

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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BRYCE YOKOMIZO
Director



December 15, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

**SUBJECT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: MOTION - SYN 12 (JUNE 15, 2004)
REPORT ON FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER IN LOS ANGELES
COUNTY**

This is to provide a status report on your Board's Motion of June 15, 2004 - Report on Food Insecurity and Hunger in Los Angeles County. In my initial report dated August 16, 2004, I provided our Department's outreach plan to decrease the risk of hunger in the Antelope Valley by increasing Food Stamp participation for eligible families and adults, which will also be used as the basis for our countywide outreach plan.

The following is our progress on outreach efforts to date:

- As of the end of October 2004, the Food Stamp Only caseload in the Lancaster District increased from 3,400 to 4,109 cases, or 21% since the beginning of this outreach project in July 2004. We are on target to reach our goal of increasing the Food Stamp Only caseload in the Lancaster District by 35% by the end of February 2005.
- Lancaster District staff are making telephone contact with Food Stamp participants who are in danger of losing their Food Stamp eligibility because of failure to keep a recertification appointment. During the telephone conversation district eligibility staff determines if the household may be eligible to waive the face-to-face interview, or if there is some other problem with keeping the appointment, and works with the household to resolve the problem to obtain the completed recertification documents. In addition, staff are screening all Food Stamp applicants for their eligibility to waive the face-to-face interview in our district office to facilitate enrollment in the Food Stamp Program.
- Lancaster District is currently deploying four Eligibility Workers (EW) at 17 non-traditional sites to process Food Stamp applications. Current sites include WIC offices, churches, senior centers, schools, health clinics, food pantries, and the Social Security office. The number of hours per month EWs are at the sites varies from site to site.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

- Lancaster District staff are outreaching to families that receive Medi-Cal, but do not receive Food Stamp benefits, by telephoning each family at their yearly Medi-Cal redetermination, to explain the Food Stamp Program and to encourage them to apply for benefits. Additionally, every family that applies for Medi-Cal in the district office is also encouraged to apply for Food Stamp benefits.
- On September 24 and 25, 2004, outreach events were conducted at three Vallarta Markets in the Antelope Valley. The events were publicized in the Daily News, the Antelope Valley Press, and on a local television station. Over 380 potentially eligible families and individuals were pre-screened at the events.
- On September 30, 2004, Food Stamp Program staff trained the Department of Community and Senior Services Adult Protective Services (APS) staff on basic Food Stamp eligibility requirements. APS staff are pre-screening potentially eligible applicants at home visits by completing a pre-screening checklist to begin the Food Stamp application process.
- Food Stamp outreach flyers are being distributed at one-time-only special events throughout the Antelope Valley. On August 21, 2004, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) distributed over 500 flyers at their Boxing Day Event held at the Jackie Robinson Park in Palmdale. DPSS continues to work with DPR, community-based organizations, government agencies to identify these outreach opportunities.
- Over 20 community-based organizations continue to distribute Food Stamp outreach flyers on a regular basis at various locations and events throughout the Antelope Valley. Over the past several months over 30,000 flyers have been distributed.
- In January, 2005, DPSS will be submitting a grant request to the Quality and Productivity Commission requesting a grant to obtain a social marketing expert to assist DPSS in our outreach efforts. The social marketing expert will recommend outreach strategies and assist us in developing marketing materials that would be most likely to reach our target population.

We will provide you with a final report in March 2005. The report will include data regarding our outreach efforts to increase utilization of Food Stamps in the Antelope Valley. Additionally, we will use this data to assist in developing our countywide outreach plan, which will be included with our final report.

BY:jd

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors