

COVID-19 Check-In Meeting Notes

Friday October 2, 2020

Participants: ~36 participants

Agenda

Schedule: Friday – Contractor Only Meeting - Once every other week (Bi-Monthly)

FA Updates: Federal Budgets & Possible CARES Funding Round 4; CFAP; F2FB Application Opens Oct. 5, 2020 & Closes Oct. 23, 2020; Brief Food Update; Communications: What shared messaging is needed (3 NGO's; Contractors; WSDA etc.) – What topics? Transition; CFAP; Guidance/Policies (Bad weather example) etc.

Discussion: Part 1: Moving back inside safely – WFC Trish Twomey & Barb Shimizu (SKCFC)
Part 2: Report back on Part 1; Will be held at the Oct. 6th Mtg.

Next Mtgs.: Tuesday, October 6th 9:00 am – General Focus
Tuesday, October 13th 9:00 am FA Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 13th 10:30 am WFC Board Meeting
Friday, October 16th 9:00 am – Contractor Only

Kim:

- Federal budgets: Contractors should have received amendments for CSFP funds, TEFAP and TMP. CSFP and TEFAP are preliminary budgets based on previous year's base budgets. We may not know the final budget until April or May, but a continuing resolution was passed. Feeding America is an advocate for increasing TEFAP, so we'll keep you posted as that moves forward. TMP funds in the amendment are phase 4 and are final numbers. *Please see slides in the posted PowerPoint for budget numbers
- Potential 4th round of CARES funding, nothing solid yet. We have put forward several requests to extend CARES funding and understand that the timelines are difficult. We'll keep you posted on that.
- CFAP, we sent out an email on Wednesday for feedback on what you know now for the round 3 CFAP. We have consolidated that info and included that in our response to the Governor's Office for release to the Washington State Congressional Delegation which was delivered this morning. Still lots of unknowns about CFAP, but we will share with you as we learn more.
- Farm to Food Bank (FTFB) application opens 10/5 and goes through 10/23. May not be until the latter part of November when we get an actual final budget.
<https://agr.wa.gov/services/food-access/programs-and-services/ftfb>
- Lindsey in the chat box: Compensation for CFAP services?

- Kim: What should have changed in Round 3 was that vendors were to include in their bids funding that would also go to hunger relief organizations to take care of that last distribution point costs (to the client). This doesn't seem to have happened. Some hunger relief organizations received some compensation but many others didn't. If you are receiving CFAP and do not receive funding from the vendor, then it seems fair to at least raise that as a discussion point.

James:

- Fresh material inspections: for the foreseeable future, from October on...the only products that will need to be inspected at the destination are pears and plums, but plums were cancelled, so no inspections until pears are received which will probably be next year probably March or April.
- New indirect, direct sheets and BOLs for October were sent out. After sending it out, we got some cancellations; some eggs but not all, split peas, whole kernel corn, shrimp, almonds, canned pork products. Will send an updated list to those who are affected by these cancellations. Questions, please call James

Trish Twomey (WFC) & Barb Shimizu (SKCFC):

- Questions, concerns or challenges you or your subcontractors are having as we move into colder weather. This will help reform public health guidance.
 - Mike Cohen (to Everyone): 9:19 AM: One of our subcontractors moved back inside without consulting public health. Others are considering and appear to letting weather, not the virus making the decision. Each food bank is different sized and there appears to be very little guidance.
Total number of people in a space with no ventilation over a certain period of time, especially small spaces. How does the guidance from DOH translate to a food pantry? People moving through a food bank space are different than staff/volunteers who come in contact with many folks, even if they're masked. More interested in hearing from public health officials than our best guesses are or have been to move people inside.
Trish: Barb will be sharing on Tuesday some ways they've been successful in keeping their operation indoors and some of those measures they've taken.
 - Lindsey: capacity is an issue, client count has doubled, so we wouldn't have enough hours in the week to safely bring everyone through. 5 locations just of our own and each one has such different considerations, so any hand holding that's available is welcomed to help weigh all of the risks. Staffing is a concern, so what does adequate staffing look like since we're increasing the risk and responsibility to navigate these additional challenges.

