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:
  o Ana Assadourian - HFNYC
  o Catalina Andazola – IS CM at Highest New York
  o Colleen Donovan – Hunger Solutions NY
  o Dawn Secor – HSNY, Snap
  o Nancy Miranda – FBNYC
  o Jeff Lin – FBNYC
  o Laura Arocho – FBNYC
  o Nicole Andersen – Manager of the NIP at the NYCDHM
  o Ellen Vollinger
  o Derek Singh – SNAP Operations, HR
  o Edward Sanchez -
  o Jacaira Baez
NATIONAL SNAP POLICY UPDATES
• Ellen Vollinger
  o Food hardship is rising, esp. among African American and LatinX individuals
  o 15% boost ends after Sept.
  o $95 boost ends when state and local pandemic declarations are no longer in place
  o 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
  o Sanders and Warren want to make the pandemic-era food benefits for college students permanent and give more access to college students (HR 1919)
  o 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.
  o This means more healthy foods for clients that need it
• USDA: March 11 – Biden signed the ARPA.
  o 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
  o Of the 107, 73 were related to first time incidents
  o 75% of the cases in April were resolved in the same month
  o 76% of resolved cases were resolved within the key first 5 day period
• Cases by HRA Mediation Liaisons
  o First time applicants: 68% (73)
  o 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
  o Application related
• Derek
  o No updates thus far.

NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAMS
• Why?
  o The higher the poverty (Black/Latino ethnic groups), the less likely fruits and vegetables, healthy food will be eaten that day
  o Redlining has shaped access to healthy foods.
  o NIP provide cash to purchase healthy food. Incentivizing = higher produce access, affordability, and consumption.
• Health Bucks
  o $2 dollar coupons redeemable at Farmer’s Markets.
  o 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?