

URGING THE SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION TO PROCLAIM MAY 2017 CALFRESH AWARENESS AND ACTION MONTH.

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, 1 in 4 San Franciscans, especially low income residents, seniors, families with children, immigrants, 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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 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 \$238 per month for groceries; and CalFresh is provided on an electronic benefit card that can be used in grocery stores, supermarkets and at all San Francisco farmers' markets; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh spurs the local economy because each CalFresh benefit dollar generates \$1.79 as an economic multiplier; and 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 51,000 individuals in San Francisco receive CalFresh, yet an estimated 49,000 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 an estimated 20,000 Medi-Cal recipients and 11,000 school children already registered for free school meals; and

WHEREAS, Another key opportunity for increasing participation includes reducing "churn" – people who are discontinued from the program and then re-apply within three months; it is estimated that approximately 25% 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, local leaders all have a role to play in furthering awareness about CalFresh and promoting this critical program; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Human Services Commission proclaims May 2017 CALFRESH AWARENESS AND ACTION MONTH and urges all community members to support efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the CalFresh program.