Contra Costa County
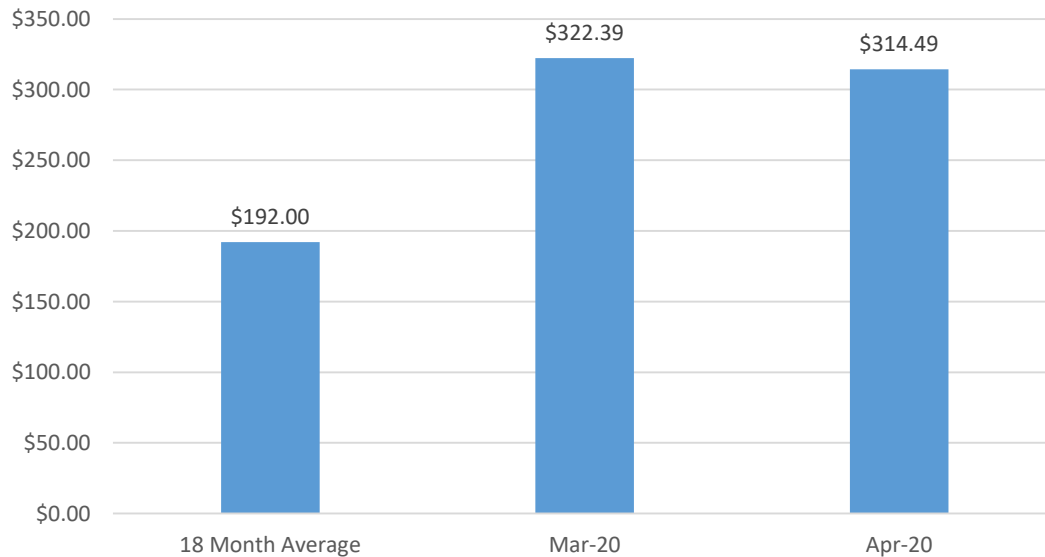# Employment and Human Services Department

CalFresh Report

Family and Human Services Committee

June 22, 2020

CalFresh Introduction & Facts:

CalFresh provides **food for low-income families**, one of the most important anti-poverty programs in the country.
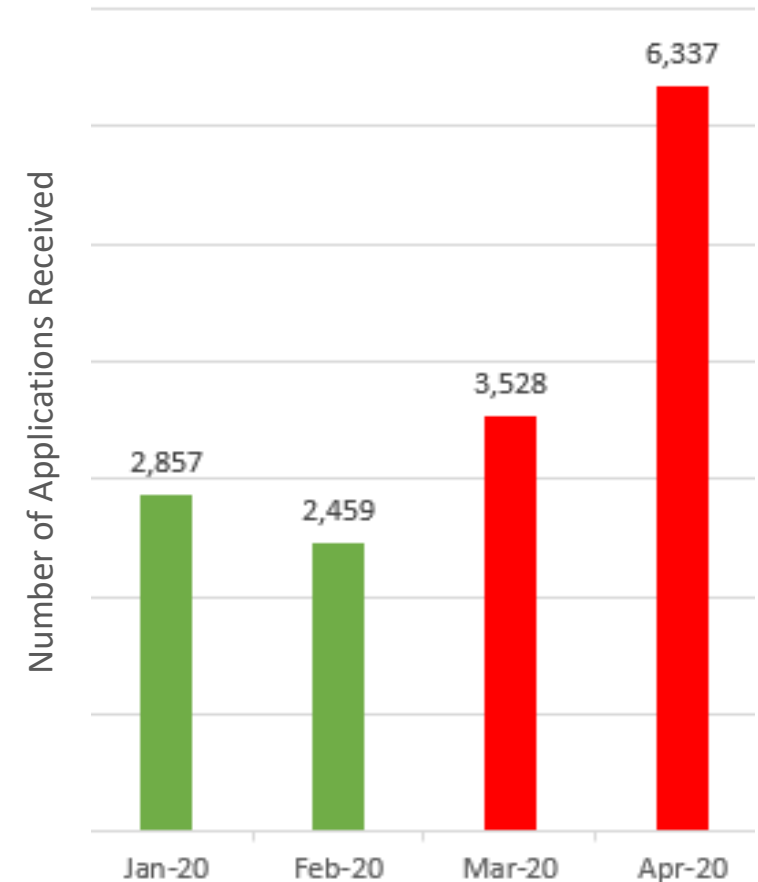
Average Monthly Benefit Amount

Category	Amount
18 Month Average	$192.00
Mar-20	$322.39
Apr-20	$314.49

Average monthly benefit of $192 **rose to $318** during the COVID 19 Crisis

Contra Costa County receives an average of 3,117 applications monthly.

