

Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call Notes, Friday October 8, 2021

TEFAP

For those who may not know Kitty opted to retire early as of last week Friday. Jennifer Putzer will be interim TEFAP administrator on top of her role.

The only other update that I have is that Jonathan Bader is working on the fresh and perishable food offers through the Build Back Better TEFAP investment. He is sorting through orders for Jan-June arrivals.

I don't have any other TEFAP updates for you all at this time. Please do reach out to your EFOs with any questions.

FoodShare

With the start of the new Federal Fiscal Year, there are a few important changes going into effect regarding FoodShare eligibility and benefit maintenance policy. There are new eligibility limits. This is important because there may be individuals who were not eligible who are now eligible given the increase eligibility threshold.

FOR THOSE CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN FOODSHARE, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WILL GO INTO EFFECT BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021:

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Every year cost of living adjustments are made to FoodShare member benefits. This year the formula for calculating benefit allotments changed due to the USDA's modernization of the Thrifty Food Plan. As a result, the average SNAP benefit – excluding additional funds provided as part of pandemic relief – will increase by \$36.24 per person, per month, or \$1.19 per day, for Fiscal Year 2022 beginning on October 1, 2021.

Emergency allotments are still in effect until the federal and state public health emergencies are ended. All FoodShare members are getting at least \$95 in additional benefits each month. Some households will get more to bring their benefit amount to the maximum monthly benefit amount for their household size.

These emergency allotments will be put on QUEST cards on October 17. Individuals will receive a letter about this the week of Oct 18th.

IN OCTOBER 2021 SIX-MONTH REPORT FORMS WILL START AGAIN

Starting in October 2021, FoodShare members will once again need to complete and submit Six-Month Report forms to let DHS know that the information on file for their household is correct. When it is time to complete a Six-Month Report form, individuals will get either a paper report form in the mail or an email alerting you that you have a new message in your ACCESS account.

STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2021, FOODSHARE APPLICANTS WILL NEED TO DO AN INTERVIEW

For those applying for or completing annual renewals for FoodShare benefits, they will need to do an interview with your agency starting on October 1, 2021. During your interview, your agency will review your case information to make sure they have everything they need from you and that your information is correct.

BENEFIT ISSUANCE ADJUSTMENTS

WI DHS is also checking that everyone who should have gotten additional benefits got them. As a result, some members may get their August benefits on October 10 and their September benefits on November 14.

Please find more information here: <https://feedingwi.org/blog/forward-together/foodshare-eligibility-benefit-allotment-and-program-updates-in-october-2021>

Feeding Wisconsin Hunger and Health Forum

The virtual Fall Hunger and Health Forum's theme is "Impact through Courageous Collaboration." **Dr. Monica M. White** will present a keynote, *Food Justice and Emergency Food: Building Bridges and Strategies Toward Community Wellness*, on October 14th from 11-12:30pm.

We will then hold 5 panel breakout sessions spread across three days, October 18th, 19th, and 20th. These panel discussions will allow participants the opportunity to hear from panelists, share best practices, and dive more deeply into conversation about building partnerships to improve food and health equity. We have a great set of panelists lined up.

The forum will be held virtually. Participants will have the option to attend any and all of the events live and all sessions will be recorded for viewing at a later date. Information about the virtual web platform will follow registration.

Please consider joining us! Registration for the virtual Hunger and Health Summit is \$25. We welcome participation of all who are interested to attend. For those whose organization is unable to cover registration and who otherwise are unable to pay out of pocket, please contact sdorfman@feedingwi.org for a complimentary registration.

https://feedingwi.org/programs/conferences/2021_forum.php

Future Calls

Consensus on discussion about future calls is that there is value in monthly calls. We will be moving to a video format in January 2022.

Q&A

For those interested in sending Kitty cards or letters please use this mailing address:

- * 1010 Haywood Drive Madison, WI 53715

TEFAP eligibility updates. Please find updates to the DHS website recently made by Kitty:

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nutrition/tefap/eligibility.htm>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/f-40059.htm>

Next Call: Friday, November 11, 2021 at 10 am

Call 1(267)930-4000; participant code 904-416-028#

Thanks to Pantry Operators for joining the call!