



**Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
Thursday, June 9th, 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) Healthy School Meals for All (Maureen Fitzgerald and Nicole) [Slide Deck PDF](#)

- a) The Healthy School Meals For All Coalition was started this year to ensure that no child goes to school hungry in WI. We are hoping everyone who cares about childhood hunger will join our coalition.
- b) Goals of the coalition:
 - i) Help all children get the nutrition they need to succeed at school
 - ii) Create permanent change to make school meals free for all children
 - iii) Join a national conversation about this topic
- c) Who's involved: elected officials, school districts, school nutrition services, food banks, food pantries, churches, professional associations (nursing, public health, social workers), non-profits, shelters, etc.
- d) What we're doing:
 - i) Ensuring no child is hungry at school
 - ii) Advocating for change at a state-wide level to adapt healthy school meals for all, across the state of Wisconsin, after the public health emergency ends
 - iii) Utilizing members to make change happen at a local level, in their community
- e) Why should you get involved?
 - i) School meals have been free to ALL students since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to see this be a permanent change, so all students have access to healthy meals
 - ii) Providing school meals shows commitment to children's health and school-work by allowing children to not worry about where their next meal may come from
 - iii) You know your local communities best- help create change by leveraging local partners, elected officials, and advocates in your community to create a more meaningful change
- f) How to get involved:
 - i) Fill out this [SURVEY](#)
 - ii) Check out our coalition [WEBSITE](#) for more information

3) Child Nutrition Waiver Updates and Action Alert (Megan Timm) [Slide Deck PDF](#)

- a) Child Nutrition Reauthorization
 - i) Action Alert One Pager: <https://feedingwi.org/content/CNR%20Action%20Alert.pdf>
 - ii) Action Form: <https://secure.everyaction.com/JVyyRNJcUUq8xDIYA5o5vg2>
- b) Support Kids Not Red Tape Act
 - i) Action Alert One Pager: <https://feedingwi.org/content/Support%20Kids%20not%20Red%20Tape%20Action%20Alert.pdf>
 - ii) Action Form: <https://secure.everyaction.com/nzi-MUJcfk6oKclGWst1LQ2>

4) Benefits and [FoodShare updates](#)

- a) Public Health Emergency Order
 - i) The most important message from the DHS is:
 - (1) We [Wisconsin DHS] did not get notice on May 16, 2022 that the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) would end in 60 days.
 - (2) Our federal partners have confirmed our working assumption that the PHE will be extended through mid-October 2022.
 - (3) 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.
 - ii) So, the PHE will not end in July - with many of the final PHE-related benefits to arrive in August). It now appears likely that the PHE will end in October - with many of the final enhanced benefits to end in November.
 - iii) FoodShare Benefit Updates
 - (1) Those enrolled in FoodShare, are getting additional FoodShare benefits in June 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 June 11th. 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.
 - iv) School P-EBT Updates
 - (1) Portal closing on Friday 6/3, then benefits for primarily March and April P-EBT Eligible Days will be issued on Saturday 6/20
 - (2) As of the end of last week, for the 2021-2022 year, DHS has issued nearly \$14.6 million as part of our School P-EBT program
 - (3) Nearly 312k students have been entered into our Portal (across 2,121 NSLP and/or SBP schools statewide)

- (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
- v) Pre-6 P-EBT Updates
 - (1) Planning for a July 9th issuance for benefits for all months (September through June)
 - (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
- vi) Summer P-EBT Updates
 - (1) DHS and DPI have submitted their plan to FNS.

5) 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.

6) TEFAP Reach and Resiliency Grant - Awarded!

- 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) Formula shortage and needs - request for information

- a) WAFER (La Crosse): We received a pallet of the most commonly used formula, publicized to the community, and it is not moving as fast as we had expected.
- b) Oshkosh Area Community Pantry: 2.5 pallets months ago and hasn't moved as quickly as anticipated. Need is still there. Partnership with Winnebago health connecting WIC participants

8) Pantry Call Survey

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_1OQBeEzhTfBvDoG4MI6rXQjDUFHIXAIRUyoDERqfU65Kyw/viewform

9) Ongoing Monthly Calls in 2022

- i) Will occur the Second Thursday of the month at 11am
- ii) Please complete this [Pantry Call Survey](#) to share with us your thoughts on the structure and content of these monthly calls.

- 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 - July 14th at 11am

Discussion Notes:

- Erin Waldhart from WAFER in La Crosse, we have been getting lots of questions about returning to in person shopping. Our facility is too small to accommodate for distance. Considered certain days by appointment with proof of vaccination, but then i wonder if that is discriminatory and violates TEFAP guidelines.
- Sarah Bogen: Is your pantry open for in person shopping? If so, how are you handling capacity?
 - Oshkosh: rounds of 15–15 shoppers in the store and 15 in the waiting room with a queue outside (average shopping 10-20 minutes; always have waiting periods)
- Liz Seefeldt BRICK Ministry: Has anyone upgraded their HVAC to all-HEPA filtered air?
 - Middleton Outreach Ministry offices were able to upgrade the HVAC, but we have not been able to do that in the larger Pantry/Warehouse area.
- How are pantries managing in person/choice shopping? Does anyone use an online ordering system for participants?
 - MOM uses a google form for home deliveries - only for those who are signed up for the delivery program; not all who receive food as they are serving 200 families a week. Sarah@momhelps.org
 - Kathleen Hansen: We have a shopping sheet that we give people in line and shop for them and some people still ask for a prefixed box and the extras. Extras are potatoes, onions, fruit, dairy, hygiene, bakery.
 - Lindsey CAC: variety of distribution of their partners - outdoor scheduled no contact, in person shopping, having volunteers doing shopping based on folks filling out a paper menu as they are waiting in their car
- Eagle River - created a shopping list for drive up pick up; not yet open to in-person shopping
 - Q: Can a TEFAP distributing pantry require vaccination?
 - Q: No deliveries in area June; is there an alternative delivery date for pick up in Arbor Vitae