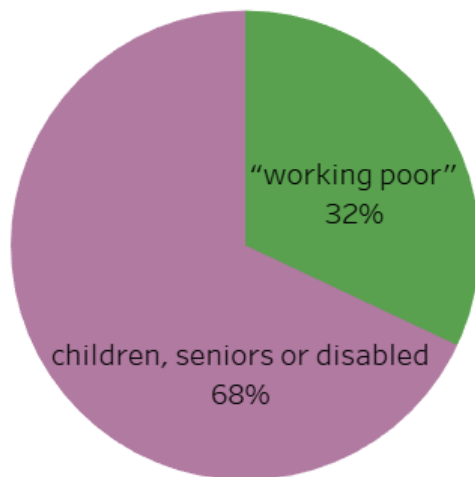During the COVID 19 Crisis, the **average has risen to 4,932 applications monthly.**

CalFresh Applications by Month, January – April 2020

Number of Applications Received

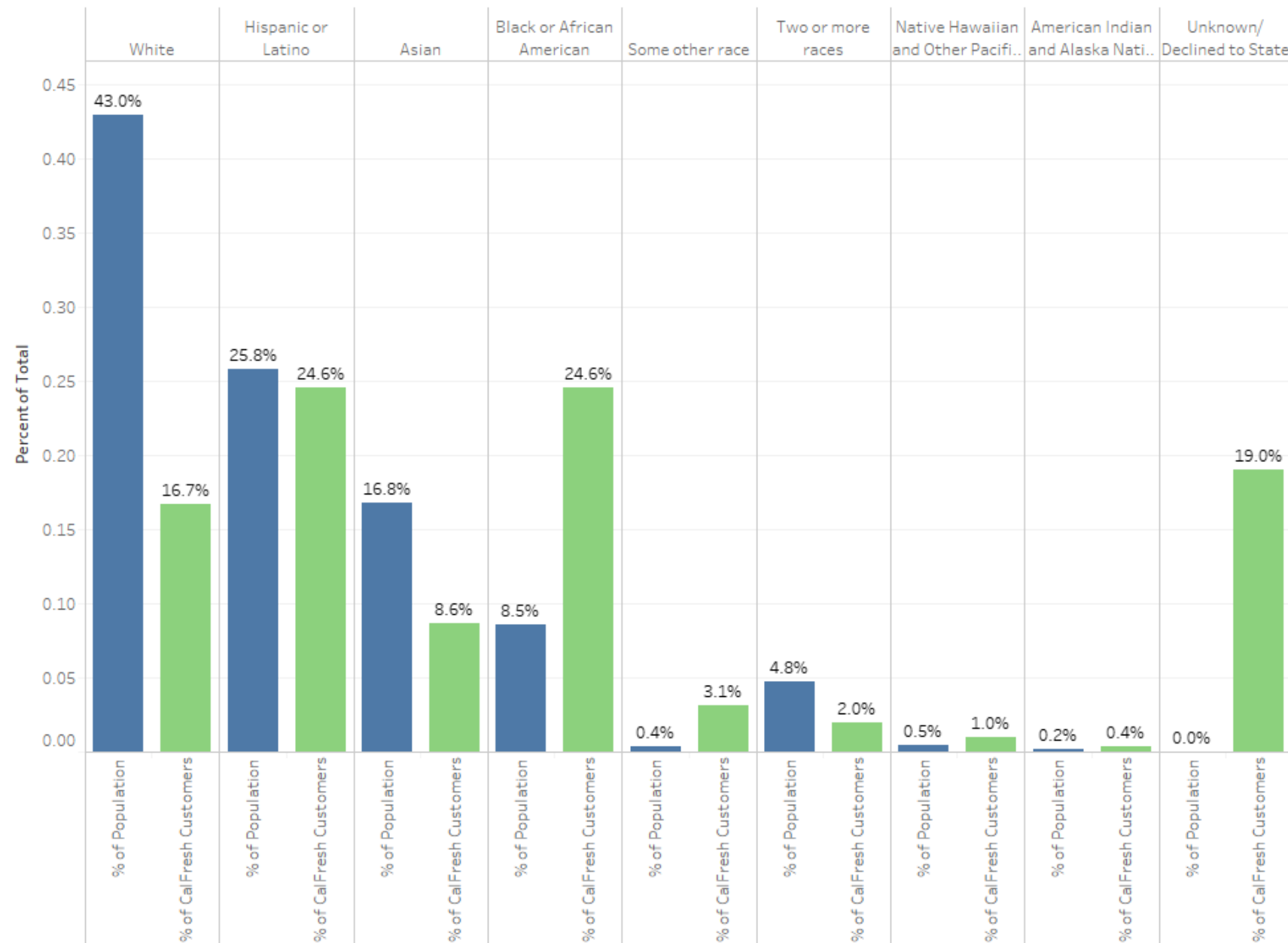| Month	Number of Applications Received
Jan-20	2,857
Feb-20	2,459
Mar-20	3,528
Apr-20	6,337

