



COVID-19 Check In Meeting Notes Friday September 18, 2020

Agenda:

- Wildfire Response
- USDA TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Meeting Sept. 24th 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Pilots – AMI & Charlie's Produce
- Federal Audit Threshold – Impact Subcontractors
- Questions, Group Discussions – Updates? Topics? Struggles? Successes?

Wildfire Response:

Wildfires have affected many of our contractors and subcontractors throughout the state. WSDA worked with the following organizations/tribes to support emergency needs: Colville Tribes, Okanogan Community Action Council, Council on Aging and Human Services, Chelan Douglas Community Action. Inquiries were also made to Emergency Food Network, Clark County Food Bank and Washington Gorge Action Programs. Thanks to Harvest Against Hunger for coordinating donated trucking from Peninsula Trucking and Wilson Logistics. Thanks also goes out to 2nd Harvest and OIC of Washington for pulling orders from their inventory to meet this need. Director Sandison providing updates to the state EOC and the Governor's office to ensure timely coordination. If your organization wants to donate food to the areas impacted, please be sure to keep James Scovel in the loop as USDA has rules regarding the transfer of food. WSDA was able to provide additional funding for impacted areas. In Whitman County, we were able to provide funding for refrigeration units to the Rosalia food bank where residents of Malden were being served. We were also able to provide funding for the purchase of a refrigerated van to help with future mobile food pantries. Currently there have been no other requests for support.

USDA TEFAP Farm to Food Bank FFY21:

WSDA will be holding an informational meeting about the 2021 Farm to Food Bank (FTFB) Projects. Not a ton of funding is available, we expect the funding level for the state to be anywhere from \$148k – 180k. The focus for FTFB is the harvesting, processing, packaging, or transport of donated commodities. The purpose of the new program is to Reduce Food Waste by capturing donated food, provide food to those who need it, and build relationships between hunger relief organizations and agricultural producers, processors and distributors.

The program started last year. Initially WSDA intended to administer the projects through an open application process. However, USDA did not issue guidance until March of 2020, with limited time to implement projects. Because of these limitations, and the craziness that has ensued with the Coronavirus, WSDA targeted areas in which these activities were already being implemented through our Farm to Food Pantry initiative.

For the 2021 Projects we are following our original intent and opening the process to all of our contractors. We will be utilizing Survey Monkey to receive grant applications. We will open the application up within the next week or so. More details, including the informational meeting link, will be sent via email Monday 9/21/20. The application will only be open to WSDA TEFAP, EFAP, EFAP Tribal, and CSFP Contractors that currently hold a direct contract. The resulting food must be distributed through TEFAP channels (i.e. subcontracted food pantries, and tribal food pantries). Awardees must supply 100% match which can be either cash or in kind. USDA has not yet issued the award amount. Once the notification is sent, and we know the final dollar amount we will select the awardees. We anticipate this will be sometime in mid- October. All projects will need to be completed by September 30, 2021. The lead on this project will be Nichole Garden. If you have questions, you can contact her at 360-515-6875.



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Pilots – AMI & Charlie’s Produce:

We are placing the final AMI, airline food, order. We anticipate this order should be received in the latter part of October. The order lists have been emailed to all participating contractors. Please send your orders back to Kim by September 23.

An email will go out after this meeting for participating Charlie’s Produce organizations to develop the schedule and quantity of fresh produce boxes for the October through December timeframe. We do think we will have funding to continue this pilot until December 31, 2020. We plan on expanding to other areas. Because the third round of CFAP Farmers to Families boxes are going to be distributed at the same time, we need to be mindful to not impact the system too much. Our intentions are for the Charlie’s pilot to fill gaps and complement what your organizations need. We understand there is a large amount of TEFAP and TMP products lately that requires refrigerated and frozen storage and we want to be mindful of the impact that this additional produce might have on your infrastructure.

