) 779-3706
Address: 88385 Pike Road
Bayfield, WI 54814
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)/ Federal Commodities

TEFAP is a federal program providing federal commodities at no cost. The largest distribution takes place on tribal lands. Tribal participants must choose between receiving commodities through Food Distribution or SNAP/FoodShare through use of the Quest Card.

Bad River Food Distribution

Contact: Milisa Corbine, Food Distribution Coordinator
(715) 682-7892
Address: 73451 Maple Street
Odanah, WI 54861
Area Served: Bad River Reservation
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

Red Cliff Food Distribution

Contact: Peg Charette, Food Distribution Director
(715) 779-3740
Address: 88430 Pike Road at Highway 13
Bayfield, WI 54814
Area Served: Red Cliff Reservation
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The WIC program is a proven public health prevention program designed to influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in a specific population. The primary goals of WIC are to decrease the incidence of low birth weight infants and prevent nutrition-related health and developmental problems in infants and young children. WIC, through a no cost to client voucher system, provides monthly supplemental nutritious foods that contain nutrients (protein, calcium, iron and vitamins A and C) determined by research to be lacking in the diets of the WIC client population. Pregnant or postpartum women, infants, and children up to the age of 5 are eligible. In addition they must meet income guidelines, be a Wisconsin resident, and be assessed for “nutritional risk” by a nutritional professional. Many working families qualify. A pregnant woman counts as two family members. A person who participates, or has family members who participate, in benefit programs such as FoodShare, Kinship Care, W-2, BadgerCare or Medicaid, including Healthy Start automatically meets the income eligibility limits.

The WIC Program uses the same income criteria as free and reduced school meals. Please call (715) 682-6661 for income guidelines. Fathers, guardians or foster parents may apply for WIC for their children.

Bay Area WIC Program

Contact: WIC Program Office
(715) 682-6661 (800) 878-4874
Address: 101 West Main Street (entrance in back of building near parking lot)
Ashland, WI 54806
Area Served: Ashland and Bayfield Counties (Clinics are held in Ashland, Glidden, Cable, Iron River, Washburn, Hurley and Mercer.) Please call the number listed for exact locations, times and dates of WIC Clinics.
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.

Bad River WIC Program

Contact: Sue Houle
(715) 682-7139
Address: 303 Elm Street
Odanah, WI 54861
Area Served: Bad River Reservation
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

Red Cliff WIC Program

Contact: Selena Bressler
(715) 779-3707 x 233
Address: 88455 Pike Road
Bayfield, WI 54814
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M.

Head Start

Head Start programs locally are funded through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Centers offer center-based and home-based programs for pre-natal women, infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The target population is low income families.

The Head Start meal services follow the guidelines established by the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program. Every parent completes a Nutritional Questionnaire for their child that is reviewed by a Nutrition Consultant to identify nutritional strengths as well as needs of each child and family, family eating patterns and special dietary requirements. Foods served during the center-based classrooms and the home-based socializations are high in nutrients and low in sugar, salt and fat. Each preschooler in the center-based program receives meals and snacks that provide at least 1/3 of their daily nutritional needs. Meals are served family style. All menus and special diets are approved by a Nutrition Consultant. Families are encouraged to participate in community food assistance programs.

Family Forum Head Start & Early Head Start, Ashland

Contact: Suzanne Smiles, Center Director
(715) 682-5035

Family Forum Head Start, Bayfield

Contact: Mary Beth Appel, Center Manager
(715) 779-5589

Family Forum Head Start, Brule

Contact: Kirsten Standen, Center Manager
(715) 372-8060

Head Start, Bad River

Contact: Luanne Wiggins, Center Director
(715) 682-7144

Head Start & Early Head Start, Red Cliff

Contact: Delores Gokee-Rindal, Center Director
(715) 779-5802

School Lunch/Breakfast Programs

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are federally assisted meal programs operating in public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions. They provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free breakfasts/lunches to children each school day. For information on eligibility and income guidelines, contact your local school or follow the Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) link on the USDA website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/>

Elderly Nutrition/Senior Dining Program

This program provides individuals, age 60 and over, and Native American Elders 55 and older, and their spouse of any age, the opportunity to enjoy a hot, nutritious meal and socialization 3 or more days a week. In most locations, reservations are required at least 24 hours prior to the day you plan to attend. Participants are asked to contribute to the cost of meals. The suggested donation is \$2.50 per meal. Participants are not limited to meal sites within their county of residence. These programs are also in charge of home delivered meals for the home-bound or disabled. Other services provided include nutrition screening, nutrition education, nutrition assessment and counseling services. Contact one of the offices listed below for additional information on specific dining sites and related information.

Ashland County Aging Unit, Inc.

Contact: Mary Westlund, Adm. Assistant/Site Manager
(715) 682-4414

Sites: Ashland, Butternut, Glidden, Marengo, Mellen

Bad River Elderly/Nutrition Program

Contact: Sandy Corbine, Site Manager
(715) 682-7150
Site: Bad River Elderly Building

Bayfield County Department of Human Services

Contact: Marianne Johnson, Meal Site/Home Delivered Mgr.
(715) 373-6144 x 135
Sites: Barnes, Benoit, Cable, Iron River, Washburn

Red Cliff Elderly/Nutrition Program

Contact: Brigette Gokee, Elderly Director or
Florence Boyd, Site Manager/Cook
(715) 779-3720 or 779-3746
Site: Red Cliff Senior Center

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP)

The University of Wisconsin-Extension Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) is comprised of two federally-funded nutrition education programs for low-income individuals and families. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed), the larger of the two programs, offers nutrition education for FoodShare-eligible persons in 67 Wisconsin Counties. SNAP-Ed is a partnership between the Food and Nutrition Service of USDA, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Programming related to the broad areas of Choosing Healthful Foods, Balancing Nutrition and Physical Activity, Handling Food Safely and Managing Food Dollars, is available to eligible audiences throughout the two-county area.

Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program, Ashland & Bayfield Counties

Contact: Betty Tarabek, Coordinator
(715) 682-7017
Address: Ashland County UW-Extension Office
201 West Main Street
Courthouse, Room 107
Ashland, WI 54806-1652
Service Area: Ashland and Bayfield Counties
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00A.M.- 4:00 P.M.

Additional Programs (not covered)

Additional summer programs in the Chequamegon Bay area have not been covered in this information. They include:

1. Summer Feeding Programs at Bad River and Red Cliff
2. Farmer's Market Voucher Program through WIC and Senior Nutrition Programs
3. Community/Neighborhood Garden Programs
4. Farmer's Markets including the Mobile Farmers' Market

For information on these programs contact the UW-Extension Office listed above. The Extension office will be able to provide current information or direct you to the appropriate agency.

Note: Some information used in this article was gathered by Julia Braun, UW-Extension VISTA 2007.

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