

OUR IMPACT



When people have stable housing and enough nutritious food,
our community is a place where everyone can thrive.



6,665

people participated in
our programs last year



61,533

food pantry visits
per year



603

households receive direct
assistance each year



of housing stability program
participants maintained
housing & avoided eviction



- ▼ Children do better in school and have better mental and physical health outcomes when they are food secure.
- ▼ Families in stable housing avoid eviction and frequent moves, which allows children to stay in their schools and have better education and health outcomes.

HOUSING STABILITY

 **44%**

of renters in Dane County pay
more than 30% of their monthly
income on rent

Renters of color are
disproportionately affected
by this cost burden.

FOOD INSECURITY

6% of Dane County
residents

7.5% of Children

17% of Latino residents

23% of Black residents



The disparity in food
insecurity between black
and white households in
Wisconsin is among the
largest in the country.

Sources: Dane County Housing Initiative; Wisconsin Food Security Project, UW-Madison

wayforwardresources.org



Food Security Programs

- ▼ Provide access to culturally diverse, nutritious food.
- ▼ Food pantry open to all Dane County residents.
- ▼ People can access the pantry as often as they need, five days a week.
- ▼ Also provide food through deliveries, mobile food pantries and partnerships with the Middleton-Cross Plains School District.



Housing Stability Programs

- ▼ Provide case management, referrals, and financial assistance to help people remain in stable housing.
- ▼ Focus on critical support that keeps families in their homes so they avoid the trauma of homelessness.
- ▼ Connections Program works with families and individuals in doubled-up living situations to locate and move into their own housing.



Other Programs

- ▼ Back to School program and Winter Wishes gift cards program help alleviate financial stress for families in our service area.
- ▼ Clothing Center offers free clothing and is open to anyone who lives in Dane County.

Demand for WayForward's food and housing programs is way up since federal programs that provided a reprieve during the pandemic came to an end. While additional FoodShare benefits and rental assistance led to a short-term decrease in demand at many food pantries, the 155% increase in visits to our pantry in the last year shows how quickly the community need returned.

↑ 57%

**households
receiving financial
assistance**

(FY 2019-2023)

↑ 23%

**food pantry
visits**

(FY 2019-2023)



Charmaine's Story

"Without WayForward, I don't know where I would be," says Charmaine, who previously visited WayForward's food pantry for groceries and took part in our Housing Stability and seasonal programs. That support helped her stretch her budget and cover rent while she pursued a degree at Madison College. She has since launched her own business - Loyal Hearts Home Health Services - to support senior citizens in their homes. "I've been a caregiver all my life," Charmaine says. WayForward's programs allowed her to maintain stability for her children and pursue her dreams, she says. "There's not another program that I feel would be as engaged in my life and assist me as much as WayForward has."