



NYC SNAP TASK FORCE MEETING

Facilitated by Food Bank For New York City
Thursday, May 20, 2021 • 1:00 – 3:00 pm

AGENDA

- I. **Welcome – Introduction –Name and Organization**
- II. **National Updates- Presented by Ellen Vollinger, Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)**
- III. **Research Packet Overview**
- IV. **Mediation Analysis Report – March 2021**
- V. **DOHMH Nutrition Incentives Programs – Nicole Andersen**
- VI. **Q & A**

Meeting Minutes

WELCOME AND INTRO

- Attendees:
 - Ana Assadourian - HFNYC
 - Catalina Andazola – IS CM at Highest New York
 - Colleen Donovan – Hunger Solutions NY
 - Dawn Secor – HSNY, Snap
 - Nancy Miranda – FBNYC
 - Jeff Lin – FBNYC
 - Laura Arocho – FBNYC
 - Nicole Andersen – Manager of the NIP at the NYCDHM
 - Ellen Vollinger
 - Derek Singh – SNAP Operations, HR
 - Edward Sanchez -
 - Jacaira Baez

- Joslynn Ramos – Manager, NYU Langone
- Carrie –
- Lisbeth Peryra-
- Long Ho
- Lourdes Cifuentes
- Lucia Aguilar – Little Sisters Advocacy
- Paola Martinez – Benefits Specialist
- Rebecca Silver
- Renee Becerra
- Sandra Garcia – WSCAH- SS Specialist
- Saoirse Ryan – Catholic Charities
- SK Doyle – AD Programs and Vol., Episcopal
- Suheddy Pena
- Yamin Htet - Health

NATIONAL SNAP POLICY UPDATES

- Ellen Vollinger
 - Food hardship is rising, esp. among African American and LatinX individuals
 - 15% boost ends after Sept.
 - \$95 boost ends when state and local pandemic declarations are no longer in place
 - Currently don't know how to proceed on this path
 - Only one SNAP provision in the BA plans
 - Thrifty Food Plan is under review
 - Legislative pathway to replace the TFP.
 - Gillibrand – Improve college-student eligibility for SNAP
 - Gomez Bill
 - Lee – HR 17:53, would remove the 3 month limit for under-employed
 - Sanders and Warren want to make the pandemic-era food benefits for college students permanent and give more access to college students (HR 1919)
 - We've partnered with Swipe Hunger and CUNY to conduct outreach

RESEARCH PACKET OVERVIEW

- USDA is going purchase up to \$159.4 million in domestically produced food products for distribution to domestic food assistance programs.
 - This means more healthy foods for clients that need it
- USDA: March 11 – Biden signed the ARPA.
 - Under ARPA, P-EBT is available this summer to all children who were eligible to receive free or reduced price meals during the current school year. This includes school children who received P-EBT benefits during the school year and those who were eligible for free or reduced price school meals but did not receive P-EBT benefits in the last month of the school year because they attended school in person and had access to a meal service at school.

- FNS is allowing states flexibility re: Fair Hearing timeframes. State agencies may extend the FH process up to 120 days from receipt of the request for FH.
- May 6-12 – USDA has approved PEBT to support children in Oregon, PR, and Hawaii who are missing meals due to school closures.
- USDA – WIC recipients may see a temporary increase to their benefits for the purchase of vegetables for up to 4 months (about \$35 per child).
- USDA is providing \$1.135 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act to support and enhance SNAP admin.
- GIS Message: Implemented Deferred Enforced Departure for Venezuela

MEDIATION ANALYSIS REPORT – 4/21

- 10 orgs reported 107 mediation cases with 124 identified issues
 - Of the 107, 73 were related to first time incidents
 - 75% of the cases in April were resolved in the same month
 - 76% of resolved cases were resolved within the key first 5 day period
- Cases by HRA Mediation Liaisons
 - First time applicants: 68% (73)
 - Out of 107 cases, 80 cases were resolved
 - 61 of those: resolved within the first 5 days
 - 51 were resolved in 1-3 business days!
 - 10 – 4-5 days
 - 13 – 6-10 days
- Barriers Encountered in April
 - Application related
- Derek
 - No updates thus far.

NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

- Why?
 - The higher the poverty (Black/Latino ethnic groups), the less likely fruits and vegetables, healthy food will be eaten that day
 - Redlining has shaped access to healthy foods.
 - NIP provide cash to purchase healthy food. Incentivizing = higher produce access, affordability, and consumption.
- Health Bucks
 - \$2 dollar coupons redeemable at Farmer's Markets.
 - Distributed via:
 - SNAP
 - (Spend 10 in SNAP, get 10 in Healthbucks)
 - Community and faith-based orgs
 - To distribute: NPO's must serve NY'ers with low income, must provide nutrition and health programming
 - Available in May.

- Organizations and Elected Officials can purchase HB's to distribute to the community.
- Get the Good Stuff
 - First supermarket based match.
 - Impacts
 - HB increase SNAP sales at farmers markets
 - 6 stores currently participate, looking to add 8 more
 - Coming soon: 50% off prepackaged bags of locally grown produce purchased with SNAP
 - Dollar per dollar match.
- Half-Off Farm Box

Q&A's/COMMENTS

- How to update the case head in the event of death to reduce impact to the survivor?