



**Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
Thursday, April 14, 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) Jonathan Bader of WISCAP will be joining us at least until DHS is staffed up later in summer.**
- 3) Celebration of Life for Kitty Kocol April 24th 1-4pm**
 - a) Find details here: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kittykocol>
- 4) Food Benefits and Foodshare updates (Stephanie)**
 - a) Benefits and [FoodShare updates](#) (Stephanie)
 - i) Public Health Emergency Order
 - (1) The current PHE was extended (signed April 12th). The current order will remain in effect until at least July 15, 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.
<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/default.aspx>
 - (2) FoodShare benefits may go an additional month after the end of the PHE. We will know in June if it will end or be extended. The state may be able to get their SNAP emergency allotment plan in for benefits to be distributed through August.
 - ii) FoodShare Benefit Updates
 - (1) Those enrolled in FoodShare, are getting additional FoodShare benefits in April 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 April 23. FoodShare participants will be sent a [letter](#) the week of April 25 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) Second issuance just took place Sat. 4/9 with benefits being made available on Sunday 4/10

- (a) For families receiving benefits for the first time, they are being mailed a new P-EBT card soon with the benefits already loaded onto it
- (b) All families receiving benefits in this round of issuance can also expect to receive a letter in the mail detailing how much each of the eligible children in their household are receiving for each month
- (c) In this issuance, if eligible, families could expect to have received benefits for November and December – with the potential for receiving August-October benefits if they haven't already or if their district had verified that they are due an additional amount for those earlier months
- (d) Total Amount Issued: nearly \$3.4 million
- (e) Total # of Students: 74,522
- (f) Total # of Cases/Households: 52,548

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

- 5) USDA AMS Local Food Purchasing Agreement - Stephanie will invite DATCP to come to one of our upcoming meetings to share details on this.
- 6) **Hunger and Health Summit**: Reimagined Resiliency – April 24-26th at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells

i) **Keynotes Announced:**

Monday, April 25th during the breakfast welcome, Secretary Romanski of DATCP will be joining.

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

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) Thrifty Food Plan

The Thrifty Food Plan – developed by USDA in 1975 – is a complex formula to determine the minimal cost of a nutritious meal plan and, importantly, serves as the basis to determine the amount of household SNAP benefits. The TFP [was last revised in 2006](#). The Thrifty Food Plan has been adjusted only for inflation since the 1970s; FoodShare benefits have not kept up with other significant changes, like evolving dietary guidelines, how food preparation and consumption has changed over recent decades, or the constraints of time-strapped working families. The 2018 Farm Bill directed a revision to the TFP. President Biden called upon USDA to [evaluate TFP](#) to better reflect the nutritional realities of struggling families. Much has changed in understanding nutrition and health in the nearly 50 years since the TFP was designed. In August 2021, the USDA announced the [updated TFP](#) would take effect October 1, 2021, permanently increasing household SNAP benefits by 21 percent. In addition, the revised TFP precipitated an identical increase in TEFAP Entitlement food purchase funds allocated to states in Fed Fiscal 2022.

8) 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.

9) TEFAP Food Flow - past and outlook

- a) TEFAP food volume has declined from its peak pandemic high of 35 million pounds in 2020 to 22 million pounds last year as supplemental funding from Congress has gradually unwound. Current year TEFAP volume is estimated to be 15 million pounds, about 25% higher than historical pre-Covid volume.
- b) TEFAP's 'Build Back Better' (BBB) initiative has included frozen and shelf-stable products as well as significant amounts of fresh milk and mixed fresh produce boxes, which have proven to be quite popular. DHS' partnership with Feeding Wisconsin food banks, independent food banks and Community Action Agencies has made it feasible to distribute these perishable foods more widely and to reach more communities than in the past.

10) TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant

- a) The USDA grant is intended to expand TEFAP's reach into remote, rural, Tribal and low-income areas that are underserved by the program
- b) Federal grant totaling \$50M is offered to TEFAP State Agencies in a competitive process
- c) Wisconsin's TEFAP State Agency applied for \$704,000 in Round 1. Award announcements soon.
 - i) Partnered with WISCAP, UW Extension, Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force to identify underserved areas and onboard at least 20 new food pantries to distribute TEFAP. The proposal included funding to meet some infrastructure needs of the new sites.
- d) Second round to be announced would likely add additional sites and more infrastructure dollars

11) WISCAP Programs to Support Housing

- a) **Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance:** <https://www.wiscap.org/wera>
- b) Home Ownership Program <https://takerootwi.org/>

12) 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
- iv) You can register for the calls to get a calendar invite here: https://secure.everyaction.com/gQfWP1eFGkO-Ri_RQ808IQ2
- v) NEXT CALL - April 14th at 11am

Discussion Notes:

- Discussion of demand
 - Donna Ambrose (The Neighbors' Place, Wausau) - numbers have ebbed and flowed over the pandemic. Last two weeks have seen an increase. Still drive thru. Breaking ground next week on a new facility that will allow drive up and in building distribution.

- Helen Osborn (The River, Madison) - Have seen increase in numbers but no spike yet but expecting it. No significant drop in donations yet either. Still drive thru. Working on messaging—we have enough food, telling guests to take care of their financial needs and lean on them to access food.
- Sandy, Vilas Food Pantry, Eagle River - Are pantries moving back to in person/in building distributions? PPP? - email Cassie
 - Yes, many are and are considering how to do that safely and with the customer in mind. February's monthly call had a good conversation about that topic. See [Written Notes](#) and a [Recording](#)
- Sara Schwartz (Washara) COVID vaccination rate still below 50% in their county so will continue drive through model because it is respectful of people's time. 860 households per week. We do a better job of reaching our customers by doing mobile pantries on the outer edges of the c1700 families (has been as high as 2500)
- Mark Thompson (Sun Prairie) 30-40% increase over last year, number of new households has doubled month to month from 2021 to 2022; partnering with Centro Hispano to do intake (data is not shared with food pantry but it is there if they are audited) and this has led to a great increase in service to Latinx individuals/families
- Stepanie mentioned that there will be a session at the Hunger and Health Summit reporting on the COVID pulse survey and pantry coordinator focus groups “Food Security Since the Onset of the Pandemic: What Have We Learned?” by Judi Bartfeld (UW Madison/UW Extension) and Amy Hilgendorf (UW Madison)
- Yvonne Sharlein (Lakeshore) - Door County participation has increased by 26% since last month. Previously there was too much food and not enough people, now people are needing the food that they have.