

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

APRIL 30, 2013

Proclaim May 2013 as CalFresh Awareness Month

One of the highest priorities of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is to reduce hunger in the nation's largest county by increasing access and participation in the CalFresh Program, the supplemental nutrition food benefit.

According to the United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture, the number of U.S. homes lacking adequate food has more than tripled in the last four years. In Los Angeles County, where more than ten million people reside, it is estimated that only half of those eligible are receiving CalFresh food assistance, even though a record high of 1.1 million individuals receive CalFresh benefits. Many residents in need of immediate food assistance are unaware that they may qualify for CalFresh.

DPSS continues to collaborate with various faith-based and community-based partners to implement the first comprehensive and coordinated CalFresh Awareness Month Campaign, aimed at educating residents about CalFresh and removing the

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barriers that discourage eligible individuals and families from applying. For example, the CalFresh partnership is also working to publicize more convenient methods to apply for services, such as online applications and a web-based Customer Service Center.

DPSS has enlisted the help of the Department of Public Health, local government, supermarket chains, farmers' markets, food banks, and local school districts, to share the valuable information about nutrition education and the long-term benefits of exercise.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim May 2013, as "CalFresh Awareness Month" in Los Angeles County, and urge all County residents to learn about the benefits of CalFresh and the importance of good nutrition.

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