



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# TEFAP and the Reach & Resiliency Grant Outcomes

Carol Johnson-DHS TEFAP Program Manager and  
Sarah Smith, Population Health Specialist and  
Jeanne Williams, Emergency Food Systems Training  
Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Division of Extension



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

To protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin.

# Reach & Resiliency Grant

Purpose: Increase and expand TEFAP distribution sites in rural, remote, under-served and tribal areas across Wisconsin

1. Complete a statewide assessment to identify remote, rural, Tribal, and low-income areas underserved by TEFAP and understand the strengths, barriers and opportunities for distributing TEFAP in food pantries.
2. Build the training and technical assistance capacity of statewide partners and ERA's to conduct outreach to and qualify new TEFAP outlets through standardized training and outreach materials.
3. Provide technical and infrastructure assistance to emergency food providers at new or existing TEFAP outlets in rural, Tribal or low-income areas identified by the assessment and outreach activities.



# How We Identified Priority Areas

Mapping of food pantry sites across Wisconsin that do and do not distribute TEFAP foods.



Identify counties in Wisconsin that meet definitions of rural, remote, tribal and/or low-income.



Analyzed county-level data including TEFAP accessibility and usage, demographics, population eligible for TEFAP, and food security risk factors.



State partners including DHS, WISCAP, Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force engaged in a prioritization exercise based on above data and information.



# Priority Counties for TEFAP Expansion

## Initial Criteria for further prioritization

- Rural, Remote, or Tribal
- Had 0-1 TEFAP outlets in the county

## Further Data used for Prioritization

- TEFAP Access: # of locations and # of hours open per month
- % of County Residents eligible for TEFAP
- Food Security Risk
- County Health Ranking
- ARPA-Cares Infrastructure investments



# Progress in TEFAP Expansion

Work supported by

- WISCAP
- Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
- Hunger Task Force/Hunger Relief Federation
- ERA's in priority counties
- Extension



