



Madison

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

November 11, 2025

madisongives.org

Responding to the FoodShare Situation in Wisconsin



What's Happening

Uncertainty continues around the future of Wisconsin's FoodShare (SNAP) benefits as federal and state agencies navigate the impacts of the ongoing federal funding situation. While Wisconsin has distributed November FoodShare benefits, it's unclear when future benefits will be paid.

For the **more than 700,000 Wisconsinites** who rely on FoodShare to meet basic needs — including 65,000 in **Dane County** — the interruption has been significant.

Local food pantries are already feeling the strain and are serving record numbers of families, including many seeking help for the first time. Organizations like **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin** and its network of community partners have mobilized quickly to meet this surge in need.

What MCF Is Doing

Madison Community Foundation (MCF) is closely following these developments and assessing how best to respond as the situation evolves. We are focused on systems-level solutions — strengthening the local food access network and supporting innovation that meets urgent needs while building long-term resilience.

FoodShare Response
continues on Page 2

Through our **Field of Interest Funds**, which were created and grown by generous community members to support areas they care about, MCF has distributed **\$50,000** to **Community Action Coalition of Southwestern Wisconsin** and **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin**. Together, they are piloting an innovative project that helps FoodShare-eligible residents in Greater Madison access funds directly to purchase food from their local grocers. This approach not only streamlines access but also eases pressure on food pantries and supports neighborhood stores that anchor our communities.

What You Can Do

People across our community are asking what they can do to help. If you're inspired to take action — through a gift or a distribution from your donor advised fund — these organizations are working to meet the need in our community:

- **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin**, which is working urgently to get more food out into the community.
- **Dane County's food pantries**, which need donations more than ever.
- **Madison Grocery Share**, a grassroots effort connecting Madison neighbors who have lost SNAP benefits with those who can help with grocery costs.

One in nine Wisconsinites receives SNAP benefits. Families, older adults and people with disabilities are among those most affected. Community support makes a difference.

Madison Community Foundation can help you direct your giving to support our community members in need. If you'd like to learn more about local organizations addressing food insecurity — or explore ways your giving can strengthen our community today and in the future — we're happy to talk. Please call us at 608-232-1763 or email legacy@madisongives.org if we can help.

9 Tips for Year-End Giving



Whether you give every year or are thinking about making a donation for the first time, a little planning can help your gift go further. Be prepared to meet your giving goals as the year draws to a close. MCF has compiled a list of nine things to keep in mind.

1. Consult with your tax advisors, as some rules have changed

Your advisors are a critical part of your year-end giving process, so consult with them before making any substantive year-end gift. They can help you determine how

your proposed gift might affect your estimated tax liability and your existing estate plan. This is especially important in years like this where new tax legislation has been enacted.

2. Bunch your charitable gifts and make them before year end

Beginning January 1, 2026, taxpayers who itemize their deductions will only be able to deduct charitable contributions in excess of 0.5% of their adjusted gross income. For example, if a taxpayer with AGI of \$100,000 makes a \$10,000 charitable gift, they would only be eligible to claim a charitable deduction of \$9,500 (\$10,000 – (0.5% of \$100,000)). If the same gift were made on December 31, 2025, the taxpayer would have been eligible to claim a charitable deduction of \$10,000.

If you itemize your deductions, consider bunching your planned charitable gifts and making them by December 31, 2025, to avoid this 0.5% floor and take advantage of the higher standard deduction in 2026. Bunching involves consolidating several years' worth of charitable contributions into a single tax year.

Year-End Giving Tips
continues on Page 4

Meet Goodman Nonprofit Fellowship's Inaugural Cohort



This Fall, a cohort of Madison area nonprofit leaders embarked on a transformative journey at the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Nonprofit Center. As part of the inaugural cohort of the Goodman Nonprofit Fellowship Program, these leaders meet monthly to develop their leadership talents and bolster their skills to strengthen their capacity for running their organizations.

“These leaders represent a wide range of organizations working in everything from affordable housing to renewable energy, from gender equity and childcare to immigrant and refugee services, from youth arts to public

libraries and community centers,” said Andy Davey, Director of the Goodman Nonprofit Center. “Each brings impressive talent and experience as well as a commitment to growth and learning. Through this program, these leaders will be strengthening their leadership, their organizations and, as a result, the wider community.”

