

2017 Report On The Status of Women in Northeast Wisconsin Benefit Program Enrollment

KEY FINDINGS

In Northeast WI, 2,100 families per month received state child care subsidies. Statewide, the majority of Share recipients have incomes under 116% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Statewide, 88% of families served have one parent in the household.

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy

In the Northeast region, about 2,100 families per month, on average, received Wisconsin Shares child care subsidies in the first half of 2016.*

To be initially eligible for Wisconsin Shares, the family's gross monthly income must be equal to or less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Families continue to be eligible up to 200% of the FPL. Statewide, the majority of families served are under 116% of the FPL.

Wisconsin's YoungStar program is a 5 Star quality rating and improvement program that provides consistent standards for measuring child care quality across the state and supporting ongoing quality improvement. In 2015, the Department of Children and Families reported that of the 5,000 children participating in Wisconsin Shares in its Northeastern region,* 35% were with 4 or 5 Star providers, compared to 23% statewide.

About families that rely on Wisconsin Shares

* In 2015, statewide (excluding Milwaukee County), 88% of served families have one parent in the household and a family co-pay of \$105.39/month, with a state co-pay of \$524.90/month.**

* In 2015, statewide (all), among children served, 30% are age 2 or younger and 55% are age 4 or younger; 80% are in licensed group child care settings. About half of families served have household income at or below the FPL (see table).

*Does not include families located on Tribal land (versus a county). Additional Wisconsin Shares data are not currently available on the program website.

+The YoungStar program divides Wisconsin into six regions. For this purpose, Northeast refers to a 20-county area in the northeast quadrant of the state. See dcf.wisconsin.gov/YoungStar/program/local_office.

**Family co-pay is the co-pay amount used to determine the provider payment rate for each authorization. This family co-pay amount may or may not be the same as that which is actually owed or paid by family to the child care provider.

Is the Wisconsin Shares reimbursement of \$630.29 (\$105.39/family + 524.90/state) average sufficient for child care providers to cover costs and operate their businesses?

2015 Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Persons in Household	Annual Income Threshold
1	\$11,770
2	15,930
3	20,090
4	24,250

For households with more than 4 persons, add \$4,160 for each additional person.

Children participating in Wisconsin Shares by YoungStar Level

	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star
Northeast WI	22%	44%	13%	22%
Statewide	28%	48%	6%	17%

Wisconsin Shares does not reimburse providers rated 1 Star.

Do you think the family co-pay of \$105.39 per month is affordable to single parent families that make up the majority of program recipients?

KEY FINDINGS

Households on FoodShare include workers and are not more likely than non-FoodShare households to have no workers.

In Northeast WI, the number of households receiving FoodShare doubled between 2009 and 2015.

Wisconsin FoodShare (food stamps)

About 30,200 households (11% of all households) received FoodShare in 2015. This figure is more than double the number and share of households in the region that received FoodShare benefits in 2009.

The percent of families receiving FoodShare with no workers in the past 12 months (14%) was about the same as that for all households (13%).

Almost half of all female-headed households with minor children (single mothers) received FoodShare benefits in 2015, nearly twice the rate for single-father families and more than 4-times the rate for married-couple families.

Why do you think the number of Wisconsin FoodShare recipients in the region has more than doubled since 2009, which is supposed to be a period of economic recovery following the end of the 2008-2009 recession?

It is interesting to note that the share of households receiving benefits that are below the Federal Poverty Line has dropped since 2009. This suggests a great percentage of FoodShare recipients likely have income at the other eligibility thresholds such as 130% FPL, 165% FPL and 200% FPL.

FoodShare (SNAP) Recipients, Northeast WI (all household types)

	Total Households	Households Receiving Food Stamps (2011-2015 5-year average)	Households Receiving Food Stamps (2005-2009 5-year average)
All Households	281,200	30,200 (11%)	14,300 (5%)
With Children <18 years	31%	52%	62%
Below the FPL	11%	47%	56%
Families with no workers in past 12 months	13%	14%	
Family Households by Type with Children <18 years			
Married Couple	68%	9%	
Single Father	9%	23%	
Single Mother	21%	44%	

Note: SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is the federal benefit program formerly known as food stamps. In Wisconsin the name for the federal SNAP program is FoodShare.

Sources: See Appendix

This research is a collaboration of the Women's Funds of Northeast Wisconsin.