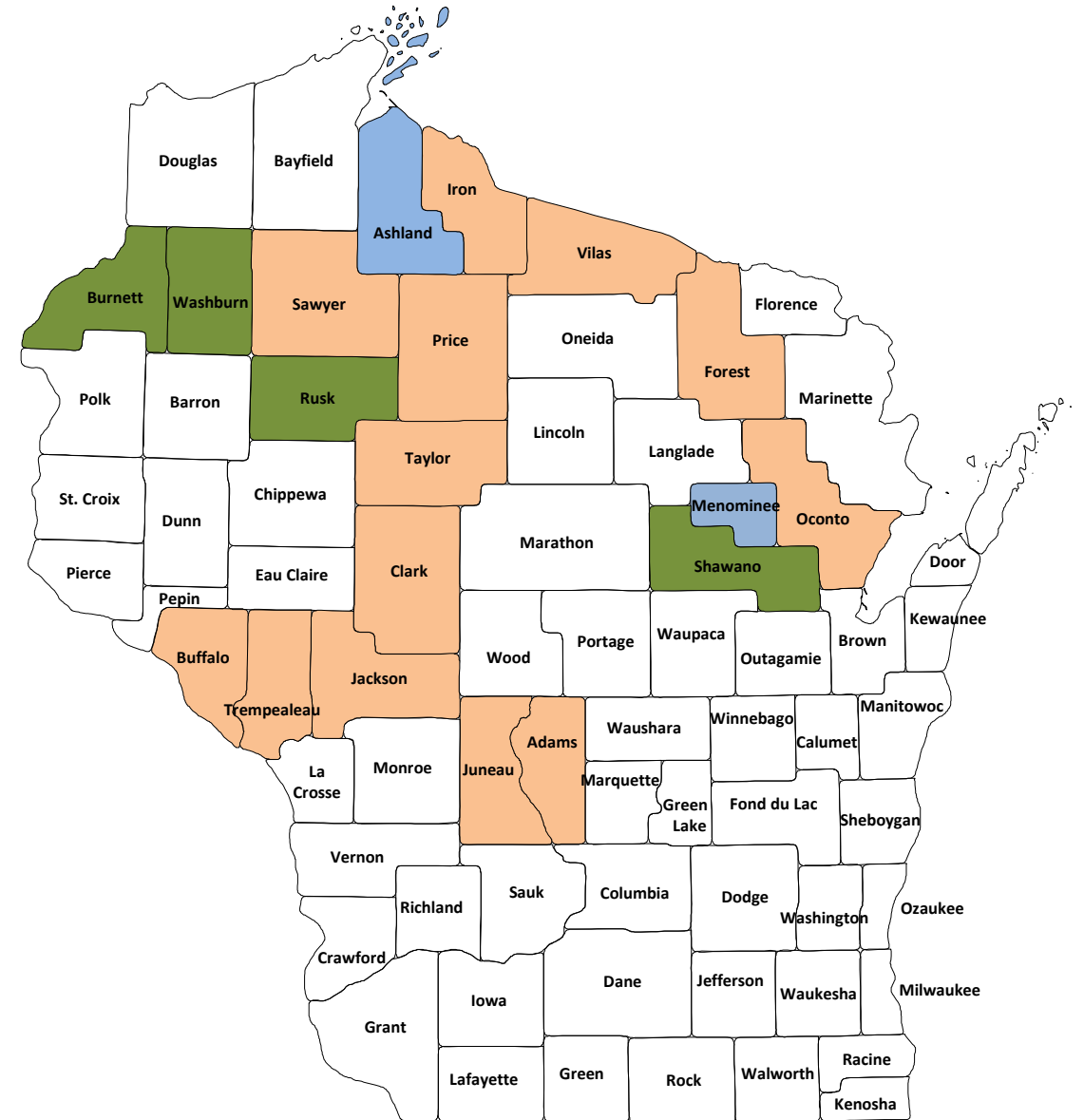
New TEFAP Outlets



Creating new outlets or expanding service at existing in progress



Existing capacity met



# TEFAP Assessment Process

## Survey

- Statewide survey of TEFAP and Non-TEFAP pantries across Wisconsin
- 667 pantries in the final sample
- 361 pantries completed the survey (54%)

## Interviews and Focus Groups

- 5 ERA's
- 1 Tribal Nation
- 11 Food Pantries (Both TEFAP and Non-TEFAP outlets)



# What We Learned: Strengths

*"The benefits for, you know, the people we serve, it's having more food and a great variety of food.....we can rely on it...we know we're going to get it, so it's just beneficial to know that we take comfort in that"* -TEFAP Food Pantry Director

TEFAP provides quality food.

TEFAP is a reliable source of food.

TEFAP foods are healthy.

TEFAP requirements increase quality of service.

Overall, the majority of current TEFAP outlets report no significant challenges with distributing TEFAP.



# What We Learned: Concerns of Non-TEFAP Food Pantries

---

Very little familiarity with TEFAP among pantries not participating.

---

Participation rules would be burdensome (concerns on asking about ID's and income).

---

Tracking of food and matching food would be challenging.

---

Training requirements

---

Paperwork would be difficult to manage.

---





# What We Learned: Opportunities

Develop easy to use, simple training and outreach resources.

Remove barriers to participation where possible.

Simplify application and reporting.

Create more connection opportunities for both ERA's and TEFAP food pantries.

Relaxation and/or simplification of ID and income requirements where possible.

Share Best Practices for TEFAP intake, distribution, and site visits.



# TEFAP Training Materials



## Civil Rights PowerPoint Update

- Available for download from DHS website  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nutrition/tefap/forms.htm>
- Voiceover PowerPoint.
- Translation into Spanish.
- Training and educating to get statewide information out that standardizes information.
- Provides consistent messaging.



