



Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
Thursday, July 14th, 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

2) Nutrition Benefits and [FoodShare updates](#)

a) Public Health Emergency Order

i) The most important message from the DHS is:

(1) PHE has been extended through mid-October 2022.

(2) Next major milestone: August 16, 2022, as the federal government has said it will give states at least 60 days' notice before the PHE ends. If the PHE ends in mid-October, many enhanced benefits, including SNAP/FoodShare emergency allotments will end November 30.

ii) FoodShare Benefit Updates

(1) Those enrolled in FoodShare, are getting additional FoodShare benefits in July 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.

(2) **These additional FoodShare benefits will be distributed to QUEST card July 16th.** FoodShare participants will be sent a [letter](#) the following week telling them about the additional benefits.

(3) Unwinding - we are preparing for the eventual end of the Public Health Emergency and decrease in benefits. Reminder benefits will not drop to pre-pandemic allotments, but will be based on current income and expenses and the enhanced thrifty food plan formula. It will be particularly important for seniors (folks over 60yo) to consider submitting their medical expenses to maximize their post-PHE FoodShare benefit.

iii) School P-EBT Updates

- (1) Portal closed for the final time on 7/11
 - (a) Over the course of the year, more than 320k students were added to the Portal with more than 3 million P-EBT Eligible Days entered for them for August through June
 - (i) January had the greatest number of P-EBT Eligible Days entered for students (by far – based on frequent quarantining after the holiday break) while August and June had the fewest (by far – based on fewer instructional days offered)
- (2) Total issuance to date: over \$16.2 million (through 7/8)
 - (a) Total children who received benefits: 214,809
 - (b) Total households who received benefits: 131,632
- (3) Final issuance planned for 7/23 (covering May/June P-EBT Eligible Days as well as benefits not already provided for earlier months of the school year)**
- (4) Reminder that families should still be contacting the P-EBT Support Team if they feel they are eligible for benefits but never received any/never received any letter in the mail – if applicable, our team can help them fill out a Simplified Application over the phone and get their benefits issued in an overnight process
- iv) Pre-6 P-EBT Updates
 - (1) July 9th issuance for benefits for all months (September through June)**
 - (a) Total amount issued: over \$26.6 million
 - (b) Total children who received benefits: 109,606
 - (c) Total households who received benefits: 79,280
 - (2) Reminders:
 - (a) Children will only receive benefits for months in which they were receiving FoodShare as part of an active FoodShare household
 - (b) Benefits are not pro-rated, meaning if a child was receiving FoodShare for even 1 day of a month, they'll be eligible to receive the full month's benefit
- v) Summer P-EBT
 - (1) Issuances on track for 8/20 and 10/29
 - (2) FNS has started putting out weekly releases sharing how many states have been approved to provide Summer P-EBT benefits – here's the first installment: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/07/08/usda-partners-27-states-and-territories-issue-child-food-benefits>

3) TEFAP Food Flow Data

2018: 12 million pounds
 2019: 26 million pounds
 2020: 35 million pounds
 2021: 22 million pounds
 2022: 14 million pounds

As food volume rose before & during the pandemic, the number of people served initially rose, then began to decline as families were able to access a wide range of public benefits (rental assistance, child tax credits, stimulus checks, enhanced SNAP & unemployment, universal free school meals, etc.) The average number of persons served monthly at TEFAP food pantries in 2021 was 135,000 after having reached a high of 218,000 in 2015. There are indications from various sectors however that demand for food assistance is beginning to climb again just as federal TEFAP volume has begun to decline. Wisconsin's share of federal Entitlement dollars unexpectedly dropped 17% in 2022 based on our share of unemployed persons and persons living in poverty. Entitlement currently accounts for about 45% of Wisconsin's commodity volume.

View more details and a data visualization here:

[https://feedingwi.org/content/Paragraph%20TEFAP%20for%202021%20Annual%20Report%20\(June%2030%202022\)%20\(003\).pdf](https://feedingwi.org/content/Paragraph%20TEFAP%20for%202021%20Annual%20Report%20(June%2030%202022)%20(003).pdf)

4) TEFAP COVID Recommendations

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

i) Review [memo](#) if necessary

ii) State recommends that you follow safety protocol to keep participants, volunteers, and staff safe.

iii) Regarding questions from previous calls about the ability of pantries to require vaccination to participate in in-person, indoor pantry distribution, DHS has shared that: **food pantries need to reach out to their local public health department for guidance on vaccination requirements.**

5) **WISCAP** - follow up from previous meetings, you can find more about the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance program here <https://www.wiscap.org/wera>

6) Pantry Call Survey

a) Results of survey:

[https://feedingwi.org/content/Monthly%20Statewide%20Pantry%20Call%20Survey%20Results%20\(1\).pdf](https://feedingwi.org/content/Monthly%20Statewide%20Pantry%20Call%20Survey%20Results%20(1).pdf)

b) We will be reviewing more thoroughly and scheduling topics for discussion to come.

7) Ongoing 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 - August 11th at 11am

Discussion Notes:

- Question as to when the new TEFAP income guidelines will go into effect. **DHS will be discussing the implementation of new TEFAP Income Eligibility Guidelines on 7/28/2022. This conversation will address the transition from 300% to 200% income eligibility. Currently, the income eligibility guidelines are at 300%. This will stay in effect until further notice.**

The links below are now reflecting the 300% income eligibility tables.

- New TEFAP Eligibility Guideline:
[https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nutrition/tefap/eligibility.htm#:~:text=Guidelines%20Section%20Menu-,The%20Emergency%20Food%20Assistance%20Program%20\(TEFAP\)%3A%20Eligibility%20and%20Income,based%20on%20self%2Ddeclared%20income.](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nutrition/tefap/eligibility.htm#:~:text=Guidelines%20Section%20Menu-,The%20Emergency%20Food%20Assistance%20Program%20(TEFAP)%3A%20Eligibility%20and%20Income,based%20on%20self%2Ddeclared%20income.)

This document has stayed the same since it was created. The date reflects the time when the form was implemented.

- Confusion about PDF including 2020 date:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/f-40059.htm>
- How many people do we imagine this will impact? As we rely on self-declaration, this may not change much.
- Interest in a cohesive message to explain the shift in eligibility limit change and recommendation on language if have to turn folks away.
- Reminder: If you are not distributing Federal commodities, you are not bound by eligibility limits. If you are distributing Federal commodities, you are able to also serve families at a higher income level with non-Federal foods.
- The Neighbors' Place (Wausau): We're looking for someone who embraces food equity! Hiring for a Food Warehouse Manager - please share this link or visit our website if you know any great candidates. Thank you!

<https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=The%20Neighbors%27%20Place%20&l=Wausau,%20WI&vjk=abfc93f7fdcdf7af>

● The River: needed to reroute their drive up distribution line due to leased space.

Looking for recommendations. Please email with any suggestions and ideas:

helen@riverfoodpantry.org

- The Neighbors' Place uses community policing and volunteers to help redirect traffic
- Modeling what restaurants use for queues—paggers or waitlist apps that inform pantry guests when they are ready to be served.
- Changed our hours to being open with part of the time when the business is closed and part of time business is open. Example open 5 to 7 pm the business is open till 6.

Thank you all for joining the call and for all that you do to support ending hunger in your community.