CalFresh
Introduction & Facts

An average of 65,000 individuals (currently **73,000 individuals**) receive CalFresh benefits monthly in Contra Costa County.
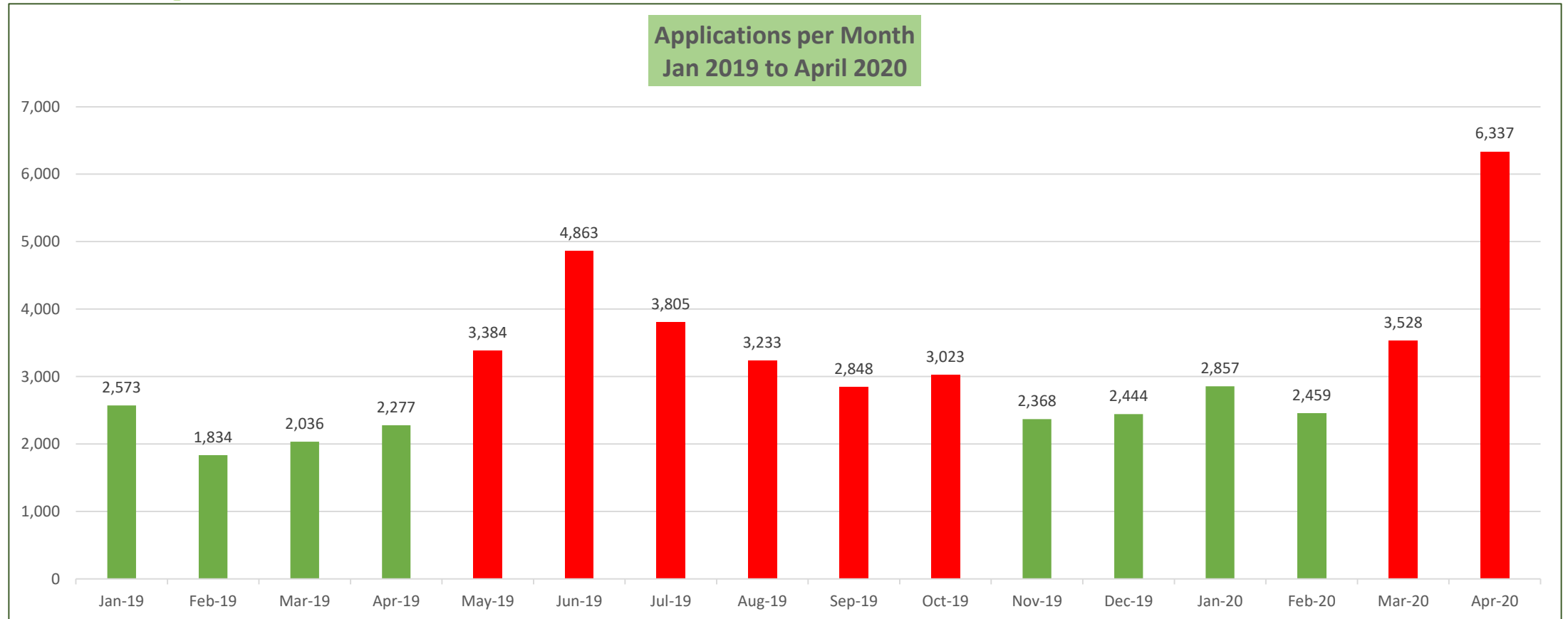
Types of CalFresh Recipients

"working poor" 32%

children, seniors or disabled 68%

Source: CalWIN

Contra Costa County Population and CalFresh Customers by Race/Ethnicity

	White	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Black or African American	Some other race	Two or more races	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacifi...	American Indian and Alaska Nati...	Unknown/ Declined to State
% of Population	43.0%	25.8%	16.8%	8.5%	0.4%	4.8%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%
% of CalFresh Customers	16.7%	24.6%	8.6%	24.6%	3.1%	2.0%	1.0%	0.4%	19.0%

Source for Contra Costa County data: American Community Survey, 2018 1-year, Census Bureau

Applications

Applications per Month Jan 2019 to April 2020

Month	Applications
Jan-19	2,573
Feb-19	1,834
Mar-19	2,036
Apr-19	2,277
May-19	3,384
Jun-19	4,863
Jul-19	3,805
Aug-19	3,233
Sep-19	2,848
Oct-19	3,023
Nov-19	2,368
Dec-19	2,444
Jan-20	2,857
Feb-20	2,459
Mar-20	3,528
Apr-20	6,337

