

2020.08.11 - TF. Co-Chair SNAP/TANF Subcomm. Mtg. Notes

Present: Ashley Black, Carnot Evans, Joy Fowler, Caroline Bolas, JD Robinson, Lori Charkoudian, Michael Wilson, Renee Phillips-Farley, Robert Durocher, Annie Speedie, Michelle Madaio, Lisa Snyder

Next Meeting: Sept. 1, 2020 at 3 pm.

Upcoming:

- Our goal is to have recommendations typed and drafted by August 25th to send to Ashley for review. Ashley will proof the document before sending it along to Paul and Carnot.
 - We want to have this information accessible for the next Taskforce meeting, which will be mid-September.
 - This will require the education outreach/policy workgroup to meet either through a google meet or through email.
 - Be mindful not to make recommendations that have already been solved. This will require research.
- Additional online retailers:
 - There is an extensive process that retailers must go through in order to offer online retail for SNAP benefits through the USDA.
 - Instead of putting pressure on DHS to reach out to more grocers, we could try applying some public pressure to retailers to begin the application process.
 - Currently, only Amazon, Shoprite, and Walmart offer online retail services to SNAP recipients.
 - We can begin to pressure other retailers and look into the application process. From this subcommittee's experience, the process is difficult. Having more knowledge about the process may help us educate retailers about it.
 - Larger chains may have additional difficulties because the application may be for multiple states.
 - We can have another workgroup look into this process.
 - We should focus on more reasonably priced locations rather than more expensive ones (Aldi is an example).
 - We can look into potentially having the delivery fee waived when recipients use their benefits. We should also look into any issues that may arise from these suggestions (public backlash).
- We should start looking into a distribution plan for educational materials.
 - There is no deadline for this, but the sooner the better. Ideally, we should be able to discuss the plan at the Taskforce meeting in September.
- A survey was sent out to legal aid organizations last week. The results are in and will be shared with the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, which sent the survey out to its grantees.
 - The survey gave us a better idea of the needs organizations are facing so that we can defend our funding request.
- If there are any issues with attendance for the September 1st meeting at 3 pm, email Ashley. If there are enough people with conflicts, we can look into changing the meeting time.