

Wisconsin Food Pantry Conference Call Notes, Friday, October 9, 2020

Kitty is out of the office taking some much-deserved time off.

COVID-19 Update:

- Wisconsin continues to be a hot spot in the COVID-19 pandemic. Every part of the state now has high or very high disease activity levels, with widespread community transmission.
- On October 6, 2020 Governor Evers issued Emergency Order #3, limiting public gatherings to slow the rapid spread of COVID-19. This went in effect Thursday, October 8th.
 - The order prohibits groups larger than 25% of the indoor room's occupancy, as determined by the local municipality.
 - While we would continue to encourage outdoor, drive/walk-up distribution, this order does have an exemption for Human services operations—including businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, or other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.
 - Emergency Order: <https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/COVID19/EmO03-LimitingPublicGatherings.pdf>
 - FAQ: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02792.pdf>
 - Complete list of exemptions: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WIGOV/2020/10/06/file_attachments/1564232/EmO03-LimitingPublicGatherings.pdf

Feeding Wisconsin COVID-19 Pantry Client Food Insecurity Survey: Feeding Wisconsin continues work with a team of UW researchers to better understand food insecurity and unique barriers Wisconsin households are facing during COVID-19. This bilingual (English/Spanish) survey will be conducted in October 2020 as the demand for food pantry services is expected to peak at this time. Flyers are now being distributed to pantries for distribution to pantry guests between next week and November 20th. The flyers direct individuals to an on-line survey. Food pantries will receive these in one of a few ways: they may be in pre-packed food boxes, Feeding Wisconsin or their member food bank may mail them directly to their food pantry, or flyers will be at drop sites for taking when pantries pick up their food. The survey will give FW food banks a better understanding of populations you serve; barriers facing households during the Pandemic; resources households are accessing to address food insecurity; and perceptions of pantry experiences and services. The survey will also provide an understanding of how household situations may vary around the state and across different client groups.

Governor Evers Announced an additional \$10M for the Food Security Initiative set up through CARES Act funds <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/2a44989>. More details yet to come from DATCP as they will continue to administer the funds for this program. Additionally, \$10 million will go toward the [Food Security Initiative](#) in recognition of the role the program has played in combatting hunger. This investment is on top of the \$15 million [previously allocated](#) to this program.

Discussion: Issues raised on the call

Q: Donna from Neighbor's Place in Wausau shared that she has developed a "return to work" protocol with Marathon County Health Department. Please feel free to reach out to her if you would like a copy of the plan to make your own. Donna's email is donna@neighborsplace.org

Next Call: Friday, October 23rd, 2020 @ 10AM

Call 1 (267) 930-4000; participant code 904-416-028#

Thanks to Pantry Operators for joining the call. All pantry operators are welcome to join on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Notes by Stephanie Jung Dorfman sdorfman@feedingwi.org.

Questions welcome at dhstefap@dhs.wisconsin.gov