State and local residents continue to rely on federal help for their food costs. Housing foreclosure filings have passed 40,000 in Milwaukee County (2005 to present).

Enrollments in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known in Wisconsin as FoodShare, remain very high as households throughout the state continue to rely on the program to help meet their grocery costs. Since the recession hit, Wisconsin has seen increases in the number of residents enrolling in the program in Milwaukee County and in the balance of the state.

- As of April 2012, 275,058 Milwaukee County residents and 558,158 residents in the balance of Wisconsin were enrolled in the FoodShare program.
- Statewide, residents are receiving $96 million a month in food support through this federal program.

Evidence that the recession and national housing crisis have not ended for local communities can be seen in the mortgage foreclosure filings in circuit court in Milwaukee County. There were 578 housing foreclosure filings in April 2012. In early May the county passed the 40,000 mark for foreclosures filed since January 2005.

Monthly Economic Data for Milwaukee County

Unemployment: The unemployment rate among Milwaukee County workers was estimated at 8.4 percent in April, down from 8.6 percent estimated for the previous month.

Plant closing and mass layoff notices: In April two transportation firms announced expected new layoffs: Frontier Airlines (129 layoffs) and Talgo (35 layoffs).

Unemployment insurance: 27,354 laid-off workers in the county were receiving weekly UI payments in mid-May of 2012. The number of workers receiving UI dropped by 15% in the last two months. (Extended benefits for the long-term unemployed ended in Wisconsin on April 7th.)

BadgerCare Plus: 206,985 county residents were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus in April. Enrollments in the Core Plan for adults without dependents (N=8,017) are less than half the number covered in January 2010 (N=22,963).

Wisconsin Shares: 24,316 children from 13,492 Milwaukee County families received child care subsidies totaling $10.4 million in April 2012.

“W-2”/TANF Income Support: 9,553 Milwaukee County families received “W-2”/TANF cash assistance payments in April, down 8% since the start of the year.

Data Sources: Wisconsin departments of Children and Families, Health Services, and Workforce Development (5/28/2012); Wisconsin Court System Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP).