

The health and safety of your organizations, volunteers, and participants are of the utmost importance. Thank you for the measures that you are putting in place to keep yourselves safe and to continue providing food for those in need. Our office is working on being as flexible as possible with TEFAP given the current circumstance and existing federal rules and regulations. We continue to be in coordination with USDA and will provide updates to you as we get them. A team from DHS is contacting all TEFAP food shelves to get a statewide comprehensive picture of current needs and concerns, so please take the time to provide input. DHS and MDH are planning an emergency food response webinar for food banks and food shelves Wednesday, March 25th midday-information will be sent out soon.

During this time, MN TEFAP is encouraging food shelves to institute no contact food distributions like drive-up and mobile models. TEFAP is also suspending the Client Choice requirement for all shelves. Pre-packing boxes during this time is absolutely acceptable. Please contact your food bank agency specialists with questions you have about distributing food in different ways.

In an effort to support MN food shelves as you make necessary changes due to COVID 19, an updated TEFAP intake option is available.

This option details:

- Staff and/or volunteers can collect and record household information on behalf of participants, there is no need for participants to sign TEFAP required forms, daily sign in sheets, or to share clipboards, pens, papers, etc.
- The Federal Poverty Guidelines (Weekly FPG document attached) now lists weekly income versus annually income. Because jobs are so up in the air right now for some and may change from week to week, incomes may change from week to week. Participants are able to self-report their income as it changes.
- Posting requirements

Thank you for your commitment, patience, hard work, and problem solving~

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