



Marathon County
**Hunger
Coalition**

an initiative of United Way

United Way
of Marathon County



OUR GOAL: Improve food security in Marathon County

BY THE NUMBERS:

41.9%

Individuals served by FoodShare (food stamps/ SNAP) in Marathon County in 2017 who were children

14.6%

LIFE survey respondents who struggle to buy food

8.9%

Wisconsin seniors (60+) who are food insecure

10%

Marathon County households in poverty

33%

Marathon County ALICE households

MEET ALICE:

Asset Limited Income
Constrained Employed.

ALICE lives in every community and neighborhood. ALICE is employed at child care centers, nursing homes, retail centers, in offices and assembly plants, but barely gets by, often living paycheck to paycheck. They struggle to make ends meet and are challenged to save money "for a rainy day" or emergencies. Read the complete ALICE research report at www.UnitedWayMC.org.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE:

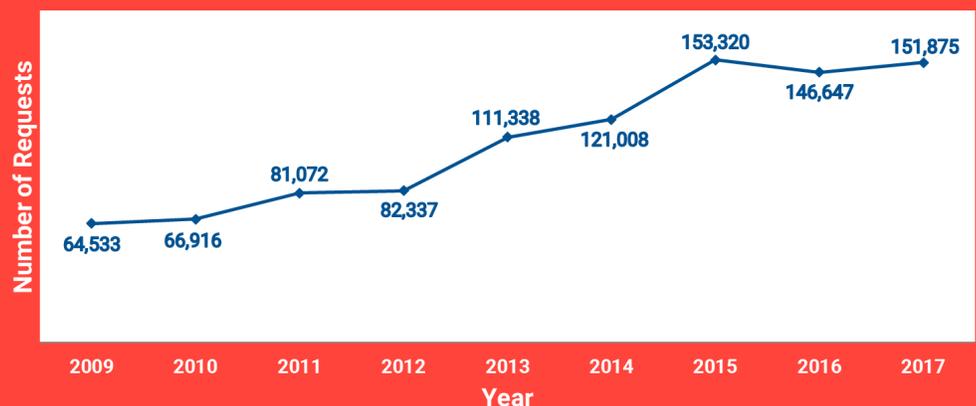
A family moved here to be near relatives but had no resources for food. United Way's 2-1-1 referred them to a local food pantry, where they received food and a case manager helped the family sign up for FoodShare and other programs to help them while they got back on their feet. The family has now moved into their own home and is giving back by volunteering in that local food pantry.



2017 COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ⇒ Increased nutritious foods in bulk purchases for pantries by nearly 10% by increasing amount of fruits, beans, hearty soups, etc.
- ⇒ Distributed more eggs to pantries: 2,525 dozen in 2017 vs. 1,470 dozen in 2016.
- ⇒ Increased participation in Nutrition & Budgeting Lessons from 326 participants in 2016 to 640 participants in 2017.
- ⇒ Increased awareness of hunger for 221 presentation attendees, including the 25 community members who attended the National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month Bus Tour (partnership Housing & Homelessness Coalition).
- ⇒ Sponsored 7 coalition members' attendance at the Hunger Relief Federation's Statewide Gathering and Poverty Matters Conference to learn more about advocacy, nutrition, disparities impacting poverty/ALICE, and best practices for emergency food organizations to share with the full coalition.
- ⇒ Developed a survey completed by staff in the Wausau School District to evaluate food insecurity in local youth and gaps in services.
- ⇒ Engaged people in events fighting hunger: 1,900+ at Turkey Trot and 2,500+ at CommUnity Fest.

Marathon County Hunger Coalition Partner Pantries: Requests for food assistance met by year



For more information about the Marathon County Hunger Coalition, visit the United Way of Marathon County website at www.UnitedWayMC.org.

MYTHBUSTERS: DID YOU KNOW?

MYTH: People who visit food pantries and/or are receiving FoodShare (food stamps) don't work.

- ⇒ **FACT:** Only 5.23% of 344 Marathon County food pantry clients surveyed in 2016 indicated Unemployment as one of their household's sources of income.
Source: Marathon County Hunger Coalition.
- ⇒ **FACT:** 81.4% of Wisconsin households receiving FoodShare (SNAP, formerly food stamps) have one or more workers. Many individuals on FoodShare hold multiple low-wage jobs.
Source: Food Research & Action Center (FRAC.org).

MYTH: Everyone eligible for SNAP (formerly food stamps, or FoodShare in WI) participates in the program.

- ⇒ **FACT:** 86 percent of eligible non-elderly adults participate in SNAP.
 - ⇒ **FACT:** Only an estimated 42 percent of eligible seniors participate in SNAP. Why?
 - ◆ Stigma
 - ◆ Misinformation about the program
 - ◆ Lack of information on how to apply
 - ◆ Barriers related to mobility and transportation
- Source: Food Research & Action Center (FRAC.org).*

VISION

We envision a day when no one is hungry and everyone in Marathon County has access to nutritious food.

MISSION

The mission of the Marathon County Hunger Coalition is to expand, identify, promote and implement long-term sustainable solutions to the problem of hunger in our county.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin	Footlocker.com/Eastbay	United Way of Marathon County
Ascension Saint Clare's Hospital	Marathon Cheese Corporation	United Way Emerging Leaders
Aspirus Wausau Hospital	Marathon County Health Department	United Way RSVP Program
Boy & Girls Club of Wausau	Marathon County Social Services	University of WI—Marathon County
Bridge Community Health Clinic	Marathon County UW-Extension FoodWise	Wausau Early Bird Rotary
Catholic Charities	Marshfield Clinic Health System	Wausau Noon Rotary
Cloverbelt Credit Union	NTC's Timberwolf Table	Wausau School District
Community Center of Hope	North Central Community Action Program	Wausau Urban Community Gardens
Covenant Community Presbyterian Church Food Pantry	Office of Congressman Sean P. Duffy	Wesley Church Food Pantry
Farmers' Market of Wausau	The Salvation Army	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
First Hmong Missionary Alliance Church Food Pantry	The Neighbors' Place	Woodson YMCA Community Garden
First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry	The Women's Community	

GOALS

MCHC and its collaborative partners believe Marathon County can improve food security by working together to accomplish the following goals:

- People needing food assistance will be fed.
- Low-income families and individuals will have increased access to healthy and nutritious foods.
- Low-income families and individuals will increase knowledge of good nutrition and how to eat healthy foods while on a limited budget.
- Increase community awareness of hunger, its root causes and ways to help reduce hunger.
- Increase MCHC member knowledge of supportive services available that may help improve long-term stability of clients.

ON THE HORIZON

In 2018, the Marathon County Hunger Coalition will:

- Develop and implement plans to address unmet food needs of targeted low-income populations: youth and the growing senior population.
- Increase awareness of hunger and advocate for policies that strengthen food and nutrition programs.
- Continue education and collaboration among programs connected to the emergency food system to ensure efficient use of limited resources to address needs.

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