# Training Module Topics

TEFAP  
Introduction

Record  
Keeping

TEFAP  
Application  
and Eligibility

Ordering  
Practices

Distribution  
and  
Receiving

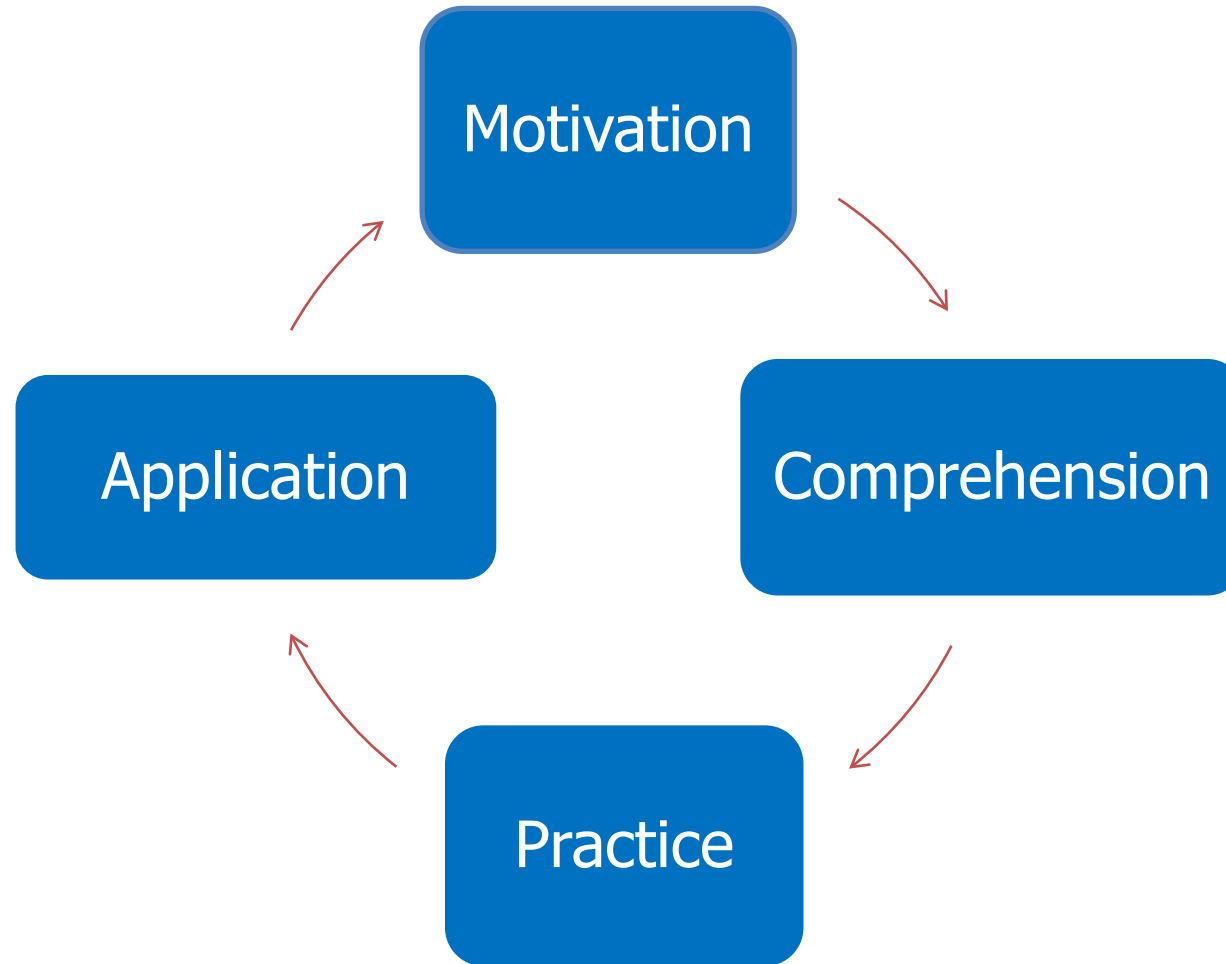
Storage

Reviews

Civil Rights



# The Learning Cycle



# Motivate—Engage Participants



Make eye contact with your audience to create a sense of intimacy and involvement.



Weave relatable stories into your presentation using narratives that make your message memorable and impactful.



