Channel One – Facilitated by Jennifer from the Channel One food shelf

- Channel 1 foodshelf
  o busy week, staff out for non Covid illness. Clients seem resilient, receptive to new process – drive up check in. prepacked boxes. Limited grab and go back of produce, dairy, perishable and frozen meat. Not push back to this approach/food availability. Community is adhering to the spirit of the stay at home order
  o Food shelf visits are very flat. There are additional food resources in Rochester – taking strain off of sourcing challenges.
  o Number of new households – comparable to other months – not seeing a wave yet.
- Nancy – Community Pathways – Steele County:
  o curbside service, prepack. Supplementing with an unexpected donation. Flat numbers. But, increase in number who want delivery. Did have an existing mobile service, but more folks moving into that service. In good shape. Staff only – no volunteers. Not taking as many deliveries from local grocers (donations). Concern over touching of products – not necessarily availability. Food bank is offering produce to supplement.
- Chris – Wabasha
  o Drive up – not yet seeing an increase in numbers.
  o More deliveries – new community partner – 3 Rivers – Hiawathaland – reached out to food shelf to help keep drivers employed.
  o Asked not to receive food donations – hard to handle and sort without volunteers
  o Community has been great in increasing cash donations.
  o Shout out to channel one for pre-packed boxes
- Anika – Northfield CAC:
  o Exciting work with Faribault – getting food sourced in partnership with several organizations and the school district. Virginia at Channel One has been helpful.

Among the whole group:

Varying degrees of comfort of accepting donated product – The Food Group has a good best practice sheet. Can share it with the group? CAC is still accepting donated product. Hard to navigate myths and facts around product.

- Virginia – not saying it is not safe to accept donated food. It is more of the volunteer sorting social distancing than the product safety.
- Stopping doing food drives and retail pick up.

Future needs –

Hard to tell – this is so new to us. Shelves in this region aren’t experiencing a surge in visits yet.

Kate from FFEN shared link to AmeriCorp – summer emergency response workers hiring. Applications due by COB next wednesday. Share out link in meeting notes.
North Country

Agencies should have gotten letters in the mail today – sending agencies credit from a Feeding America grant

Trying to get more food in

Biggest order weeks coming up, moving fast

Keep everyone up and running was the best way forward

Packing boxes for CSFP with Bemidji schools, United Way – spread out at Sanford Center

Looking to try to start pre-packing for agencies when they have more volunteers

Perley parish – no church for 4 weeks, donations down but getting lots of new clients

Served more in one day than a whole month

Bemidji - starting to feel like more of a routine, ordering boxes and packing

Can’t get eggs now at an affordable price

Not as busy this week – likely because of SNAP benefits

Susie – egg prices a challenge, meat may be soon because of packing plant closing

Delivery challenges and delays

John – Perham

Restarting the mobile program – but thinks they have it figured out now

Dave Hinkley – Erskine

Delivery schedule changes? Susie—yes, making extra runs, weekends. Will figure something out.

Agencies going from 1 pallet to 9 pallets in an order – so they are figuring out logistics

Are any others doing shopping list?

A few, but mostly pre-packed; If it’s working, go for it.

List seems to be moving as fast as in food shelf shopping; works well with <24 households in a shift; may not work for larger shelves
April 16th, 2020 – Food shelf and Food Bank Breakout session notes

**Successes**

Erskine – 24 households in a day with shopping list 10 minutes

Cheryl Sistad: Story in the local paper

  Idea to add income information – TEFAP up to 300% -- to encourage folks to visit

**Resource needs for COVID-19**

Food (always)

Boxes – finding cheaper boxes important down the road; ULINE a little pricey long-term

  Bemidji found Twin Ports cheapest, but it’s complicated; Twin Ports → SHH → Cass Lake delivery → Bemidji
Northern Lakes