Federal Audit Threshold – Impact Subcontractors:

As a reminder a Uniform Guidance audit (single audit) is required if an organization received \$750,000 total in federal funding, including the dollar value of commodities. With the large amount of federal funding that was provided in response to COVID-19 it is important that contractors review what was given to their subcontractors over this year. Keep in mind all CARES funds are federal funds. Single audits cost around \$30,000. TEFAP funds can be utilized to pay for the audit for TEFAP contractors and subcontractors required to have a Uniform Guidance audit.

EFAP Closeout Report:

We have begun developing our annual EFAP closeout report. If your organization or tribe still needs to submit their closeout, please do so soon. We know that this year will look very different as far as client numbers go due to the change in the distribution methods and the waiver of our normal intake requirements during the peak of the pandemic. Once we have all data in and a basic outline of the report, we hope to further our discussions with you on how we address the data deficits.

Expirations of Other Funding Coming Soon:

- TEFAP, TEFAP CARES, TEFAP FFCRA, and CSFP funding closes September 30, 2020. Please ensure you spend down all funds.
- EFAP CARES Stabilization Y1 expires October 31, 2020, EFAP CARES Stabilization Y2, EFAP CARES Targeted Capacity Y1, EFAP CARES Targeted Capacity Y1, expires November 30, 2020.

If your organization is not able to spend down your entire allocation, please reach out to your regional rep as soon as possible.

Questions, Group Discussions – Updates? Topics? Struggles? Successes?

- **CFAP Farmers to Families Boxes - Round 3**
 - A list of companies granted CFAP contracts for round three can be found here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box/approved-contractors-round-three>.
 - There was a requirement this go around to make sure the program follows the original intent to go from the farmer to the trunk of client’s cars. There is supposed to be some compensation to hunger relief organizations that are providing direct to customer service.
 - Brent Hunter (Coastal Harvest) believes each vendor awarded a contract is assigned counties that are underserved or did not receive any boxes in the past.
 - WSDA carried forward our contractor feedback to USDA in hope to help program improvements



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- We hear your feedback that you would have rather kept the produce local. As a reminder, our current legislative request includes supporting local produce purchasing. We are still seeking support for our legislative request - please provide feedback to Kim Eads.

- **Reopening of Distribution Sites to the Public**

- Contractor would like to hear from the Department of Health to help support organizations transition from drive through distributions to coming back into the building if they desire.
- The Washington Food Coalition has partnered with the Department of Health and will be presenting on the newly revised WA Food Code. They are also working in collaboration with South King County food Coalition on a "What's Next" presentation.

- **FA Advisory Meeting**

Michelle Douglas (Emergency Food Network) asks that you please join the FA Advisory Meeting. This is a critical time for the committee. There will be conversations that discuss documentation needed, client data reported, etc. We want to hear from your organizations and hear how changes may impact you!

- **Lack of Storage**

So much food is coming in right now and the need for storage is high. How are organizations dealing with this level of food and space constrictions? How do other organizations move food forward to subcontractors who also may have limited storage?

James noted that the TEFAP replacement had low visibility issues with USDA. James is working on improving this process. TEFAP and TMP loads, trucks are required to make a delivery appointment 72 hours in advance. If they do not make an appointment, you are allowed to receive that load when the time and space allows. If a truck comes early, you can ask the driver to come back at their scheduled time or accommodate them if you have the time. If this happens, it is important that you contact James so he can notify USDA and help keep the food moving. We are close to 1,500 trucks this year, which is a considerable increase over the last two years. We are at a point we cannot be as flexible as we used to be.

Future Meetings:

- Need a Contractor Presenter for October 6th meeting
- Schedule:
 - Tuesday, September 22nd
 - Food Security Coordination Update – 9 am
 - WFC - Understanding the Changes to the WA Food Code – 10 am:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/809174509>
 - Thursday, September 24th 2:00 pm – USDA TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Mtg.
 - Friday, October 2nd 9:00 am – Contractor Only
 - Tuesday, October 6th 9:00 am – General Focus
 - Tuesday, October 13th - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/420851413>
 - 9:00 am - FA Advisory Committee
 - 10:30 am WFC Board Meeting