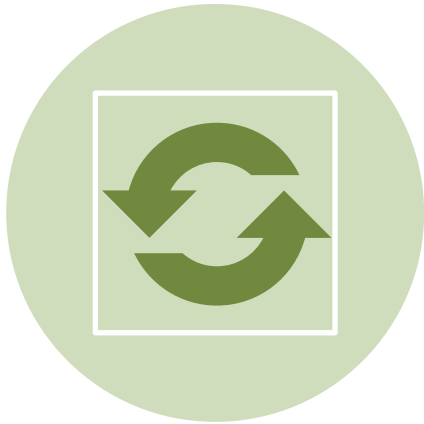
Encourage questions and provide thoughtful responses to enhance audience participation.



Use live polls or surveys to gather audience opinions, promoting engagement and making sure the audience feels involved.



# Confirm Comprehension



REPEAT



PEER TO PEER



OPTIONAL  
KNOWLEDGE CHECK



# Provide Practice Opportunities



HANDS-ON  
PRACTICE



JOB SHADOW



RECEIVE FEEDBACK



# Application

Apply learning with direct application.

Use case studies or scenarios.

Role play situations.

Provide opportunities for asking questions.





# 2024 Wiscap Conference TEFAP Updates



Carol Johnson  
WI DHS TEFAP Program Manager  
May 2024

# Equity in TEFAP

Dignity and Respect

Equal Opportunity

Expanding Access

Reducing Barriers

“It is our moral imperative to do the challenging but achievable work of building a more inclusive future. Under this Administration, equity is more than a catchphrase. It’s a promise.”

Thomas Vilsack

– U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

# Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS)

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is committed to promoting equity and inclusion through its 16 federal nutrition assistance programs.

Together, these programs serve 1 in 4 Americans over the course of a year, promoting consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable food.

# Underserved...

Understanding areas of opportunity and improvement – Reach and Resilience Grant

- How many miles to access TEFAP food?
- Can you access TEFAP food?
- Barriers preventing multiple distribution sites in all counties?

# Taking Direction from USDA and DHS

## Remove barriers-

- No longer require signatures on application
- No longer require physical proof of identification
  - “could I have your name please?”
- No longer require proof of address
  - “could you please provide me with your address?”

# “a horrible feeling”

- Emma T., someone stole her ID, and she couldn't afford a new one.

“to realize I was not worthy of food because I didn't have an ID, and to be turned away hungry, is just a horrible feeling.

# Taking Direction from USDA and DHS

Remove barriers-

- Serve participants where it is most convenient and accessible for them.
  - Where they work, live, pantry schedule or feel most supported.

# No pantry in my county

- Driving over 30 miles on gas they can't afford
- Turned away at a pantry in the next county because I don't live in that zip code.
- Civil Rights requires equal access to federal programs.



*“FNS is committed to operating our programs in a way that begins to break down the systemic barriers that have long hindered underserved communities from obtaining the healthy, safe, and affordable foods they need and deserve.”*

---



*Deputy Under Secretary Stacy Dean*

# We are not...

- Preventing distribution sites from collecting data for other grants or program.
- Separate TEFAP application and clearly optional or in addition to TEFAP
- Civil rights requires participants are allowed their TEFAP benefit without additional barriers.

# Equity Action Plan



FNS's Equity Action Plan describes the agency's work over the last two years to transform policies, programs, and practices, as well as future actions to promote nutrition security and health equity through USDA nutrition assistance programs to ensure all Americans have access to the nutrition they need.

# We are not...

- Preventing distribution sites from putting geographical boundaries on their donated food.
- Civil rights requires participants are allowed their TEFAP benefit and where it works best for them to access it.

# Channel One Food Bank

- Operates in both WI and MN
- “this truly gets down to what you believe about people, and if you believe that people are trying to take advantage of a system,”
- “We don’t see that.”

