Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call
Hosted by Feeding Wisconsin and TEFAP
Thursday, February 9th, 2022

More information: https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php

Notes and recordings can be found here: https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_call_notes.php

1. **Introductions: please type your name, food pantry/organization in the chat**

2. **TEFAP Updates (Carol Johnson, WI DHS) - no updates**

3. **WISCAP Updates (Jonathan Bader) - no updates**

4. FoodShare Update -
   a. Extra FoodShare benefits are ending February 2023
      i. FoodShare members have been getting an extra $80 million dollars in additional benefits each month because of a federal program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those extra benefits have been provided separately from members' regular monthly benefits. The federal government is ending that program. Starting March 1, 2023, members will only get their regular FoodShare benefits.
      ii. Benefit issuance
         ● Extra SNAP Benefits will be dispersed 2/18/2023
         ● Catchup run for January FoodShare Applicants is 3/11/2023
         ● Catchup run for February FoodShare Applicants is 4/8/2023
         ● Public Health Emergency will conclude Thursday, 5/11/2023
      iii. Notes from last month's call: https://feedingwi.org/content/Wisconsin%20Food%20Pantry%20Conference%20Call%20Notes%201.12.2023.docx.pdf
   b. Policies attached to the Public Health Emergency - both to go back into effect at the first renewal for individuals that the policy might apply to.
      i. College Student Eligibility: https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/02242021.htm
      ii. Drug Testing - For FoodShare eligibility purposes, a drug felon is a person (adult or a minor) who is convicted of a felony in a state or federal court involving the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance within the last 5 years. Convicted drug felons must have a negative drug test result (pass) to become eligible for FS. Drug felons that test positive (fail) for controlled substances will be sanctioned.

5. **Open Conversation**

    a. **Question about how to direct individuals to other resources**

        i. GetAQUESTCard.org: https://www.getaquestcard.org/program-changes

        ii. ACCESS Wisconsin: https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/ - screener that will help direct individuals to programs they might be eligible for

        iii. 2-1-1 Wisconsin: https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/

        iv. FoodWise/UW Extension: https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/programs/foodwise/

    b. Oregon Area Food Pantry: Healthcare companies coming by to access pantry guests

        i. TEFAP guidelines would not allow pantries to provide lists of pantry guests' names. Suggestion to ask them to provide a donation and leave materials.

    c. Prior to any changes in FoodShare, some pantries are an increase in pantry participation. Specifically an increase in families with children who are also showing deeper need for resources. Some low-wage working families have expressed a challenge in no longer receiving free school meals and are just above the threshold for free/reduced price meal eligibility.

        i. https://www.healthyschoolmealsforallwi.org/

        ii. Make sure if you school is eligible for Community Eligibility Provision

        iii. Vilas - FORK Feed Our Rural Kids

            ● Started pantries in schools, library, and town hall providing nonperishable items

6. **Ongoing Monthly Calls in 2023**

    a. Will occur the Second Thursday of the month at 11am

    b. You can find more information, including call recordings and meeting notes on the Feeding Wisconsin website: https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_network_engagement.php

    c. Notes can be found here: https://feedingwi.org/programs/pantry_call_notes.php

    d. You can register for the calls to get a calendar invite here: https://secure.everyaction.com/gQfwP1eFGkO-Ri_RQ808IQ2

    e. NEXT CALL - March 9th at 11am

    f. Please watch for a new login and potentially new frequency of calls.

Thank you all for joining the call and for all that you do to support ending hunger in your community.