The fellowship program, which launches later this month, was created by Madison Community Foundation and the Goodman Nonprofit Center to equip nonprofit leaders throughout the Greater Madison area with the skills, strategies and support they need to make their organizations stronger.

The fellowship's kickoff comes with a significant boost: a \$1 million gift from Ascendium Education Group, an education nonprofit headquartered in Madison, which will help fund an endowment to ensure the Goodman Nonprofit Center remains a long-term resource for Wisconsin's nonprofit community.

2025 Goodman Nonprofit Fellowship Cohort Members

The first cohort of the Goodman Nonprofit Fellowship includes leaders from 18 area nonprofits:

- Kendra Deja, Solace Friends
- Michael Etheridge, The Road Home Dane County
- Marie Everett, Eastmorland Community Center
- Virginia Hughes, Rooted WI
- Emily Hyde Cawley, Wisconsin Women's Network
- Deborah Kaddu-Serwadda, Women in Education Leadership Foundation
- Angela Laufenberg, Samaritan Counseling Center of Southern Wisconsin
- Jason Mack, Open Doors For Refugees
- DeAndre Martin, CEOs of Tomorrow
- Jennie Mauer, Wisconsin Head Start Association
- Rachael Maysels, FairShare CSA Coalition
- Regina McConnell, East Madison Community Center
- Conor Moran, Madison Public Library Foundation
- Betsy Parker, Aldo Leopold Nature Center
- Esther Ama Safia Ptak, African Center For Community Development
- Rosa Thompson, Black Girl Magic Educational Services
- Geraldine Paredes Vásquez, YWCA Madison
- Tanya Zastrow, Olbrich Botanical Society



Year-End Giving Tips continued from Page 2

Instead of donating annually, individuals make larger contributions in specific years with the goal of receiving an itemized deduction that is greater than the standard deduction. In non-bunching years, they may forego making charitable donations or make minimal contributions, opting to use the standard deduction instead.

If you are interested in bunching but concerned about the effect it may have on the organizations you support, a donor advised fund may meet your needs. It will allow you to take the charitable tax deduction this year while retaining the flexibility to recommend distributions to the nonprofits you wish to support over multiple years. You can [find out more about establishing a donor-advised fund with MCF here](#).

NOTE: In addition to facing a 0.5% floor on their charitable deductions, taxpayers in the highest tax bracket will also be subject to a cap on their itemized deductions beginning in 2026. For more information on this limitation, please consult with your tax advisor.

3. Establish a charitable gift annuity to make a legacy gift while receiving income during your lifetime

Establishing a CGA allows you to make a tax-deductible legacy gift to a nonprofit of your choice (or to a fund at MCF established to benefit that nonprofit) while retaining the right to receive quarterly or annual annuity payments during your lifetime. Any amount remaining in your CGA after your lifetime will be transferred to the nonprofit or fund you selected.

(In addition to establishing CGAs benefitting specific nonprofits, you also can establish CGAs benefitting MCF's Priority Fund, Community Impact Fund, or any of MCF's field of interest funds.)

4. Make tax-free qualified charitable distributions from your individual retirement account

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can receive QCD treatment for certain transfers of up to \$108,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity (or to a qualifying fund at that charity). Transfers qualifying as QCDs are not included in your taxable income and reduce your retirement account balance, on which you and your heirs will ultimately pay tax. Furthermore, since QCDs are excluded from taxable income (as opposed to being treated as itemized deductions), future gifts of QCDs will not be subject to the 0.5% floor on charitable deductions discussed in Tip 2 above.

While contributions to a donor advised fund typically do not qualify for QCD treatment, contributions to other types of funds at MCF (for example, nonprofit endowment funds, field of interest funds, donor designated funds, MCF's Community Impact or Priority funds) may qualify.

NOTE: Before making a transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity, be sure to confirm with your advisor that the transfer meets the requirements to be treated as a QCD. Certain transfers, such as those from an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA, typically do not qualify as QCDs.

5. Use a qualified charitable distribution to create a charitable gift annuity

The SECURE 2.0 Act allows taxpayers to make a one-time transfer of up to \$54,000 in QCDs to a charitable gift annuity. Take advantage of this new opportunity to create a charitable gift annuity benefiting a nonprofit (or fund) of your choice.

**Support MCF's Impact
With a Gift Today**

GIVE NOW



Year-End Giving Tips continued from Page 4

NOTE: Charitable gift annuities created using QCDs receive different tax treatment than those funded with other assets. If you are considering this option, please make sure to consult with your tax advisor.

