

## Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call Notes for Friday, June 26, 2020

### Updates:

- The Coronavirus spread is increasing nationwide and in Wisconsin. As of yesterday, there were 26,227 reported cases in Wisconsin, with 21 COVID-related fatalities over the previous three days. This trend suggests our “no contact” food distribution protocol continues to be very necessary.
- Wisconsin’s national share of TEFAP food and funds increased. Of the entire federal budget for the program, Wisconsin had been receiving 1.4509% of the food and funds allocated by Congress. Last week that percentage increased to 1.5867%. This means that our state will receive a slight increase in food and funds; it also means our poverty and unemployment measures are headed in a negative direction.
- Price volatility continues in the commodity marketplace. TEFAP had 35 trucks of food either cancelled or in “return” status (limbo) that had been ordered for the fall of 2020. Though Wisconsin’s TEFAP food supply is still fairly robust (compared to previous years), USDA appears to be having challenges with getting some products at its contract prices.
- The July TEFAP deliveries of food to counties will be similar in volume to June’s deliveries. About 780,000 pounds are going to the southern warehouse and about 640,000 to the north. June’s volume was unexpectedly boosted by eight tons going to each north and south this month that were bolstered by donations from the Department of Public Instruction. We don’t expect further DPI donations this year.
- The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCAP) announced on June 24, 2020 that it soon would be making \$5M in grants available to food banks and food pantries to address Coronavirus challenges. It also will make \$10M in food purchases. These one-time funds are from the Coronavirus Aids, Relief Economic Security Act (CARES) and the grants are on a swift timeline. Interested parties should go to the DATCAP website and register to obtain email notices for more information. Follow this link:  
[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News\\_Media/Covid19FoodSecurityInitiative.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/Covid19FoodSecurityInitiative.aspx)

Questions/discussion: Call participants asked questions about a range of subjects. They included:

- Do food pantries routinely distribute information about FoodShare, and can we include FoodShare outreach flyers in food distributions to households?
- Can I share TEFAP foods with other pantries?
- Can I provide more frequent distributions to households that need them?
- Can I serve someone who does not live in my county?

The call ended at 10:30. The next call will be Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.