



Proclamation: Recognition of May 2019 as CalFresh Awareness and Action Month in the City and County of San Francisco

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 a state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local, non-emergency sources; and

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

WHEREAS, one in four San Franciscans suffer from hunger and food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity results in poor nutritional intake, unhealthy eating behaviors and is associated with poor health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, a robust CalFresh program is critical to providing financial resources for food to thousands of San Franciscans; and

WHEREAS, the average household on CalFresh in San Francisco receives about \$200 per month for groceries; CalFresh is provided on an electronic benefits card that can be used in supermarkets, corner stores, and at all San Francisco farmers markets; and it can be used at dozens of restaurants in San Francisco by those who are homeless, elderly, or disabled; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh spurs the local economy because each CalFresh benefits dollar generates \$1.79 economic multiplier; the City pays for only 15% of the total cost of administering the program, and zero of the benefit allotment; which means that for \$3.6 million of local investment, CalFresh brings in \$173 million in benefits and associated economic activity; and

WHEREAS, roughly 46,000 individuals in San Francisco receive CalFresh, yet an estimated 30,000 other individuals may be eligible but are not enrolled; and

WHEREAS, we have a new opportunity to increase the number of people receiving CalFresh due to the recent reversal of a decades-long policy that has prohibited SSI recipients from participating in CalFresh; we estimate that an additional 25K individuals in San Francisco will be newly eligible to receive CalFresh benefits starting in June 2019; and

WHEREAS, a key opportunity for increasing participation is conducting targeted outreach to people who are likely eligible, such as students, older adults, people with disabilities, and parents with young children; and

WHEREAS, another opportunity to increase participation is to reduce “churn”- people discontinued from CalFresh who then reapply within three months; it is estimated that approximately 19% of CalFresh participants in San Francisco experience “churn”; and

WHEREAS, another opportunity to increase participation is to debunk myths and fears about participating, especially those related to immigration status; and

WHEREAS, community partners, city agencies, and local leaders all have a role to play in furthering awareness about CalFresh and promoting this critical program; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco stands united to promote CalFresh to the local community, improve the CalFresh participation rate, and offer robust County options for meeting the newly re-established federal work requirements; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Human Services Commission proclaims May 2019 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

April 25, 2019
Date