

2021 Board Candidate Questionnaire

1 What is your name?

Tom Priest

2 What agency are you with? ♦

State of Michigan

3 Position are you running for?

Answer

President

Vice President

Treasurer

State Agency Director

Local Agency Director

4 How long have you worked with the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and in what capacity? ♦

8+ years as both a Program Consultant and Supervisor of the Food Distribution Unit for the State of Michigan.

5 What types of advocacy work (local, state, or national) have you done for CSFP or other programs? ♦

In my role as a state employee, I have the opportunity to advocate for CSFP through expansion and provided support. I have worked directly with The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). During my time working with CSFP and TEFAP, I have helped to expand CSFP into all counties in our state, implement electronic signatures as allowable methods of collection of information, and promoted the use of automated call systems for program outreach.

6 What do you see as the number one external challenge facing the National CSFP Association and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it? ♦

I see the current number one external challenge to CSFP as managing our work during the pandemic and into recovery. We have a situation where participation from regular participants has dropped in many states, and new participants are joining the program for the first time. As we move out of the pandemic, we will need to address the return of those who were unable to participate due to health and safety concerns, the continued participation of new participants, and the continuing need to serve homebound participants.

7 What do you see as the number one internal challenge facing the National CSFP Association, and how should we, as an Association, be addressing it? ♦

The current number one internal challenge to the National CSFP Association is the cultivation of new methods that allow us to continue training and supporting NCSFPA members, including online content and the return of in-person conferences and training.

8 At which of the following NCSFPA Conferences were you in attendance? ♦

Answer

- 2013 Salt Lake City
- 2014 Philadelphia
- 2015 Charleston
- 2017 New Orleans
- 2018 Fort Myers
- 2019 Alexandria
- None
- Other

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9 **On what other Boards of Directors or Committees (on any level, Local, State, or National), have you served? ♦**

I have only served as a State Representative on the NCSFPA Board.