



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

Notes can be found: [https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry\\_network\\_engagement.php](https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php)

- 1) Introductions: please type your name, food pantry/organization in the chat**
- 2) Jennifer Putzer is the Food Security Specialist, recently promoted to manager and oversees multiple nutrition programs that DHS supports/administers**
- 3) 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.
        - (a) \$1.527M just contracted to EFOs
      - (2) Reach and Resiliency grants-Application submitted
        - (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, will find out in April if awarded
          - (i) Partnered with WISCAP, UW Extension, Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force
          - (ii) Develop and assess the state need to serve those areas
    - (3) Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) - DATCP taking the lead.
      - (a) The LFPA program application deadline is extended from April 5, 2022 to May 6, 2022.
      - (b) Intended to expand local and regional markets; emphasis on historically underserved farmers and ranchers—2 harvest seasons
      - (c) \$400M of funding for the emergency food assistance purchases of domestic local foods
      - (d) 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.

- (i) 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.

#### **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.

#### **5) 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>
    - (2) The order will likely be renewed for an additional 90 days.
  - ii) FoodShare Benefit Updates
    - (1) Those enrolled in FoodShare, are getting additional FoodShare benefits in March 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 on March 20. FoodShare participants will be sent a [letter](#) the week of March 21 telling them about the additional benefits.
    - (3) 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) First issuance on March 5th

(a) Total Amount Issued So Far: \$3,097,296.90

(b) Total # of Students So Far: 63,457

(c) Total # of Cases/Households So Far: 45,441

(d) Average Amount Issued per Student who Received Benefits: \$48.64 (As of 3/5/22)

(e) Average # of P-EBT Eligible Days per Student who Received Benefits: 6.85 (As of 3/5/22)

(4) Notes:

(a) There are also approximately another 13k students (as of 3/5/22) for whom a Simplified Application would be beneficial – to complete this, families should call the P-EBT Support Team

(b) That said, this issuance is much smaller than some may have anticipated for a few key reasons:

(i) In Aug/Sep/Oct, many schools resumed in-person learning (this was before the Omicron variant really hit and necessitated students learning from home/being quarantined as often)

(ii) Not every school has reported the necessary Aug/Sep/Oct student information to us yet (notably, a good chunk of Milwaukee Public Schools has not) – this means that our Nov/Dec issuance (happening on 4/9) might be higher than expected because it'll include a fair amount of Aug/Sep/Oct benefits

(5) Pre-6 P-EBT Wisconsin will be submitting a plan to FNS for program

(6) 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](mailto:PEBTsupport@wisconsin.gov).

(7) DHS Flyer: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02667.pdf>

iv) [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.

A supplemental report highlighting clients' perspectives on their experiences with pantries as distinct from their own circumstances is now posted on our website (Programs>Pantry Network Engagement) [https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry\\_network\\_engagement.php](https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php)

**6) Hunger and Health Summit:** Reimagined Resiliency – April 24-26<sup>th</sup> at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells

i) **Keynotes Announced:**

We are excited to announce our two general session presentations. On Monday, April 25th, **Katie Martin**, PhD, the author of a 2021 book titled Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries: New Tools to End Hunger, will provide a Summit luncheon keynote, Reinventing how to tackle hunger in Wisconsin. Katie is the Executive Director of the Institute for Hunger Research & Solutions at Connecticut Foodshare. Come be inspired by new ideas and leave with tangible action steps you can take in your community.

On Tuesday, April 26th over the luncheon general session, join as DHS Assistant-Deputy Secretary **T.R. Williams** and Director for the **Office of Health Equity Dr. Michelle Robinson** present, Food Security as a Driver of Health Equity: The Role of Advocacy in Addressing Social Determinants of Health. They will discuss the Office, strategies for strengthening public-private partnerships, and actionable approaches to leveraging government that can help improve health outcomes for food insecure populations.

ii) Summit Page: [https://feedingwi.org/programs/conferences/2022\\_summit.php](https://feedingwi.org/programs/conferences/2022_summit.php)

iii) Registration is Live: <https://secure.everyaction.com/9cOJf9WzDE-udNIngrNrCg2>

iv) Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin member pantries – please work directly with your food bank to register as they are comping one registration per member.

**7) Ongoing Monthly Calls in 2022**

i) Will occur the Second Thursday of the month at 11am

ii) Feeding Wisconsin will be working to plan out topics for each call and posting them on our Pantry Network Engagement page so that you have an opportunity to view the topic in advance. We hope to have this started before the next call.

iii) You can find more information on the Feeding Wisconsin website: [https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry\\_network\\_engagement.php](https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php)

iv) You can register for the calls to get a calendar invite here: [https://secure.everyaction.com/gQfwP1eFGkO-Ri\\_RQ808IQ2](https://secure.everyaction.com/gQfwP1eFGkO-Ri_RQ808IQ2)

v) NEXT CALL - April 14th at 11am

**Discussion Notes:**

- Questions about moving to indoor distributions
  - Follow local public health recommendations
- Opening community meal programs
- What are new rules on zip codes, are we still allowed to welcome people outside our zip code?
  - Until the public health emergency ends
  - For first time visit yes, then refer to a pantry in their area/county of residence
  - With an understanding that individuals are in transient situations perhaps more now than pre-pandemic
- How long will clients be able to come to the pantry more than once a month?
  - That is left up to TEFAP pantries to decide. Individuals can be served more than once a month.
  - TEFAP pantries have to serve at least once a month.
- Post-public health emergency reporting of TEFAP visits will go back to being recorded on cards.
- Culturally relevant food pantries conversation
  - Hmong Institute Mai Zong Vue ([maizong.vue@theHmongInstitute.org](mailto:maizong.vue@theHmongInstitute.org)) - how can we partner to educate about the foods that specific cultures would like to eat and ensure that culturally relevant food is being offered across the state
  - Challenge of pre-packaged bags/boxes; in-person/choice distribution will make this easier.
  - Couleecap has a grant and will be opening a pantry in Sparta to serve Latinx individuals.