- Facilitator – Kelley Johnson
- Since 3/30, has the amount of people you’re serving increased/decreased/stayed the same?
- Moose Lake
  - Increase in 10 people – modest
- Two Harbor - Michelle
  - Every week has doubled from this time last year
  - Since 3/17, 120 more people have been served
  - Curbside pickup
  - Businesses are closing, nonprofits aren’t working
  - Spike is occurring from people who have never utilized food shelf
  - Serving people in Lake County
  - Duplicates are coming every other week
  - Numbers are higher, even if they’re not new because they’re running out food faster
  - People may find it safer to do curbside pickup from food shelf rather than going to grocery store
  - Difficult to analyze why/when people come, but readiness is constant
- Hibbing
  - First half April had more deliveries than all of March
- Food Divine Food Shelf
  - Hasn’t spiked as much as expected
  - Curbside has increased
- Increase/decrease/back to increase trend
- Pam
  - Greater increase in March
  - Now numbers have been more normal
  - Isn’t hearing the same panic as previously
- Audra
  - Transitioned to appointment-only
    - Helps with spacing out pick-up and preparing for demand
    - How does coordination/communication work on this?
      - People have become used to it, helps to have a grace period to remind people that they need to schedule appointment
      - Tries to be accommodating to people if they have been homebound for multiple weeks
  - Does not have the capacity for food delivery
- Katie
  - Hoping to serve anyone that applies for food delivery
  - Advantage – connected with church volunteers
  - Made a google form for intake (food delivery)
  - Created a check box for privacy agreement
  - Contact info – included 2nd contact info
  - Collect info on food needs
  - Given volunteers script for communication with recipients
Reason for request
- Honor system – please use this service as a last resort and save this service for the most vulnerable – people are very conscientious about making sure everyone has food
- Office staff can help people fill out form for those that don’t have internet

Joe
- Transportation grant on Food Solutions website has information
  - Can start a program or partner with an existing program
- Contact Joe with questions
- Encourages everyone to apply who has been thinking about this option
- List all the costs that are included in the food delivery/transportation
- Good amount of funding available for this
- TEFAP
  - Use best judgement when applying TEFAP guidelines
  - Working on social distancing, State is trying to support models that support social distancing

Seeing a decrease in volunteers/sorting capacity

Audra
- Not able to provide as much quantity as much as before

Michelle
- Has the capacity to sort, but adhering to social distancing

Katie
- Able to find volunteer through church network

Audra
- Needs a volunteer coordinator
  - Is there a grant for this? – Joe can look into it
    - New grant can direct funds to staff costs and also rent, office supplies, etc.
    - Application is due at the end of the month
      - Grant is casting a wide net for what the funds can be used for

Trouble with finding canned green beans/peas
- Check Hunger Solutions TEFAP webpage for tips on this
North Central

Bank Update:

Sue: Lots of purchased product. Donated product starting to come in. Purchase credit coming, so look for that.

Samantha in International Falls: still slow – not seeing an increase now at the food shelf. Worried about if see an increase in the future.

Sue: similar in Grand Rapids—slow, people are staying home. Either not much, or in some areas really going crazy.

Committed to meeting extra need.

Amy: Q re 300% - not really seeing an increase – mostly seeing regulars. A few new faces, but still at 200% or below.

Robin in Walker: initial shock factor fading. Getting more efficient in service with the right amount of boxes. Leveling out (at a higher level). Q re 300% forms, etc: yes, was able to switch out. Most of the people coming through don’t have any income right now, so not a big issue. How to get higher up the income scale? Thinking about highlighting that in newspaper next week. Getting the word out through a variety of vehicles, but still getting a lot of calls from people asking if shelf is open (people just aren’t that connected).

Transportation grant: Q re can apply for that for transportation costs that get charged from food bank. ** need to confirm and get this into the FAQ **
Second Harvest Heartland and The Food Group

Updates

1. Exciting news; feeding America money 1.5 million farm-to-foodshelf incremental dollars. Protein and milk.
2. Guide and influence the purchasing of protein and milk.
3. TEFAP & regular food boxes
4. Emergency 20# produce box – no cost to food shelves
5. Julie Vanhove SHH purchasing. Specifically around donations from manufacturers down by 50%, but in the last couple of weeks have started to see movement there. Equal to normal times with normal demand that this point. That will be reflected. SHH team is working to get ahead of the demand curve.
6. The Food Group – 8 products to give away. Will be posted on the market next week. New ways to make additionally culturally-specific food available and free of charge. TFG is willing and ready to step in and help, and increase support.

Needs

More product avail to order through foodbanks
Homeless bag supplies
Timeline on transportation grant
TFG & SHH might have some options to support PPE
Costco business chat said it has tons and tons of gloves
Distilleries for hand sanitizer
Cart disinfectant system like grocery stores

   1. Smaller quantities vs large state-wide needs able to be found: SEOC has been asked for supplies: Gloves, masks (SHH), sanitizer, disinfection supplies, TP (SHH purchased item)

Longer-term; equipment, personnel

   - Shopping carts

Question: What happens when someone gets the virus in their group? Will we have to shut down? (mentioned 3 times)

Comment: please coordinate across sectors and stakeholders; state, county, city key stakeholders; *jonathan palmer

Sophia – TFG – emphasized the breakout is effective for chat and questions and problems.

Funds questions
Transportation funds
Homebound clients