

Healthy Choices Healthy Lives

FoodWise is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). With local strengths, we support healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for Wisconsin residents experiencing limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems levels.



Pierce County Landscape

Whether people are healthy or not is affected by systems, policies, and environmental factors.

1,564

county residents experience limited income and low access to a grocery store[^]



5%

of county residents use SNAP benefits to purchase food for themselves and their families.*



Achieving More Together

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin throughout urban and rural communities to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work. In Pierce County, FoodWise partners with Head Start programs, housing sites, senior meal programs, and food pantries to help make the healthy choice the easy choice in our communities.

Community

Impacts in 2023

Engaged with 117 learners around nutrition education topics in a variety of settings, including housing sites, K-12 school settings, and senior meal programs.

Partnered with 6 food pantries and 8 community partner organizations on a hunger coalition, reaching community members with printed food resource lists in English & Spanish to promote access to adequate food.

Worked with Pierce County Food Pantry to establish a pantry garden & distribute 382 pounds of produce through the food pantry to community members with limited income.

[^]County Health Rankings

* WI Dept of Administration and WI Dept of Health Services

Inspiring Collaborations



FoodWise partnered with Extension staff and Pierce County Public Health to design and host a workshop for Pierce County's Food Pantries. Together, coordinators and volunteers learned more about culturally responsive practices. This helps create more inclusive organizations that meet the needs of diverse populations in our communities.

This Workshop Series intends to grow awareness to the need of inclusive practices and culturally relevant practices by:

1. naming the community need,
2. empowering and growing volunteers' capacity to engage these populations to learn more about needs and barriers, and
3. make changes in practices to align with the input gathered from their community members.

Four organizations participated in the workshops and have started implementation of strategies they chose. Public Health and FoodWise continue to provide support.

Connect With Us

pierce.extension.wisc.edu
432 West Main St
Box 69
Ellsworth, WI 54011



Katie Bartko,
Nutrition Coordinator



Karen Frantti,
Nutrition Educator



Multi-level Program Efforts

Since 2017, Katie Bartko, FoodWise Nutrition Coordinator, has maintained the Pierce County Food Resource Directory. These directories provide guidance on local resources that support access to food to supplement policy, systems, and environment (PSE) work in the emergency food sector as well as direct education efforts.

After updating these resources twice a year and getting them translated into Spanish, Bartko emails them to a list of partners, prints copies, and posts it to the local UW-Madison Division of Extension websites. There were requests for over 1,200 printed copies from partners in the last year.

A phone call in the fall of 2023 highlighted the importance of this resource. A partner trying to help a local family find resources found the food resource directories on our website and called me to ask for more help. She said "I knew I could depend on FoodWise. I knew I could talk to someone there and get information." And about the food resource directories she said, "Resources by the county are so nice. Really nicely done."