6. Make gifts of appreciated securities

If you have stocks or other securities that are worth more than you paid for them, and you've owned them for at least 12 months, consider giving those to charity. Doing so may allow you to avoid capital gains tax and take a charitable deduction for the securities' full fair market value. Your deduction for donations of appreciated stock or securities to public charities is limited to 30% of your AGI each year, but you can carry over any excess deductions for up to five additional years.

NOTE: Since gifts of appreciated securities can take some time to process, you will want to coordinate the gift with the recipient organization as soon as possible to ensure the transfer of these securities can be completed by year end.

7. Learn about the organizations doing the type of work you'd like to support

If you have an area of interest or ideas about a specific organization you'd like to support, MCF's [Greater Madison Nonprofit Directory](#) can help. It provides a comprehensive online guide to charitable organizations in our region. You can sort broadly by area of interest, organization size or location. You also can use it to learn more about a specific organization's financial health, programs, operations and impact.

8. Be aware of the year-end giving deadlines

If you do choose to make a gift before year end, timing is important. Gifts sent by U.S. Mail must be postmarked by December 31, while gifts sent by private couriers (for example, FedEx) must be received by December 31. Additionally, credit card gifts must reflect a December 31 or prior transaction date on your statement.

Transfers of Stock and Mutual Fund Shares

To allow adequate time to process transfers of mutual fund shares, MCF recommends that you initiate these transfers by Monday, December 1. We also recommend that you initiate any transfers of publicly traded stock by Monday, December 8. If you are interested in making a gift of closely held stock, please contact MCF for more information on the timeline and process for transferring that stock.

Grant Recommendations from Existing Funds

If you would like to recommend a grant from your fund by year-end, we encourage you to submit your request as soon as possible. The deadline to submit grant requests for processing in 2025 is Monday, December 15.

9. If you need any information, or have any questions, about the options available for giving at MCF, contact us!

Working with a philanthropic advisor at MCF gives you access to our knowledge of the local nonprofit community and opportunities to make a difference in ways that matter to you. We can also help you and your advisor think strategically about the tools you can use to make gifts during your lifetime or through your estate. Please contact our Donor Engagement Team at 608-232-1763, or by email at legacy@madisongives.org, for more information.

This material has been provided for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for tax, legal or accounting advice. The information included was accurate when we published the blog. Check with your tax advisor before making any gifts to ensure you are aware of any changes that may have occurred after this blog was published.

MCF Awards \$1.4 Million to Strengthen Community Nonprofits



MCF announced \$1.4 million in grants from the Community Impact fund to 30 local nonprofits. These grants help organizations strengthen their operations, grow to meet the community's needs and capitalize on opportunities.

The Community Impact fund was created and is funded by community members who want to have a collective impact on organizations working to have a long-term impact on the people and places in Dane County. They are awarded through an annual competitive grant round to organizations having an impact in arts and culture, community development, the environment, and learning, or to help build the organization's capacity to accomplish its mission.

"This year's grantees are helping shape a stronger, more connected community," said Angela Davis, MCF's Director of Grantmaking. "They're expanding access to learning, creating inclusive public spaces, strengthening our natural environment, and ensuring that all residents have opportunities to thrive."

From transforming a historic school into an arts hub, to restoring local ecosystems, to helping families build wealth and stability, MCF's 2025 grants reflect the creativity and collaboration that make Greater Madison a remarkable place to live.

"These grants are made possible through the generosity of thousands of donors who have contributed to MCF's Community Impact Fund," said Bob Sorge, MCF's President and CEO. "Together, these gifts empower MCF to invest in the organizations that enrich our community, protect our environment, and strengthen the fabric of Dane County."

Curious About What Assets MCF Accepts?

**EXPLORE
WAYS TO GIVE**

The complete list of 2025 grant recipients includes:

Aldo Leopold Nature Center

\$40,000 to help make the Center more welcoming and accessible by replacing a deteriorating boardwalk and bridge with ADA compliant structures and installing multi-lingual signage.

ART House 360

\$75,000 toward its capital campaign to transform an historic Verona schoolhouse into a multicultural arts center.

Black Girl Magic Educational Services

\$40,000 matching grant for the Black Girl Magic Legacy program, which supports middle school program participants through their high school years.

