



CalFresh Awareness Month

May 2016

Whereas, One of the highest priorities of the Alameda County Social Services Agency (ACSSA) is its commitment to reduce poverty, hunger and food insecurity in Alameda County by increasing access to and participation in the CalFresh Program, the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Whereas, In Alameda County, where more than 1.5 million people reside, one in six individuals has missed a meal in any given week and it is estimated that 13% of individuals are living in poverty. Individuals who are low-income and food insecure must make tough decisions. Many know that education is vital to improving their lives, but some students are faced with the decision to choose between books or food. Several studies recently found that a large number of students nationwide are struggling with hunger. According to a California State University (CSU) study that was published in February 2016, one in four of CSU students are food insecure and 12 percent (%) of students suffer from housing displacement, such as homelessness.

Whereas, people often think that college students are aged 18 to 25, childless, and attending a four-year institution. But that's not the experience of the typical college student. In fact, most students are older, low income, raising a family, or attending a community college. "The nontraditional student is the new normal."

Whereas, Hunger has a large impact on learning and college retention and CalFresh is a vital support food assistance program that ensures individuals are able to meet their basic nutritional needs. While current federal regulations restrict some students from qualifying for CalFresh, many students can still qualify. For example, exemptions to the student rule exist for students who are working a certain number of hours, approved for work study, participating in the Extended Opportunity Programs (EOPS), or caring for young children.

Whereas, ACSSA continues to partner with the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) and various community-based partners to implement a 2016 CalFresh Awareness Month Campaign - "Healthy Food. Healthy Minds." The campaign aims to educate the low-income student population about the CalFresh program and the student exemptions available that make students potentially eligible for the program in order to increase enrollment among this.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, State of California proclaim May 2016, as "CalFresh Awareness Month" in Alameda County, and urge all County residents to learn about the benefits of CalFresh and the importance of good nutrition.

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