

Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
Thursday, February 10th, 2022

Notes can be found: https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php

- 1) Introductions: please type your name, food pantry/organization in the chat, one thing you would like to gain from these monthly calls to help us build in some structure.
- 2) Funding: Build Back Better Supplemental TEFAP Funds
 - a) Allocation of Supplemental Food and Administrative Funds from Division B of the CARES Act
 - i) Administrative
 - (1) Fresh and perishable distribution deliveries began in January and will continue through August.
 - (2) Reach and Resiliency grants-RFA (Request for Application)
 - (a) Intended to expand TEFAP's reach into remote, rural, Tribal and low-income areas that are underserved by the program
 - (b) \$50M of grant funding being provided to TEFAP State Agencies –competitive process
 - (c) Wisconsin TEFAP State Agency applied for Round 1
 - (i) Partnered with WISCAP, UW Extension, Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force
 - (3) Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA)
 - (a) Intended to expand local and regional markets; emphasis on historically underserved farmers and ranchers—2 harvest seasons
 - (b) \$400M of funding for the emergency food assistance purchases of domestic local foods
 - (c) LFPA listening session next week (**February 15th, 2022 1-2:30**)
<https://www.wispolitics.com/2022/dept-of-agriculture-trade-and-commission-protection-datcp-to-host-virtual-discussion-on-local-food-purchasing-cooperative-agreement-program/>
 - (i) (DATCP) invites food security and local food system organizations to attend a virtual strategic planning discussion
 - (ii) The discussion will take place on Zoom. Registration is required and available at <https://bit.ly/3ujlTaf>. If you cannot attend the webinar and would like to submit comments on these discussion topics, please email your responses to DATCP Agricultural Programs Supervisor Kara Kasten-Olson at kara.kastenolson@wisconsin.gov.
 - (iii) The webinar will include program information, a question and answer session with USDA staff, and an open discussion on the following questions:
 1. What current barriers do you see in developing local supply chains to serve food security efforts?

2. What current projects do you have that are attempting to address these issues?

3. How can we shape our local supply chain system?

(iv) Recipients of this funding will be required to purchase food from local and regional producers, target purchases from socially disadvantaged farmers, and distribute the food to underserved communities that are not part of the normal food distribution network.

(v) Fifty percent or more of funding needs to go to food procurement, but sub-agreements and costs associated with admin, outreach, development as well as food storage and distribution are allowed.

3) TEFAP COVID Recommendations

a) Previous recommendations still in place - contact local public health department; be safe and follow guidelines in your local community.

i) Review [memo](#) if necessary

4) Food Benefits and Foodshare updates (Stephanie)

a) Benefits and [FoodShare updates](#) (Stephanie)

i) Public Health Emergency Order

(1) The current order will remain in effect until at least April 16, 2022. The federal government will have to inform the states within 30 days of the end of the current order as to if it will in fact end or be renewed for an additional 90 days. Therefore we will learn if it is ending in Mid-March.

<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/default.aspx>

ii) FoodShare Benefit Updates

(1) Those enrolled in FoodShare, are getting additional FoodShare benefits, emergency allotments, in February to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 additional FoodShare benefits will be distributed to QUEST cards on February 13. FoodShare participants will be sent a letter the week of February 14 telling them about the additional benefits.

(2) Unwinding - eventual end of the Public Health Emergency and what that will mean for those receiving benefits

iii) Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

(1) Eligibility:

(a) Qualifies for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (& school participated in NSLP) or attends a [Community Eligibility Provision](#) school.

(b) Their school must also have been closed or operating with reduced attendance or hours for at least five consecutive days due to the COVID-19 emergency during the

current school year. Districts will have to share data regarding attendance in the P-EBT portal by February 18th for the first issuance.

(c) Eligible students will receive benefits for each day their school reports that they learned from home or were absent for a COVID-19-related reason during the 2021-2022 school year.

(d) \$7.10 will be provided for each day

(2) Benefit Distribution

(a) August to October benefits – Issued March 5, 2022

(b) November, December benefits – Issued April 9, 2022

(c) January, February benefits – Issued May 14, 2022

(d) March, April benefits – Issued June 18, 2022

(e) May, June benefits – Issued July 23, 2022

(3) Changes from 2020-2021 school year

(a) Benefits not retroactive – you only get benefits if you qualify for NSLP – parents should be advised on how to apply to free/reduced-price meals b/c many didn't apply this year b/c all meals are free

(b) Schools must provide this information to DHS

(c) Parents can submit fair hearing if they think they've been wrongly denied.

(4) Information for Families:

(a) P-EBT benefits will likely be lower for most families this year as compared to last year because the benefit will be based on actual days that the student is not physically at school

(b) Direct families to the P-EBT Support Team (not to MilES or IM agencies) with P-EBT questions for the most accurate information. P-EBT Support Team can be contacted at 1-833-431-2224 and PEBTsupport@wisconsin.gov.