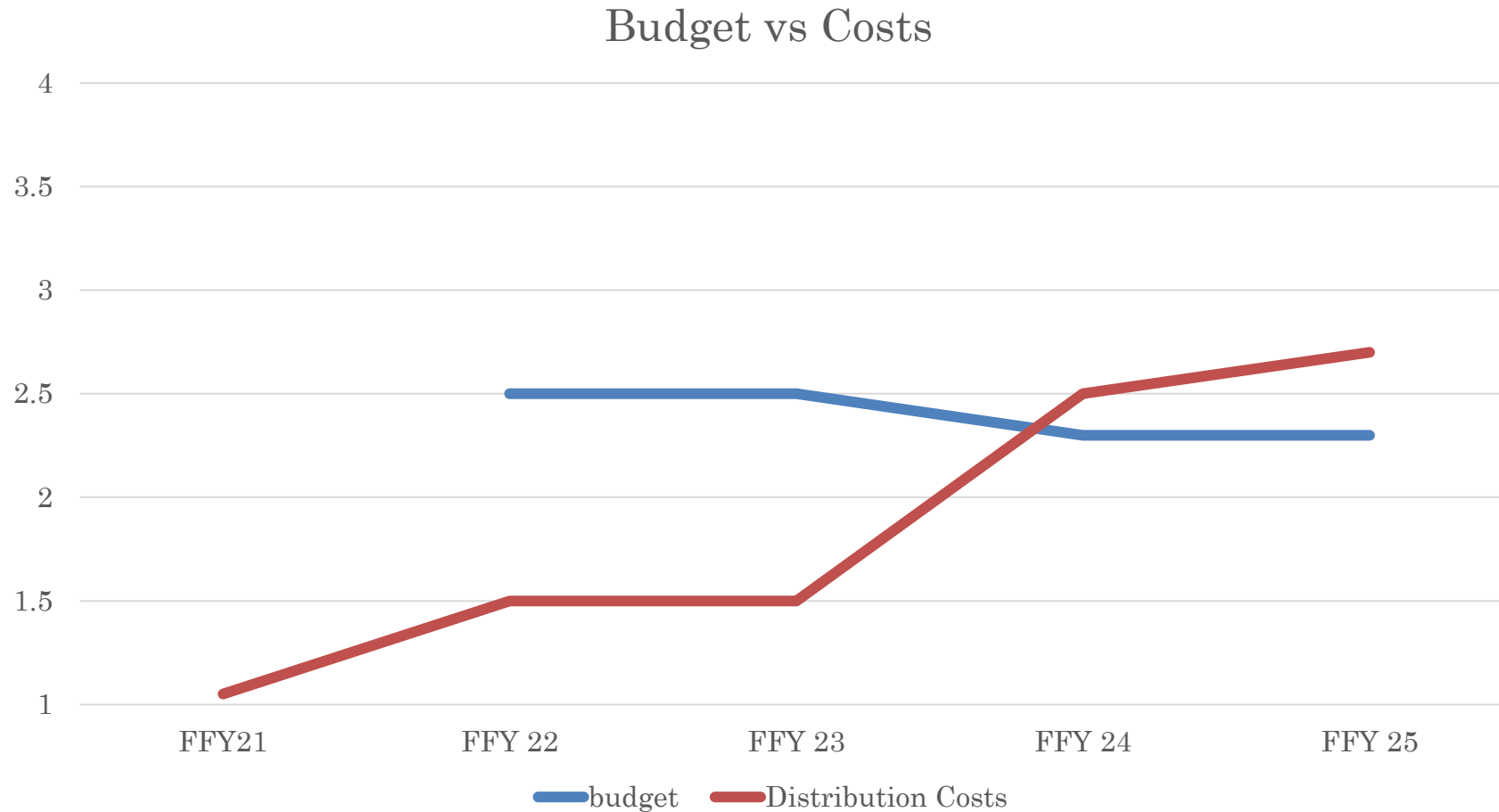
# Operations Manual

- Being update and hope to have on the website in June or July.
- how best to continue the 50% food match.
- add a section on recalls.
- add a section on equipment purchase, retention and disposition when federal funds are used.