Briarpatch Youth Services

\$10,000 toward its 10-Year Tune-Up, celebrating the youth shelter's anniversary with a series of upgrades to enhance safety, functionality and comfort for youth in crisis.

Centro Hispano

\$50,000 to help embed an Evaluation Specialist in Madison's schools to help identify what is working, where gaps remain and how to adjust support programs for Latinx students.

Clean Lakes Alliance

\$75,000 to support the creation of a Renew the Blue Council to coordinate community action around shared water quality goals.

Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin

\$100,000 to support the Wisconsin Foodshed Partnership and increase its capacity to receive and distribute locally grown food to people struggling with food insecurity.

Driftless Area Land Conservancy

\$50,000 to help complete the first section of a planned 13-mile trail network at Wild Oaks Preserve, providing a space for nature-based recreation.

Foundation for Dane County Parks

\$35,000 to provide training for staff and volunteers focused on implicit bias and microaggressions to make the park system safe and inclusive for all visitors.

Friends of PBS Wisconsin

\$50,000 to support the Wisconsin Hometown Stories: Madison, a community-driven multimedia project to document Madison's history and voices.

Gigi's Playhouse Madison

\$75,000 to help build a new facility that will expand access to out-of-school activities, educational services and job training for people with Down Syndrome.

Groundswell Conservancy

\$40,000 to help build the capacity to capitalize on opportunities to work with landowners to protect land across Dane County.

Kennedy Heights Community Center

\$40,000 to purchase an accessible van to transport youth and seniors to education, enrichment, wellness and essential services, combatting isolation and improving access.

Literacy Network

\$80,000 toward its English for Citizenship program, providing language instruction and support for adults who are applying to become U.S. citizens.

Madison Area Community Land Trust

\$50,000 to help create a pilot program outside the city of Madison to develop homes for very low-income households across Dane County.

Madison Symphony Orchestra

\$50,000 to help fund its Centennial festival weekend, a two-day music festival at Overture Center, which marks the conclusion of MSO's 100th Anniversary season.

Maydm

\$20,000 toward its strategic growth initiative to strengthen the organization's infrastructure, develop systems for long-term sustainability and deepen its impact across Dane County.

Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development

\$30,000 to strengthen its internal leadership and help expand the Center's work and impact.

Olbrich Botanical Society

\$50,000 toward its Comprehensive Interpretation Plan, helping better share the Gardens' work and its impact on the community.

Own It Building Black Wealth

\$37,500 to expand its ability to lead wealth-building and homeownership classes and mentoring to serve more families and support them in homeownership after closing.

PEPartnership

\$10,000 to improve the alliance's database, which is critical to efficient and effective operations for the Partnership's five personal essentials pantries.

Porchlight

\$25,000 for "A Place to Call Home," which helps shelter guests overcome financial barriers to permanent housing such as application fees, security deposits and first month's rent.

Shelter Friends

\$20,000 to help the organization build its fundraising capacity to support the 24/7 operation of the new men's shelter.

Simpson Street Free Press

\$30,000 to help support the organization's mentorship and science-based tutoring program.

The Center for Black Excellence and Culture

\$70,000 to support the development and launch of the Center's first two years of programming.

The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness

\$50,000 matching grant to help expand the Madison Forward Fund which provides guaranteed income and wraparound support the Black mothers with young children.

Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center

\$15,000 to help purchase a 15-passenger van to provide safe transportation and expand access to youth and teen programs.

YMCA of Dane County

\$100,000 for the benefit of the Lussier Family West facility.

YWCA Madison

\$75,000 for collaborative leadership development and healing-centered care training with residents and staff.

Zeteo Community

\$25,000 toward the development of Wisconsin's first long-term residential program for survivors of sex trafficking and their children.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

NOV

27

Office Closed

Staff will be out of office November 27 & 28 to spend time with family over the Thanksgiving holiday.

DEC

15

Last Day to Submit Grant Recommendations

Final day to recommend grants for 2025 distributions.

DEC

01

Initiate Mutual Fund Share Gifts

Talk with your broker to initiate gifts of mutual fund shares.

DEC

25

Office Closed

Staff will be out of office enjoying the Christmas holiday.

DEC

08

Stock Gift Deadline

Initiate any stock gifts you have planned.

DEC

31

Last Day to Give in 2025

In person donations must be delivered to the MCF office by 4:30 p.m. Any donations sent by U.S. Mail must be received or post marked by this date. Any donations sent by private couriers must be received by this date.