- Jeff Mathias (to Everyone): 9:23 AM: BMAC will be purchasing parkas and pressing on with drive-through distributions. We will have limited canopies.
 - Mallorie: how many canopies are you planning to use and do you feel like it's sufficient? What is your ideal number?
 - Jeff: we don't have an ideal number yet, we're going to see what works and we'll meet the situation day by day.
 - Mike: beware of wind with those canopies! Been working with canopies, and even though they were double-weighted, one got lifted off the ground with the wind and we had a tent flying around with metal poles. So now figuring out how to tie them down better in wind storms. This is difficult with mobile sites.
 - Penny: have used canopies several times, you can buy them from a company that comes with weights. We've used propane heaters, and by the time a person has gotten close to them, their parka is melting before they're even getting warm, but they do work well in canopies.
 - Emily: looking into getting a metal structure to do distribution, but the cost is prohibitive.
- Is compliance with safety practices and not wanting to wear masks something you need help or guidance with?
 - Lindsey: most people are doing ok with that now, but we're not allowing them inside, so how do we take on that level of responsibility?
 - Trish: so perhaps more clear guidance that you can post and share to back you up would be helpful?
 - Lindsey: yeah, that would be great
- Barb: there is a lot of guidance that's already in existence and materials that we can share.
 - Mallorie: there is a lot of guidance coming from L&I, various releases from CDC and DOH. Part of this process will be working with DOH to determine what is relevant to hunger relief organizations as well as recommended vs. required.
- Trish: if you are remaining outside, are there concerns, challenges, etc? (no responses)
 - We want to know what is the best way to get you updated guidance? How would you like that information provided?
- Barb: we did go through all the guidance we could from CDC, WSDA, King Co. PH, so by the time the phase 2 guidance came out, we were already doing all of what was in there with the exception of adding the sneeze guards for front desk and front line. Have since put those in. Based on that guidance, we put together a detailed breakdown and would be happy to share.
 - Chris Hatch (to Everyone): 9:34 AM: One pagers and FAQ sheet
 - Jeanette Cruz (to Everyone): 9:35 AM: Yes, an informational guide would be wonderful to be able to send out. To the point, important highlights.
 - Lindsey Robinson (to Everyone): 9:36 AM: The specific scenarios are most helpful for me. Helps put the ideas into tangible form.
- Trish: our next steps? We've heard your concerns, will talk to folks on Tuesday's call, hear

from some of the pantries directly, to get more scenarios. We'll put this together and meet with WSDA, share issues and questions with public health and update guidance. I will put this all together in an easy to understand format. We'll also be hosting volunteer related calls coming up.

- Thank you all for sharing and if you think of anything else, you can share that with me or WSDA. trish@wafoocoalition.org 206-729-0501
- Josh Martinez (to Everyone): 9:37 AM: Is there a DOH or county-level hotline that people can call if they have questions?
 - Yes, it's in the newsletter, but I will double check it's still operational
- Kim: this project will be administered by Trish and we're just helping to provide the funding and coordination. Just to be clear this is a project of WFC. Tuesday's meeting will be a part 2 of what we talked about today. If there are any other folks who have guidance, that would be helpful to share with Trish.
 - Are there things we can do with messaging that would be helpful for you? Is there anything you think that the NGOs, contractors and WSDA can help with? What topics? Transitions? CFAP? Guidance/policies?
 - Sarah BK (to Everyone): 9:45 AM: Hi, Kim - Because the 3 NGOs put out a joint statement at the start of the partnership, a joint message about ending would be beneficial. Thanks!
 - Review of coming meetings (see top of document)
 - Closing remarks, thank you and we continue to appreciate what you do!