# USDA Policy Changes

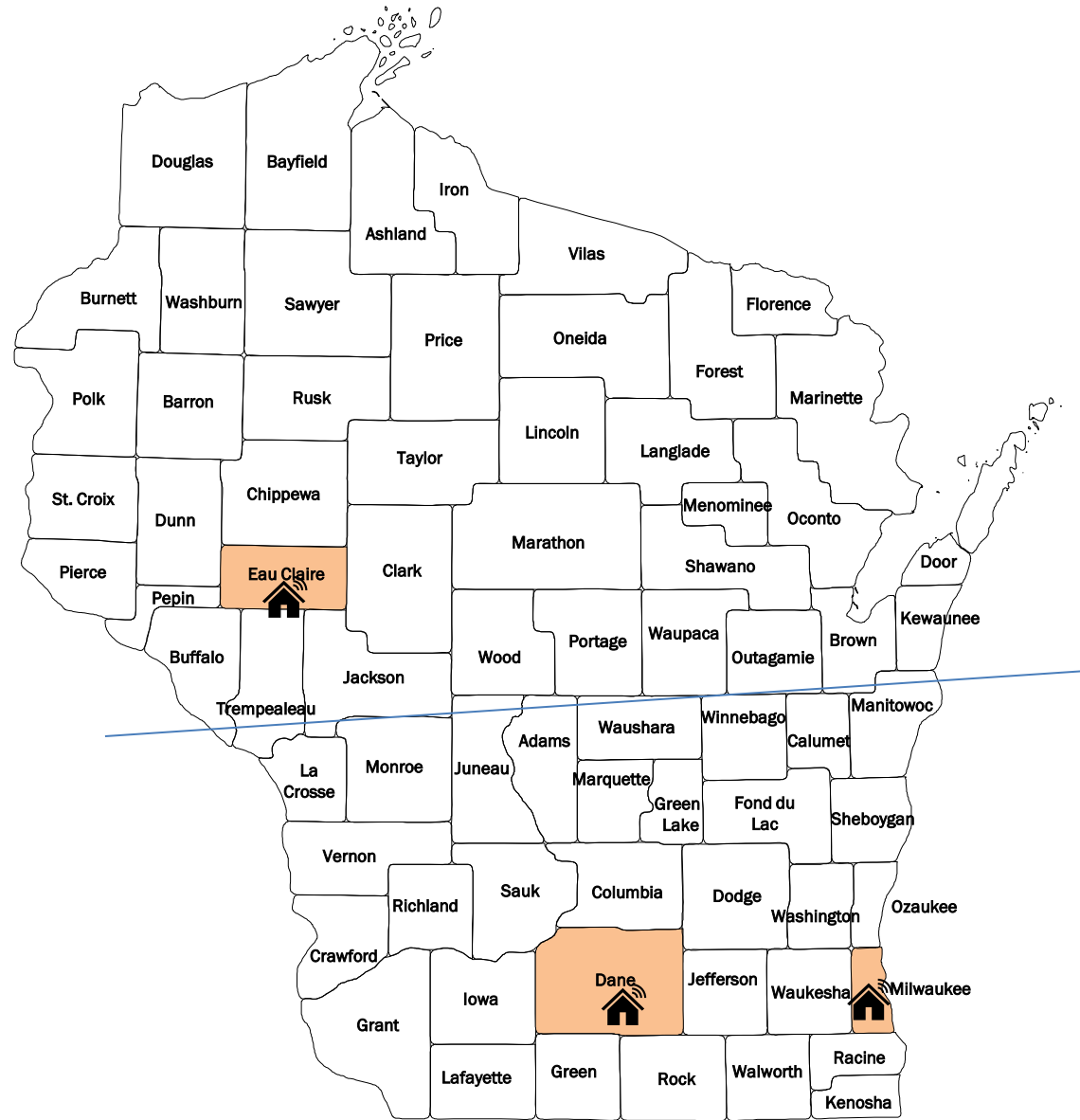
- Updated instruction 709-5
  - Shipment and Receipt of USDA Foods
    - ◆ Instructions only those receiving foods direct from USDA (not DPI/MPI)
- Final Rule – Partnership with Faith Based Organizations – Beneficiary Notification
  - ◆ Waiting on final instruction from USDA on interpretation under civil rights.

