

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH
AND JANICE HAHN**

**Promoting Food Equity & Nutrition by Proclaiming May 2024 CalFresh Awareness
Month in Los Angeles County**

In Los Angeles County, food insecurity, defined as the lack of consistent access to enough food to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, is a serious public health issue. It negatively impacts the cognitive, physical, and emotional development of children, putting them, as well as adults, at greater risk for obesity, diabetes, and other illnesses. The County has demonstrated its commitment to this work by establishing the Los Angeles County Office of Food Equity which supports the Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable. Consistent access to nutritious food is the foundation of a strong and healthy community, and the most impactful resource is the CalFresh program.

CalFresh is California’s version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and is administered locally by the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Over 1.6 million adults and children receive this benefit across the County, but we know that many more suffer from food insecurity. A 2021 study by the California Department of Social Services estimated there are at least 322,000 LA County eligible residents who are not receiving CalFresh.

To increase connection to this program, the County launched the CalFresh Awareness Month (CFAM) campaign to raise public awareness and to encourage eligible residents to apply for the

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CalFresh Program.

CFAM is a team effort. DPSS and the Department of Public Health (DPH) partner with community-based organizations, the 88 cities of the County, colleges, school districts, farmers' markets, as well as other County departments such as the Chief Sustainability Office and County-affiliated agencies such as Metro, to communicate that CalFresh is an effective resource that could transform their lives for the better. This public information campaign strives to reach households facing barriers to accessing healthy food and may be reluctant to access public assistance.

This year's theme is *Eat Better, Live Better*. Given the importance of this work, it is vital that the County encourage and connect families to essential services such as CalFresh.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Proclaim May 2024 as CalFresh Awareness Month in Los Angeles County;
- 2) Direct DPSS to work with appropriate County departments and community partners to organize the CalFresh Awareness Month Community Kick-off Event and Resource Fair to be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at Mar Vista Park.
- 3) Direct all County departments to promote CalFresh and other effective food and nutrition programs, as well as all CalFresh Awareness Month outreach events and activities, through social media and other public messaging efforts;
- 4) Encourage County residents who believe they may need food assistance to apply for CalFresh at [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com); and
- 5) Encourage County residents to donate their time and/or resources to local food

banks.

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