(5) <https://feedingamericawi.org/get-involved/p-ebt/>

iv) Medicaid Unwinding

https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/104785/what-will-happen-to-unprecedented-high-medicaid-enrollment-after-the-public-health-emergency_0.pdf

(1) Medicaid enrollment has risen substantially since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent data show enrollment jumped by more than 9 million people from February 2020 to January 2021. The higher enrollment is driven by two main causes: the unprecedented pandemic-related job losses concentrated in March to June of 2020 and the continuous coverage requirement of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which prohibits state Medicaid agencies from disenrolling beneficiaries during the public health emergency (PHE). Even as the economy improves, however, the continuous coverage provision is likely to contribute to even higher Medicaid enrollment through 2021.

- (2) We estimate that by the end of 2021, 17 million more nonelderly people will be enrolled in Medicaid than before the pandemic, reaching a total of 76.3 million Medicaid enrollees younger than 65. Our estimate assumes the PHE will expire at the end of 2021.
- (3) We estimate that the number of Medicaid enrollees could decline by about 15 million people during 2022. This includes 8.7 million adults and 5.9 million children. We estimate that one-third of adults losing Medicaid coverage after the PHE could qualify for subsidized private health coverage in the Marketplaces. Nearly all of the remainder would likely have access to an offer of employer coverage in their family deemed affordable under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

b) [Pantry Visitor COVID Pulse Survey](#)

As you may know, last year Feeding Wisconsin collaborated with researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to conduct a study of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food pantries in the state. This study involved a survey to gather information from food pantry visitors about how the pandemic had impacted their households, their access to food, and their experiences at food pantries. We are grateful that many of you partnered to distribute these surveys at your food distributions.

We will be releasing a supplemental report. This supplement complements the main report, highlighting clients' perspectives on their experiences with pantries as distinct from their own circumstances. I will include that with our notes on our Pantry Engagement page in the next week. https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php

c) [Governor Evers, DATCP Announce \\$30 Million Investment in Food Pantry Network](#)

The \$30 million will be used to ensure food-insecure residents in rural communities, urban centers, Tribal Nations, and Wisconsinites in every corner of our state receive much-needed hunger relief. To help achieve this goal, Gov. Evers is building on the strong partnership established last year with Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force to deliver these resources across the state. Through this program, each feeding organization will be eligible for \$15 million to purchase food resources and may use up to \$5 million to invest in storage, distribution, and cover transportation costs. Update: Feeding Wisconsin network food banks will be exploring use of funds. Each food bank will be proceeding with a plan for their own local region.

d) [Hunger and Health Summit](#): Reimagined Resiliency – April 24-26th at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells

- i) We will be announcing keynotes and registration by the end of next week.

e) Monthly Calls in 2022

- i) Will occur the Second Thursday of the month at 11am
- ii) You can find more information on the Feeding Wisconsin website: https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php
- iii) You can register for the calls to get a calendar invite here: https://secure.everyaction.com/gQfwP1eFGkO-Ri_RQ808IQ2
- iv) NEXT CALL - March 10th at 11am

Discussion Notes:

- Conversation about Fresh Produce Boxes - please let Jennifer know if you have feedback
 - First two deliveries we had potatoes, tomatoes, apples and cabbage. The produce was very nice, small/lighter in weight than anticipated. We didn't know what to expect so...third shipment we did not receive due to poor quality.
- Moving from outdoor to indoor questions
 - TEFAP provides guidance, and suggests that pantries work with local public health
 - If we move to indoor distribution, can we require proof of vaccination as a condition to shop indoors.
 - Everyone has to have access to food, so as long as you are able to provide food to anyone who comes to receive (not dependent on indoor or outdoor). It is a civil rights requirement.
 - Some have polled pantry visitors and most have opted for outdoor distribution with less choice than indoor/choice.
 - Especially seniors, but also those under 60yo
 - There are feelings of not wanting to go back. We have worked hard to move towards choice. It feels that there might be a hybrid model emerging that will work to serve folks as they would like to be served.
 - How do we offer choice outside and choice inside?
 - We owe it to those we serve to use what we have learned during this time. That their time is valuable. Moving forward with an e-pantry model, where they can order ahead and have their order ready for pick up. Currently using Google Form and building a website called Pantry Pal?
 - Other online order forms and registration: [Jotform](#) (health protected information), Google Form
 - How are other community resources being shared when doing outdoor distribution?
- When the public health emergency order ends (we will hear in mid-March if the current order will be renewed or will end in mid-April), there will be a change in required data collected. This will be something to consider regarding the model for distribution. TEFAP annual renewals might be difficult to manage when outdoors.
 - Eligibility will be dropped down to 200%
 - Question: can the TEFAP applications become available online where persons can complete them on a tablet? I'm thinking if we continue with the outside model, perhaps people can complete the application from their car.