

**Food Stamp Outreach Project  
Date ?**

Request board approval for the following:

1. Every member distribution of the attached "fact sheet".
2. Form a committee for the following:
  - a. to approach Mr. Stampf about a food stamp outreach project conducted by LWV of Appleton.
  - b. meet with Lorrie Aargon, Food Stamp Services, to discuss what services could be provided.
  - c. arrange to announce in the Post Crescent a LWV "hotline" with necessary public information.
  - d. list referral numbers with I & R.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE TAKE FIVE MINUTES TO READ THIS

We, the Appleton League of Women Voters, recently participated in a Food Stamp Outreach Project, (July 1st. - July 31st.) through the offices of Douglas LaFollette, Secretary of State. The results were, in a seven county area, 600 inquires and 60 persons prescreened of which 35 became eligible. (Comment: Not enough.)

The Human Resource Chair at State LWV has requested that our total membership become better informed on food stamp eligibility and locally we urge anyone who knows of anyone who might qualify to contact our local Food Stamp Office.

FACT SHEET - FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATION & FUNDING

The Food Stamp Program was established in 1964 and is a joint federal and state responsibility. Each State determines how and where food stamps will be sold. It is estimated 17 million people in the U.S.A. participate in the Food Stamp Program and almost 40 million are eligible to do so.

FOOD STAMPS AND THEIR USES

Food stamps are coupons which can be used like money to buy food. They can be used to purchase any edible food item "not designed to be eaten on the premise". They cannot be resold; nor can they be used for soap, toothpaste, toilet tissue, etc. (there are other agencies which offset these expenses).

ELIGIBILITY

Any citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.A.

Unlike Welfare, need is determined by whether the person "cannot buy even a minimally adequate diet without food stamps".

The food stamp eligibility is a graduating scale basis. A couple whose NET INCOME is \$20 after deducting medical expenses, support payments, tuition fees, and all shelter costs would be eligible at no cost for \$90 of food coupons. If after all deductions their NET INCOME was \$300/mo. they would pay \$64 for \$90 of food coupons. Total resources cannot exceed \$1500 exempting the homestead, personal belongings and one car.

Many people are unaware that the monthly income limits are NET rather than GROSS income figures. A household that has applied for unemployment and not received their checks can receive total support till their checks begin and then be adjusted according to their expenses after their checks begin. A household which has paid unusually high medical or drug expenses in a given month, for example, may be eligible for food stamps that month even though it would not be at any other time.

Coupons may be purchased at one time or 3/4 or 1/2 or 1/4 of the monthly allotment.

### CERTIFICATION

Certification is when a person is declared eligible for food stamps.

It will be necessary to provide income stubs, proof of expenses, utility receipts, mortgage payments etc. There is a four page application that would take approximately twenty minutes to complete. In the case of disability, another person can be certified to purchase food for you. Food stamps, once you are certified, can be purchased by mail. Upon eligibility an ATP card will be issued which is identification for the household using the food stamps. An Emergency ATP Card can be issued the same day as the application has been made if an applicant has been found to be in immediate need of assistance.

### WORK REGISTRATION

Able bodied household members, who are between 18-65 yrs. of age, must be registered with the Job Service. An exception exists for persons who must care for children or home bound adults.

### COMMENT:

I personally feel very strongly there are many eligible people in our area who do not know or understand the Food Stamp Program. My knowlege has really expanded since working with this volunteer program. This is not charity or welfare. This program has been supported by you and for you through your taxes. It is hopefully an assist to help to get back on your feet. If you would apply for unemployment when you become unemployed because you payed for the insurance, you should just as freely accept this program.

I have the preliminary work sheets which, with a five minute phone call, can tell anyone if they are eligible. Since it is impossible to put in capsule form all the information, please contact me for any questions or if you feel you or anyone you know may qualify.

Human Resource Chair

Marie Eber 731-1007  
(after 7 p.m.)