

City and County of San Francisco



Mark Farrell, Mayor

Human Services Agency

Department of Human Services
Economic Support & Self-Sufficiency

Trent Rhorer, Executive Director

Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director, Economic Support & Self-Sufficiency

Proclamation: May 2018 is CalFresh Awareness and Action Month in the City and County of San Francisco

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Human Services Agency and the City and County of San Francisco urge all community members to support efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the CalFresh program; and

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, especially low income residents, seniors, families with children, immigrants, young adults, and people who are homeless suffer disproportionately from hunger and food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity results in poor nutritional intake, unhealthy eating behaviors that persist sometimes for decades after the food insecurity experience, and is associated with poor health outcomes in all populations and higher health care costs; and

WHEREAS, a robust CalFresh program (known nationally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) and formerly known as Food Stamps) is critical to providing financial resources for food to thousands of San Franciscans; and

WHEREAS, the average household on CalFresh in San Francisco receives approximately \$272 per month for groceries; CalFresh is provided on an electronic benefits card that can be used in grocery stores, supermarkets, and at all San Francisco farmer's markets; and

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

WHEREAS, approximately 53,000 individuals in San Francisco receive CalFresh and an estimated 28,000 additional individuals may be eligible but are not enrolled in CalFresh; and

WHEREAS, a key opportunity for increasing participation is conducting targeted outreach to people who are likely eligible, such as young adults, seniors, infants and women with young children; and

WHEREAS, another key opportunity for increasing participation includes reducing "churn"—people who are discontinued from the program and then reapply within three months; it is estimated that approximately 20% of CalFresh participants in San Francisco experience "churn"; and

WHEREAS, another key opportunity for increasing participation is to debunk myths and fears about participating, especially fears and misconceptions 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 therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Human Services Agency proclaims May 2018 CalFresh Awareness and Action Month and urges all community members to support efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the CalFresh program.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Kahn".

SCOTT KAHN

President, Human Services Commission

April 26, 2018

Date