

## Advocacy Update 11.20.2020



### **P-EBT: Problems and Good News**

24,000 P-EBT cards issued between November 9th - 16th have a defect in the magnetic strip and will not work by swiping. Retailers that can enter in the number manually can do so to get the card to work. To correct this error, HHSC is sending out new cards to impacted recipients by mail, and all scheduled to be received by Thanksgiving.

In good news, The State of Texas Health and Human Services Commission has received guidance from USDA about how to issue another round of Pandemic EBT funds to the families of children who qualify. This allotment of money is meant to help with the cost of food, as many children are not receiving meals at school due to COVID-19. More to come on this as we all make our way through the policy.

As you can imagine, how to distribute the funds was quite complicated to figure out. Some children are doing face to face learning and receiving school meals, and some are doing on-line only, missing those meals and some are doing both! Achieving a fair distribution and how to get it done, was quite a feat.

### **Healthy Food Dallas Initiative Funding Available!**

The City of Dallas, Dallas Development Fund, is excited to announce another round of funding for the Healthy Food Dallas Initiative's Community-Based Solutions Program. This Program will offer a

total of \$250,000 in individual award amounts not to exceed \$70,000 per recipient. [Details can be found here](#) and please apply if this is a good fit for you and your organization.

## USDA Commodity Cliff

The loss of the USDA Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP) also known as Trade Mitigation is coming up soon. The program had a firm end date of December 31, 2020 when announced two years ago, but with continued instability in the trade market, the chance of its renewal seemed high. The FPDP has provided over 32 million pounds of food to the North Texas Food Bank in the past two years. We are advocating to USDA to help replace those loss pounds through established programs, and not to create new ones.

The USDA Secretary of Agriculture has authorization to use funding to go purchase additional bonus commodities and we want him to do just that. Thank you again to the 60 partner agencies that signed on to an NTFB letter letting the USDA know exactly how important this was to our communities.

In a separate but related note, supply chain issues with USDA vendors has caused the cancellation of many truckloads of food within Texas, around 1500 loads. We want to thank our regional USDA office, elected officials, and Feeding Texas for reaching out to the USDA to let them know how critical it is to end this trend. To be clear, NTFB is not at risk for running out of food right now and we are currently sitting at a healthy level. However, we must always be future looking and forecasting month by month to ensure we can serve our community appropriately, especially as the COVID-19 crisis continues. We will continue to need your voice to amplify this concern!

Have a great weekend!



Questions or Comments?  
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