



P.O. Box 7988
San Francisco, CA
94120-7988
www.SFHSA.org

Proclamation Recognizing May 2022 as CalFresh Awareness and Action Month in the City and County of San Francisco

WHEREAS, this is a Resolution declaring May 2022 as CalFresh Awareness and Action Month in the City and County of San Francisco, and urging all community members to support efforts to increase awareness of, and participation in, the CalFresh program; and

WHEREAS, access to safe, nutritious and culturally acceptable food is a basic human right and is essential to human health; and

WHEREAS, food security is the foundation of a strong and healthy community; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity in San Francisco has risen to historic proportions during the Pandemic, CalFresh has played a critical role in filling the gap; and

WHEREAS, all households during the Public Health Emergency receive the maximum allotment for their household size. For example, households of one that received \$16 in February 2020 are now receiving \$250 monthly. This supplemental allotment is approved monthly by the State; and

WHEREAS, from January 2020 to March 2022, the number of San Francisco households receiving CalFresh, increased from 49,068 to 70,638 households; this is due to the surge in applications during the early months of the COVID Pandemic. During that same period, calls from the public to our call center jumped from an average of 10,764 calls per month for active cases to 22,578 calls. Total calls regarding CalFresh grew by 110% in two years; and

WHEREAS, during the Health Emergency, the federal government has allowed states to waive the requirement that clients participate in an interview as part of the CalFresh application process. In the past, a complete



London Breed
Mayor

Trent Rhorer
Executive Director

application could be denied for missing a required interview; that is not currently the case; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of many students who are struggling with food insecurity, the federal government instituted a waiver during the Pandemic easing the access of students to SNAP. As such, the nation has expanded student eligibility to include more who qualify via work study or using expected family contribution as an income indicator; and

WHEREAS, in response to the homeless crisis during the Pandemic, the San Francisco Human Services Agency (“SFHSA”) has engaged in in-person CalFresh outreach to homeless persons temporarily staying in Shelter in Place hotels. From September 15, 2020 to April 20, 2022, SFBN has processed 2,237 CalFresh applications. Additionally, they have submitted 1,570 Medi-Cal and 1,343 CAAP applications. This is one of the most integrated outreach efforts ever embarked upon by the Division of Economic Support & Self Sufficiency (ESSS) Programs; and

WHEREAS, SFHSA continued its contract with 211 San Diego to expand CalFresh access and increase food security. On a weekly basis, staff from 211 San Diego conduct telephone outreach to approximately 100 individuals who are likely eligible for CalFresh due to receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to determine if they are interested in obtaining assistance in submitting applications online, which SFHSA eligibility workers then process; and

WHEREAS, with funding from the federal Process and Technology Improvement Grant, our key partner the San Francisco Marin Food Bank (SFMFB) has launched a new program to help increase the number of MyBenefitsCalWIN.org (MyBCW) client accounts with the end goals of: 1) Decreasing in-person lobby transactions, particularly relevant during the ongoing pandemic, and 2) Learning how low-income persons, namely those with limited English, experience technology so that the agency can engage them in future technology developments. MyBCW is an online application portal that allows individuals to create personal accounts that make it possible to use one’s personal computer, tablet, or smartphone to submit benefit applications, among other functions. To date, the SFMFB has assisted approximately 1,000 CalFresh recipients in signing up for MyBCW accounts; and

WHEREAS, SNAP programs throughout the nation are currently waiving all work requirements due to the public health emergency and high unemployment; and

WHEREAS, Market Match allows a CalFresh household to extend the value of its benefits; farmers markets will double the value of purchases made using CalFresh EBT. This promotes healthy food options, supports farmers and extends the clients’ CalFresh budget; and

WHEREAS, March 2022 saw the highest ever usage of EBT Food benefits at SF farmers markets of about \$531,000; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco continues to offer a Restaurant Meals Program, allowing homeless, seniors and the federally disabled to use their CalFresh allotment to pay for meals in designated restaurants. This increases the access to hot meals for those without easy access to kitchens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Human Services Commission proclaims May 2022 to be CalFresh Awareness and Action Month, and urges all community members to support efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the CalFresh program.

Scott Kahn
President, Human Services Commission

Date