

COVID-19 Weekly Tuesday Call  
Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2020

Updates:

Katie Rains from Food Security Coordination Team – Working on planning and preparing on final quarter of 2020. Working with OFM on funding plans. Has been collecting feedback from Contractors and Hunger Relief Organizations on what funding would be helpful as well as providing feedback on the emergency food boxes. If you have not yet had the chance to give feedback on either of those topics, please reach out to Katie soon a [krains@agr.wa.gov](mailto:krains@agr.wa.gov).

Washington Food Coalition – Have markers available for supporting social distancing from United Health Care. Lots of information in the daily COVID-19 newsletters.

Harvest Against Hunger – Funding is still available through the Refrigerated Storage Rebate program. About \$89k has been committed already since 7/1/2020 to support increasing cold storage. There is still some funding remaining though so apply if you have an eligible expense.

Proposal to switch to every other Tuesday calls, rather than every Tuesday. No call on 9/1/2020 or 9/4/2020. We did get some feedback from folks on the call but wanted to check-in again. Sounds like folks are okay with switching to every other week, and will stagger it with the bi-weekly Friday Contractor-only calls. We will send out an updated calendar invite finalizing a change and the new dates for meetings soon.

Kim will be sending out an email asking for feedback in response to the FA funding proposals that are moving forward to the legislature (reviewed in last week's Tuesday meeting). If you support the funding asks, it is very helpful to have it noted which stakeholders are in support of the increased funding requests that we are trying to move forward.

WSDA Food Assistance Team is working on a funding source document which will be a singular summary of all of the different funds that have been released, effective dates on those funds, and the amount of funds each contractor was awarded. We hope it will be helpful as Contractors try to track on a plethora of new funding pools.

Reviewed a current overview of client data comparing 2019 client numbers to 2020 from Mar-June. Also looked at just the data from EFAP and TEFAP collected between March and June. On that chart, Signers is the individual who picked up for their Household. The "Members" column represents the total number of people who are in each Household. We are still working on finalizing the data and are trying to keep this information as up to date as possible. We compared both TEFAP reported data, and EFAP data. We think the EFAP data is overall less accurate to what we are seeing. For EFAP, We saw increases in Client Pounds of food (per distribution) and Household Counts. We think the number of individual clients served and Returning vs. New client counts are not accurate to what is actually happening statewide.

- Some considerations when looking at this data is that people received stimulus checks, and enhanced weekly unemployment benefits, along with increased SNAP benefits – all of which might have impacted client numbers.
- We will be very careful as we move forward with trying to reconcile the data between EFAP and TEFAP.
- We will reach out to some Contractors to clarify data if we have specific questions or feel like there are some errors in data that was submitted to us to try to clarify what, if any, adjustment to the data might be needed.

Please do outreach for Pandemic EBT! More info is available here: <https://www.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/press-releases/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-resources/nutrition-meals-guidance/pandemic-ebt-guidance-school-districts>

- You can reach out to Claire Lane if you have questions or want ideas on how to share this information.
- From Claire in the Chat during the meeting: There are 218,000 low income kids who have not yet enrolled in Pandemic EBT - the deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 11. Kids who received free/reduced price school meals last spring are eligible for up to \$399 PER CHILD -- but families need to fill out an application at [www.WashingtonConnection.org](http://www.WashingtonConnection.org) or by phone at (877) 501-2233.
- This is not a public charge, and will not impact immigration status for recipients of these benefits.

TEFAP Food data: We are expecting some significant gaps and decreases in food coming from USDA in 2021 and 2022, in comparison to the food we are seeing coming in from 2020. We are particularly worried about the January-March 2021 timeframe when we anticipate still seeing high client numbers. WSDA will continue to monitor these projections.