

Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call Notes
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
Thursday, January 13th, 2022

- 1) Introductions, please type your name, food pantry/organization in the chat, one thing you are looking forward to in the new year

- 2) Funding: Build Back Better Supplemental TEFAP Funds
 - a) Fresh and Perishable Foods Program
 - i) food is starting to be delivered this month, so you could mention that. The next meeting will be good since it will be a month or so into the deliveries. We can find out how things are going.
 - b) Additional Build Back Better funds discussion (American Rescue Plan Funds)
 - (1) 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
 - (2) 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) More information to come

3) COVID Home Testing Kits??

Right now what we have to distribute are [Vault kits](#). Vault testing requires that the individual be on Zoom call so that collection is witnessed by a Vault employee. Then it needs to be dropped off at UPS. This is less than ideal for vulnerable populations who may not have a computer, internet access, transportation, or a UPS nearby. We are still awaiting information from the Biden administration regarding the tests mentioned in the email you referenced.

For other less pressing concerns, there is a mailbox for the testing area: WICovidTest@Wisconsin.gov

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

a) FoodShare Benefit Updates

- i) Those enrolled in FoodShare, are getting additional FoodShare benefits, emergency allotments, in January 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 January 23.

FoodShare participants will be sent a letter the week of January 24 telling them about the additional benefits.

- ii) Unwinding - eventual end of the Public Health Emergency and what that will mean for those receiving benefits
- b) Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)
 - i) Eligibility:
 - (1) Qualifies for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program (& school participated in NSLP) or attends a [Community Eligibility Provision](#) school.
 - (2) 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.
 - (3) 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.
 - (4) \$7.10 will be provided for each day
 - ii) Benefit Distribution
 - (1) August to October benefits – Issued March 5, 2022
 - (2) November, December benefits – Issued April 9, 2022
 - (3) January, February benefits – Issued May 14, 2022
 - (4) March, April benefits – Issued June 18, 2022
 - (5) May, June benefits – Issued July 23, 2022
 - iii) Changes from 2020-2021 school year
 - (1) 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
 - (2) Schools must provide this information to DHS
 - (3) Parents can submit fair hearing if they think they've been wrongly denied.
 - iv) Information for Families:
 - (1) 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
 - (2) 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.
 - v) <https://feedingamericawi.org/get-involved/p-ebt/>
- c) 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
 - i) 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.

- ii) 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.
 - iii) 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 onethird 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).
- 5) [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.
- 6) [Hunger and Health Summit](#) – April 24-26th at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells
- a) [Call for Proposals](#) is live, proposal deadline is January 18, 2022
 - b) [Sponsorship Solicitation](#) is also live
- 7) Monthly Calls in 2022
- a) Will occur the Second Thursday of the month at 11am
 - b) You can find more information on the Feeding Wisconsin website:
https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php
 - c) You can register for the calls to get a calendar invite here:
https://secure.everyaction.com/gQfWP1eFGkO-Ri_RQ808IQ2
- 8) Hopes for these monthly calls- topics for discussion, etc.
- Inventory Control Systems/ review
 - Prepacked, moving to grocery list allowing for choice and getting stuff that individuals want and will use rather than turning it back
 - Exploring collaboration
 - Incentivize engagement, interaction, sharing learnings and visiting others.
 - Pantries that are opening up - do you have rules in place like masking etc. I have volunteers that refuse to get vaccinated.
 - Offering breakout rooms - diving more deeply into topics

Next Call: Thursday, February 10th at 11am CST

Join via Google Meeting:

Google Meeting Link: meet.google.com/prt-ceov-iaa

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