# Budget Challenges

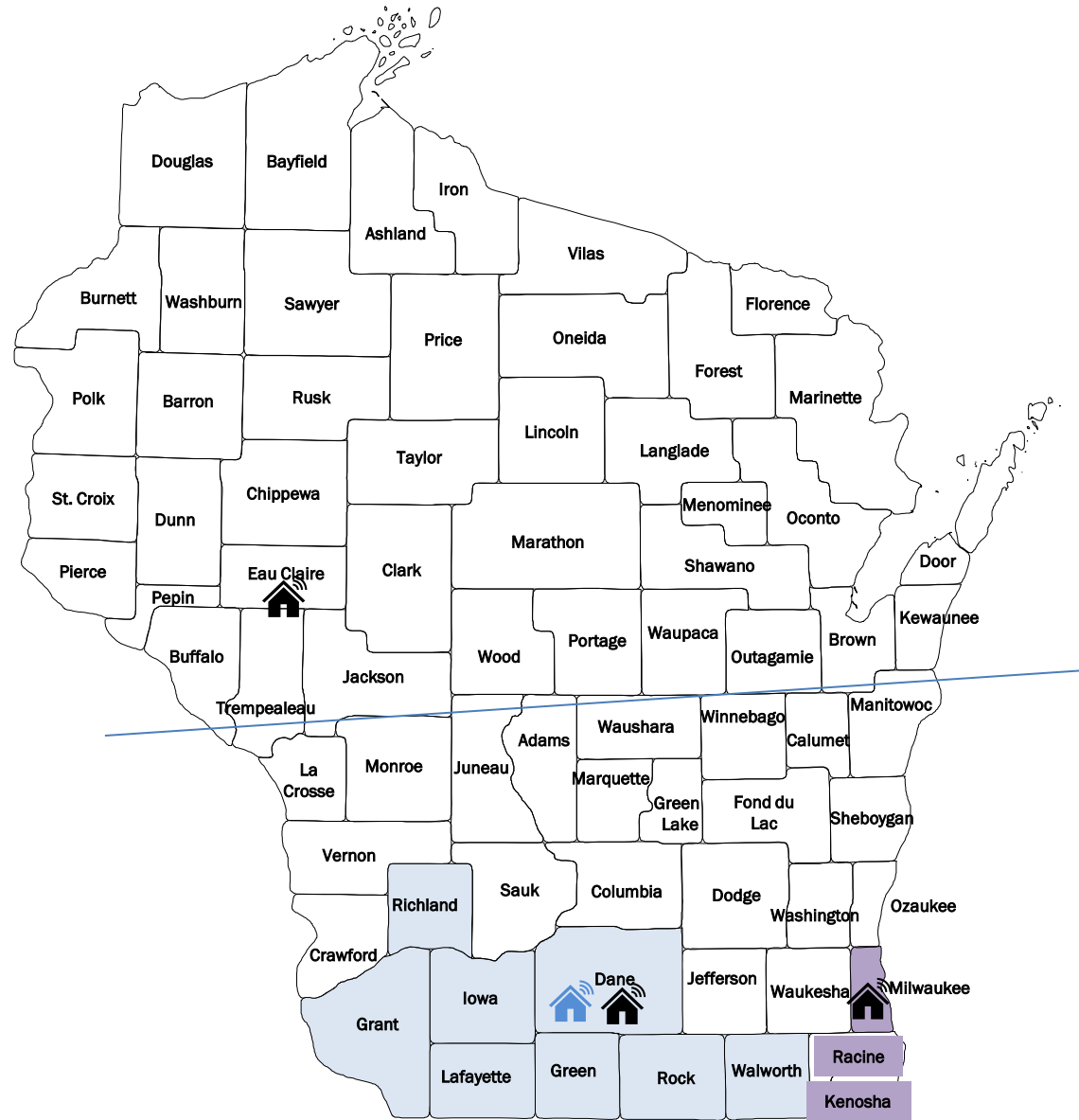




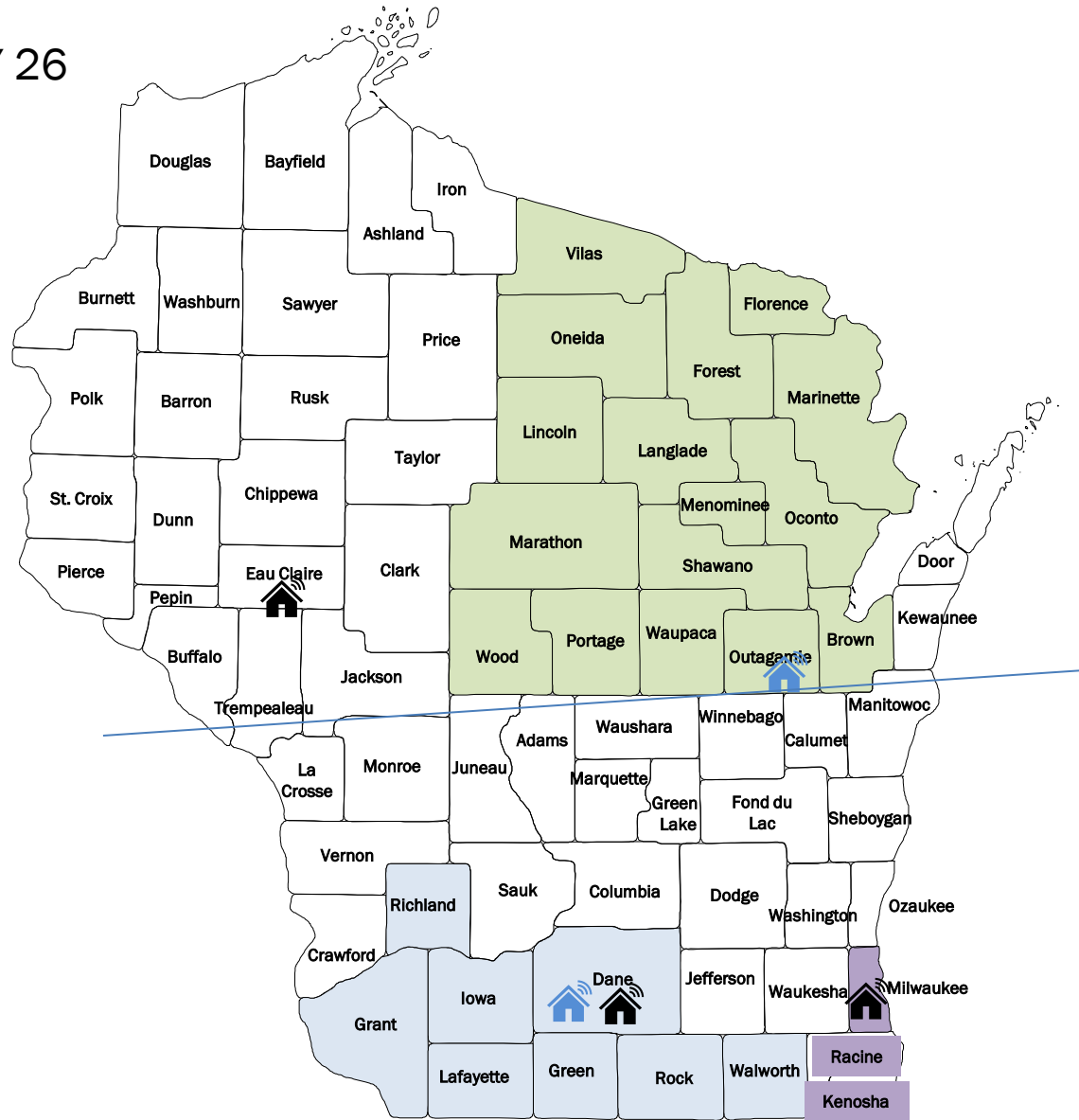
# Current Distribution



# FFY 25 Distribution



# Projected FFY 26 Distribution



Thank you!