

COVID-19 Check-In Meeting Notes
Tuesday July 14, 2020

Participants: ~61 participants

Agenda

Schedule: Tuesday – General Focus; Once per Week

Updates: Governor's Office: Katie Rains

WFC: Trish Twomey

HAH: David Bobanick (Rebate status - 24 requests totaling \$44,400 so far.)

FA Updates: General Updates; TEFAP DHD Status July 2 – July 16; Online Map; New EFAP Cares Funding Amendments July 20 – Contractor Flexibility; Future Planning; Food Purchasing Sources/Vendors; Client Intake (self-declaration vs documentation); FA Advisory Meeting July 17th 9:00 am followed by WFC Board Meeting at approx. 10:30 am.

Q&A – Questions, Group Discussions – Updates? Topics?

Tuesday July 21st @ 9:00 am – General updates

Updates

- **Katie Rains:** Governor's office has requested title 32 through the end of the year, awaiting a decision. Working with the State Workforce Assoc. who received \$12M for dislocated workers. Administered through local workforce development councils at the regional level. May not be enough to fill all the need, but please contact Katie if you need additional assistance. Thank you for your feedback on the emergency food boxes. Need estimates at the county level on how many clients are being served in anticipation of another federal relief package.
- **Trish Twomey:** FA advisory meeting this Friday 9-10:30. Invite in the newsletter. Followed by the WFC board meeting 10:30-12:45pm. Welcoming 6 new board members! Bringing attention to the article written by Claire Lane in the WFC Quarterly Newsletter: in regards to the public safety net programs and how they're adjusting to the pandemic.
- **HAH: Rebate status** - 24 requests totaling \$44,400 so far. Opportunities for more rebates. You may apply for a second rebate if it's for a different piece of equipment than was previously purchased using the HAH rebate funds.
- **Emily Hovis DOH:** Phase 2 guidelines updates - COVID-19 Guidelines for Restaurants (this guidance also applies to meal programs): <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/DiningAreaClosureGuidance.pdf>. Increase in case numbers impacting meal programs and food pantries. More information on face coverings through L&I: Which Mask for Which Task? – <https://www.lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F414-168-000.pdf>

COVID-19 Guidelines for Food Pantries will be updated later this week: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVID-19FoodPantriesPhase2Guidelines.pdf>

- **Kim Eads:**

- **No DHD extension response received yet:** Continuing to operate as if we were approved.
- **Site map:** We have time and resources to create a custom map. Accepting requests for different types of information folks would want to see on our map.
- **New EFAP CARES funding:** these are federal funds. Some folks are reaching the federal audit territory ~over \$750,000.
- **“Year 2 CARES Stabilization” EFAP and EFAP Tribal** – See PowerPoint for amounts totaling \$3.2M. Amendments going out 7/20:
 - Funding tracked separate from your regular SFY21 EFAP allocation & “Year 1 CARES” allocations for stabilization (4/1/20 - 10/31/20) and Targeted Capacity (4/1/20-9/15/20)
 - July 1, 2020 – November 30, 2020 (this end date has been finalized since the meeting)
 - What’s allowable? Flexibility!
 - Salaries & Benefits –for additional/increased staffing; replace loss of National Guard/Volunteers
 - Goods & Services (supplies, equipment) –expenses for the change in distribution methods, sanitizing practices, and social distancing requirement compliance
 - Capacity Improvements
 - Food Purchases –to meet additional need in your communities
 - **Things to remember:**
 - These are federal funds: CFDA # 21.019
 - **Deadlines:**
 - Funds must be spent by **November 30, 2020**
 - Final invoice due to WSDA no later than **December 10, 2020**
- **Planning for the Future – Cliffs**
 - October 2020: FFY 2021 TEFAP & CSFP Budgets
 - Possibly No Final Budgets until April of 2021
 - Continuing Resolutions
 - December 2020:
 - Likely end of CARES funding
 - Likely end of TMP foods
 - Likely end of CFAP boxes, if extended (Sept. – Dec)
 - January 2021 – September 2021:
 - If no change, there will be a significant decrease in TEFAP Foods. More information to come on what this will mean.

- State Leg. request being made to address some of these “cliffs”. May want to look into more food purchasing at least the first quarter (Oct.-Dec.) of FFY 2021.
- **Some food purchase options**
 - Charlie’s Produce - able to use your funding to procure fresh boxes
 - AMI Airline Food – meals and shelf-stable pantry boxes. Second round in August
 - The Outreach Program (we have not worked with them; do your research if interested). Have done several FEMA presentation and work with other state agencies. Worked in conjunction with the Iowa State University Food Science and Human Nutrition Department, Outreach developed seven varieties of meals to be culturally appropriate. Website: <https://outreachprogram.org/>. Contact: Vicki Hover-Williamson Cell: 515.314.7545 or vicki@outreachprogram.org
 - Shelf-stable: Each sealed package has a shelf life of two years.
 - Low cost: Each package provides six servings for \$.33 per serving.
 - **Option 1:** Meals packaged by type on pallet, the food pantry’s choice of variety. 24 pallets @ 55 boxes (285,120 meals) per truckload \$14,256 + shipping; 216 packages per box/66 boxes per pallet/20 pallets per truckload.
 - **Option 2:** Meals packaged into Pantry Packs that contain an assortment of Outreach’s 7 varieties. Each Pantry Pack is ready for distribution and measures 12.5 x 9.5 x 5 inches and weighs less than six pounds. 26 pallets @ 195 Pantry Packs x 13 high (212,940 meals) per truckload \$10,640 + shipping.
- **Client intake (self-declaration vs. documentation):** TEFAP – documentation is not required. Some pantries are requiring documentation which is not necessary. We have allowed you to request information, but **cannot** require. Take a look at what documentation you require and assess the impact to clients.

Comments:

Wayne Shorter: How do we access the funds for labor?

- The EFAP CARES funding can be used to cover labor costs.

Bellingham Food Bank: I think we will need support with purchased food from either the state, NWH, or FLL to help with the loss of TEFAP food. I don't think local donations will be able to meet up with the loss and economic forecasts and COVID forecasts are quite scary for the upcoming winter.

- Continuing efforts to do purchasing, Director Sandison has created a strategic warehouse to start building a supply of food. In addition, we have augmented the supply of TEFAP food at least through the July-Sept period. Should additional federal funding come through, some of that would be in the form of food. Discussions with the 3 NGOs continuing on what that would look like in the future. We’re all aware of what that need will be and planning now is critical in getting those funding sources in line.

Richard Reynolds: What would be the best way for us to determine if the clients coming to our pantries are currently residents of the area we serve?

- Relying on the self-declaration, but don't need proof from the client. You can help someone connect to a pantry that is in their area, but still provide them food.

Trish Twomey: Any news when NWH, FLL or 2nd Harvest will have their food purchasing programs up and running again?

- Katie Rains: talking today about time frames. Intention to reopen their pre-Covid ordering system which might look a bit different. Will keep folks posted as more information is received.

Bellingham Food Bank: FLL had a positive COVID test so it may be delayed. They've halted operations this week for cleaning