



Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
Thursday, May 12, 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) **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 60 days of the end of the current order as to if it will in fact end or be renewed for an additional 90 days.

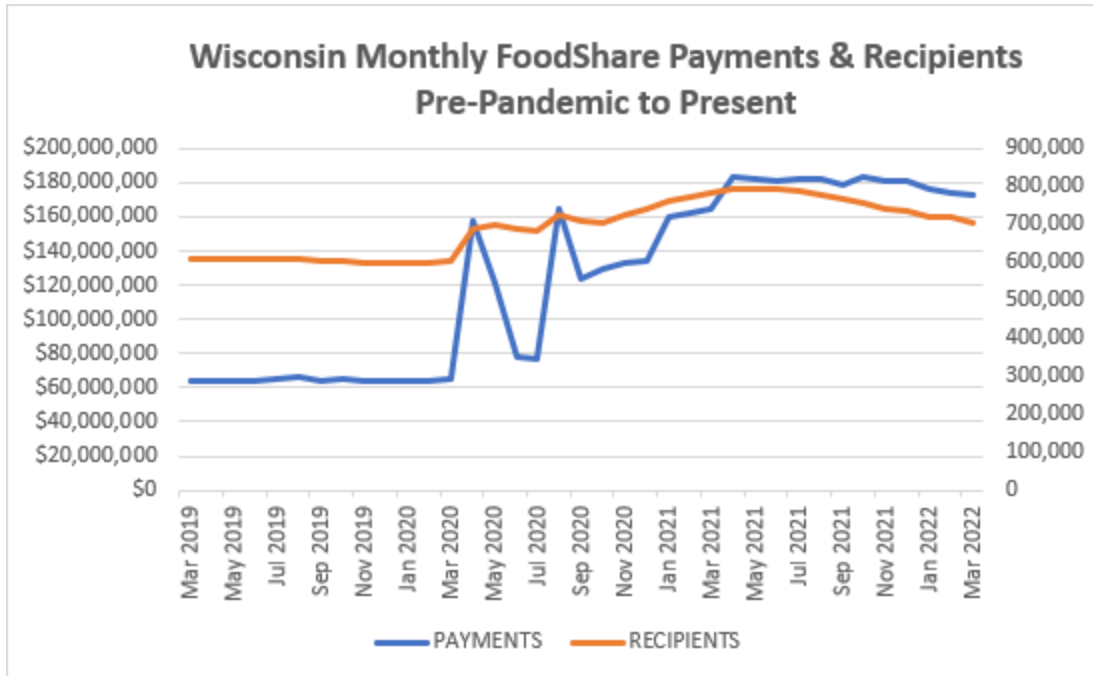
<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/default.aspx>

(2) We should know on May 16th if this will end in July.

(3) 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.

(4) From WISCAP's TEFAP & Food Security Report (May 2022) (Jonathan)

FoodShare Emergency Allotment May End in September. SNAP has provided supplemental benefits known as 'emergency allotments' to families during the current federal and state public health emergencies. However, the Administration has said it plans to end the federal public health emergency soon and will give states 60 days' prior notice. According to the USDA Wisconsin too may soon end its public health emergency in July, with a transition month in August. If this happens, families may see significantly reduced FoodShare benefits in September, especially seniors who often qualify for the minimum benefit. While FoodShare participation has increased 15% compared to before the pandemic, the 'monthly per person benefit' has risen 145% from \$105 to \$245. While not all FoodShare benefit increases will disappear this year - benefits permanently increased 21% last fall when the Thrifty Food Plan was updated - the loss of emergency allotments could reach \$50-\$70 million/month in Wisconsin. This, in turn, could precipitate increased demand for assistance at local food pantries, which can at best only partially replace lost FoodShare resources.



ii) FoodShare Benefit Updates

- (1) Those enrolled in FoodShare, are getting additional FoodShare benefits in May 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 later this month (likely the third weekend). 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 factored with current income and expenses and the updated 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) Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) - School Aged Students

- (1) Issuance coming up this weekend (5/14) – primarily covers the months of January/February, as well as any previously unreported data for earlier months
 - (a) January, February benefits – Issued May 14, 2022
 - (b) March, April benefits – Issued June 18, 2022
 - (c) May, June benefits – Issued July 23, 2022
- (2) Portal re-opens on Monday 5/16 for continued reporting (student attendance/learning info for the months of March/April, as well as any previously unreported data for earlier months)

- (3) 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.
- (4) DHS Flyer: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02667.pdf>
- iv) Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) - Pre-6 Updates
 - (1) DHS has an approved plan for Pre-6 EBT - they are aiming for a July 9th issuance for benefits for all months (September through June)
 - (2) Eligibility Requirements:
 - (a) Any child under 6 years old (as of 9/1/2021)
 - (b) Who is a part of an active FoodShare household
 - (c) Who is not reported as being eligible for School P-EBT benefits
 - (d) As determined by a combination of information from schools (solicited as part of School P-EBT implementation) and FoodShare enrollment data
 - (3) 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
 - (4) More information can be found here:
<https://feedingwi.org/content/Pre6%20Overview%202021-2022.pdf>
- v) Summer P-EBT Updates
 - (1) Guidance released to states 5/10, DHS is beginning discussions now to determine how Summer P-EBT might look in Wisconsin this year
- 3) **[Hunger and Health Summit](#)**: Reimagined Resiliency – April 24-26th at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Please see our Summit Follow Up Page for more information on agenda, speaker information, general session videos, and more: https://feedingwi.org/programs/conferences/2022_summit.php
- 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) **TEFAP Food Flow - past and outlook**
 - a) Wisconsin Entitlement monies are 17% less than expected resulting in an \$850,000 decrease in food purchase funds because Wisconsin is faring better on measures of unemployment and poverty compared to other states.
 - b) Hoping for bonus allocations
- 6) **TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant**
 - a) Intended to expand TEFAP's reach into remote, rural, Tribal and low-income areas that are underserved by the program
 - b) Federal total \$50M of grant funding being provided to TEFAP State Agencies –competitive process
 - c) Wisconsin TEFAP State Agency applied for Round 1

- i) Partnered with WISCAP, UW Extension, Feeding Wisconsin and Hunger Task Force
- d) Second round to be announced that will include some infrastructure dollars
- 7) **DATCP and Tribal Governments submitting Local Food Purchasing Agreement Cooperative Agreement Applications submitted:** <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/lfpacap>
- 8) **WISCAP Programs to Support Housing**
 - a) **Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance:** <https://www.wiscap.org/wera>
 - b) **Home Ownership Program** <https://takerootwi.org/>
- 9) **Ongoing Monthly Calls in 2022**
 - i) Will occur the Second Thursday of the month at 11am
 - ii) Feeding Wisconsin will send out a survey, hopefully before the next call, to learn how best to make these calls useful to you and gather topics for discussion. We would also be happy to bring in outside presenters on topics that are of interest.
 - 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 - June 9th at 11am

Discussion Notes:

- Donna Neighbor's Place - sourcing meat
 - Waukesha County Food Pantry
 - Donations from trucking companies (talking to dispatchers)- rejected loads
- Elizabeth Seefeldt - Do you have any training and recommendations regarding reopening after curbside services for so long?
 - February call recording might be helpful: https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_call_notes.php
 - Centering client choice
 - DHS will likely release guidance
- Rental Assistance Flyer - Jonathan will look to find a digital copy
- Sara Schwartz - Marty Lee has shared the impact of the network and sharing of documentary