

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

MAY 5, 2026

**Proclaiming May 2026 “CalFresh Awareness Month”**

Enabling all residents of Los Angeles County (County) to thrive and live healthy lives is a core priority of the Board of Supervisors. In line with this priority is the need to safeguard the health and well-being of low-income households and individuals by increasing their food purchasing power through enrollment and participation in the CalFresh Program. As of October 2024, there were over 1.5 million CalFresh recipients in Los Angeles County, roughly 15% of our 9.8 million residents.

Having access to healthy, nutritious, and affordable food is crucial to ensuring that our residents have their basic needs met. It is clear, based on numerous research studies, that household hunger negatively impacts children’s intellectual, physical and emotional development, and puts all members of the household at greater risk for obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. For decades, CalFresh has been the state’s most powerful tool to fight hunger and one of the most successful interventions to keep residents out of poverty.

Unfortunately, due to action by the federal government via HR 1 that passed into law last July, eligibility for CalFresh has been drastically reduced, excluding thousands of County residents from the program, simply due to their immigration status. On top of

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this, new eligibility rules and requirements have made it exceedingly complicated and challenging for those who still qualify or potentially qualify to obtain and keep their benefits, and it is projected that hundreds of thousands of residents may lose access to this key program as a result.

Despite the scaling back of this critical program to fight both hunger and poverty, the County has not backed down from the challenge to end hunger. The County continues to engage our partners in the community to inform and educate residents about the resources available to them. The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has also initiated a campaign to encourage residents who still qualify for CalFresh to “Keep Your Benefits.” The County continues to advocate strongly in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. to restore food assistance for those who are now denied access.

This May, DPSS is collaborating with other County departments, local cities, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), faith-and community-based organizations, farmers’ markets, food banks, school districts, and media outlets for the 16th observance of CalFresh Awareness Month (CFAM). This year’s statewide theme, “Still Reaching. Still Feeding,” underscores the County’s continued dedication to doing everything we can to make sure all County residents have access to fresh and nutritious food, despite the efforts to curb and restrict access to food assistance. The County is bringing a renewed focus to reaching those in our community that qualify for CalFresh but have been reluctant to apply and working with them to get the food access they need to live healthy

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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lives.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 2026 as “CalFresh Awareness Month,” and encourage all employees and residents of the County to support the month-long public awareness campaign by following DPSS on social media and sharing information with individuals and families in their community who need it most.

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