

Advocacy Update 01.06.2021



NTFB VOICE

Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS

- USDA FNS Undersecretary Lipps resigns
- Final Rule for SNAP E&T published
- **TEFAP boost**
- Farmers to Family Food Box Round 5 announcement

There is a lot of information to share, so these brief talking points will contain the main highlights. More details will roll out this month.

USDA FNS Undersecretary Brandon Lipps resigns position

Undersecretary Brandon Lipps has served as the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services leader since 2017 has stepped down from his position before the transition to the new Biden administration. Food banks have worked closely with Mr. Lipps on disaster response, SNAP changes, and waivers to increase flexibility to a variety of programs. We wish him well as he moves on to his next endeavor.

SNAP Employment and Training Changes and Work Requirements Tightened Monday

On Monday, a final rule on SNAP was published with the intent to move recipients of SNAP into employment. States are given \$100M a year for employment search and job training for people enrolled in SNAP. The new rule requires the State Agency to consult with their workforce development board and document how the program is coordinated under Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in order to run these programs.

The new rule will allow apprenticeships as an allowable activity, as long as it is for 30 days. It also reformats "job searches" to be redefined as "supervised job searches."

The 120-page rule also contains tighter allowances for states wish to waive a percentage of their Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) from SNAP Employment & Training or work

requirements. Currently states may wave up to 15% of ABAWDs from completing work requirements, the change moves that number to 12%.

There will still be more to come from this final rule, stay tuned as analysts make their way through the document.

TEFAP boost

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 gave The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) an extra \$400M for food purchases with up to 20% of that to be used to cover storage and distribution costs. Additionally, the act allowed FFCRA and CARES funding that is left over to be carried over into FY2021.

To summarize:

FY20 TEFAP is typically only appropriated \$350M a year for their normal entitlement with \$100M in storage and distribution costs

FFCRA gave TEFAP \$300M for food purchases and \$100M for storage and distribution

CARES gave TEFAP \$300M for food purchases and \$150M for storage and distribution

With leftovers, boosts, and carryovers....

What's available for FY2021 TEFAP?

FY20 & FY21 TEFAP Entitlement has \$450M leftover

FFCRA has \$139.9M carryover

CARES has \$42M carryover

Consolidated Appropriations give \$400 boost

That's around \$1B for TEFAP for this FY21 next year

On top of that...

\$170M in Section 32 bonus purchases (that feed into TEFAP) announced for December and \$970M for Section 32 bonus purchases authorized for FY2021.

Back of the napkin (until we can get a firm number and more guidance) we are looking at \$2B that will feed into the TEFAP program for FY2021. This will be a huge help for the food bank network. With the loss of the \$3.6B (two year totaled) Food Purchase and Distribution Program (Trade Mitigation) this will help fill that gap. Recommendations are being made the USDA to use the closing Food Purchase and Distribution Program supply pipeline to make TEFAP purchases to help fulfill orders that are currently struggling.

Farmers to Family Food Box Round 5 announced

The [USDA announced Monday that the Farmers to Family Food Box Program](#) will continue into the new year with \$1.5B in funding. The start time has not been announced but we do know three things. The boxes will be the combination boxes seen in rounds 3&4, the boxes will NOT have a letter from any official inside the box, and there will be no requirement for delivery to specific counties.

The USDA AMS (Agricultural Marketing Service) will only solicit contracts with the 240 vendor organizations that have previously participated in the program.

Questions or Comments?

Valerie Stone Hawthorne, PhD

[US Capitol Fast Facts Here](#)

Director, Government Relations

North Texas Food Bank
832.851.0303
policy@ntfb.org

Don't want these updates any longer? Email policy@ntfb.org and let me know, I'll remove you quickly but remorsefully...