Participating in today’s call

Attendee Control Panel

Listen in through computer audio. Headset recommended.

Select Phone Call to see the number to call, Access Code and PIN

Type your questions or just say hello here.
Food Security and Early Childhood – COVID-19 Update
State Feeding Task Force

Heidi Hertz
Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
STATE FEEDING TASK FORCE

• Coordinate the implementation and expansion of food and nutrition programs to meet the demand during Virginia’s response and recovery from COVID-19.

  – **VDOE**: National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Summer Food Service (SFSP) Child and Adult Care Food Program At-risk Afterschool Program (CACFP)
  – **VDSS**: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Pandemic EBT
  – **VDH**: Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), Child and Adult Care Food Program for early care (CACFP)
  – **DARS**: Senior Nutrition Program (SNP), Home-delivered Meal Services (HDM)
  – **VDACS**: The Emergency Feeding Assistance Program (TEFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSDP)
  – **Non-profits and community organizations**: Food banks, Food pantries, Community kitchens, Meals on Wheels
STATE FEEDING TASK FORCE

• Frequent meetings to share updates and progress, identify challenges, and communicate next steps, and set expectations.

• Coordinate outreach messages
  – Children and students 0-18 years old
    • Text “Food” or “Comida” to 877-877
    • Visit http://www.doe.virginia.gov/ for daily meal distribution location updates
    • Access https://schoolmealfinder.hoonuit.com/?filter_state=va
  – Families and seniors
    • Visit commonhelp.virginia.gov to apply for social services
    • Call 2-1-1 or visit 211virginia.org
    • Visit www.vafoodbanks.org for regional food assistance
Emergency Response Plan

Duke Storen
Commissioner, VDSS

Andrea Gregg
Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives, VDSS
2-1-1 IS VIRGINIA’S CENTRAL SOURCE FOR INFORMATION AND REFERRALS FOR ESSENTIAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS

- At the 2-1-1 website, 211virginia.org, people can search for resources, view important alerts, and find out how to contact 211 by email, chat or phone

- People can dial 2-1-1. This is a free phone number that provides information about local resources such as food assistance, shelter, utility assistance, and health care. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

- When someone dials 2-1-1, a trained professional listens to the situation and suggests sources of help using one of the largest databases of health and human services in Virginia. All referrals are confidential

- If an organization provides ongoing services to the general public, they are encouraged to add their organization to the 2-1-1 database through the link “Update/Add Your Agency” at the top of the 2-1-1 website

- New time-limited services that are open to the general public during this health emergency, can be sent to 211admin@councilofcommunityservices.org
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)
WAIVERS & PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY

- Six-months extension to eligibility certification period (March –May)
- Statewide exemption from work requirement effective 4/1/20
- Waive interview requirement for applications and reapplications
In addition to various waivers, the FFCRA allowed States to provide supplemental/emergency benefits to SNAP households. Monthly allotments were increased to the maximum benefit for the household size.

- March emergency benefits were available on EBT cards March 25th
  - $38 million dollars; 225,000 households
- Monthly SNAP benefits for April will follow the regular staggered issuance schedule
- April emergency benefits available on April 16th
P-SNAP or P-EBT

Requires USDA approval; states submit state plan

Provide SNAP benefits to families with children eligible for free/reduced lunch

Schools closed five consecutive days

Available to families currently participating in SNAP and those that are not current participants
ANDREA GREGG
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K-12/School Strategies

Sandy Curwood
Director, Office of School Nutrition Programs, VDOE
CACFP and WIC

Paula Garrett
Division Director, Division of Community Nutrition, VDH
Food Banks

Eddie Oliver
Executive Director, Virginia Federation of Food Banks
Local Perspective: Challenges and Opportunities

Vivien McMahan
Director, Early Learning Strategies,
Smart Beginnings of Greater Roanoke
QUESTIONS?