From January 2019 through April 2020, an average of approximately 3,117 applications were submitted monthly. In May 2019, newly eligible SSI (Social Security Income) recipients began applying for benefits (noted above in red). This programmatic change is also known as CalFresh Expansion. March and April 2020 are also in red noting the COVID 19 crisis.
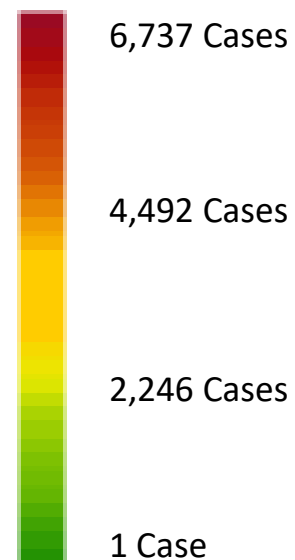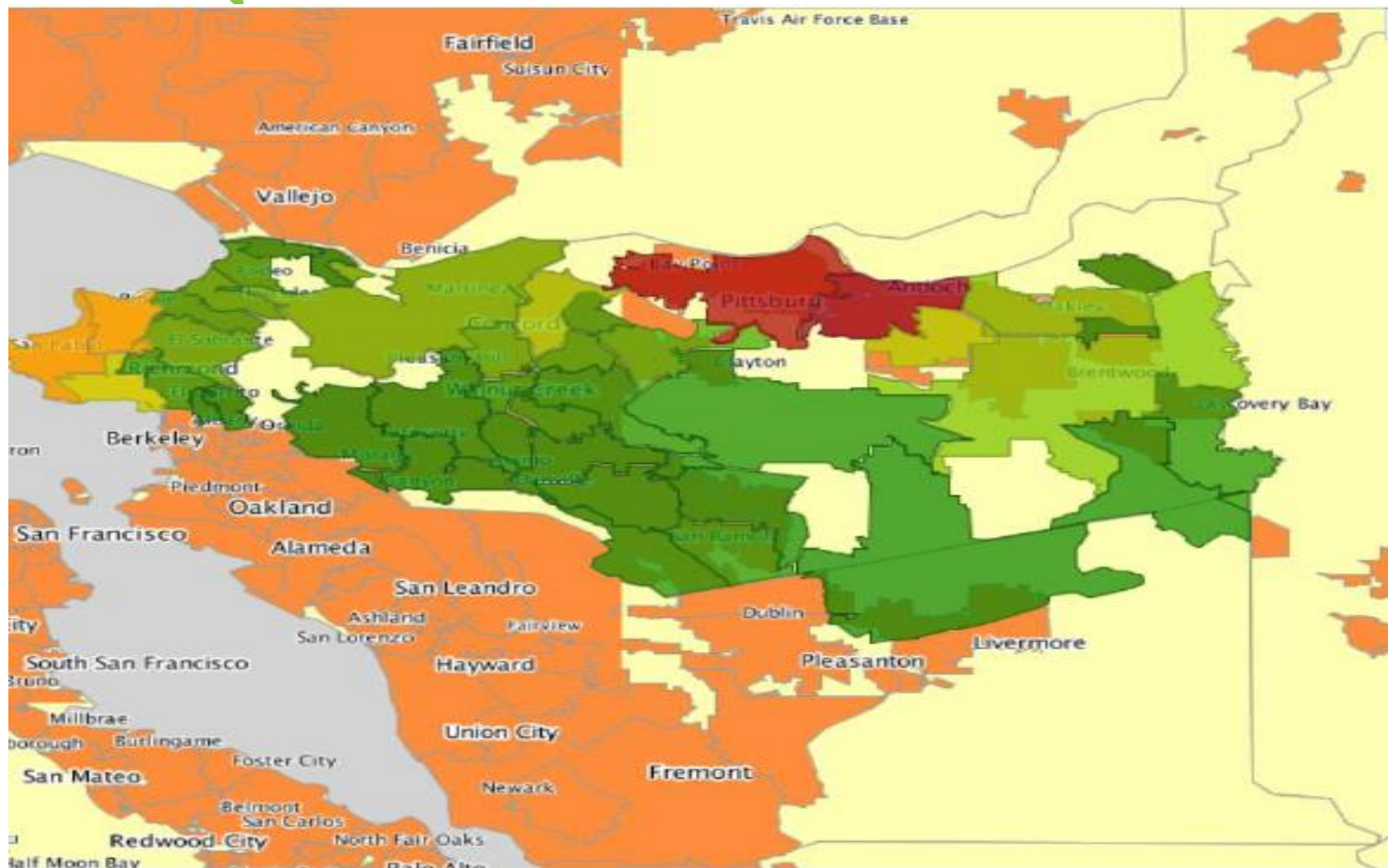
Source: CalWIN

Caseload

**Caseload per Month
Jan 2019 - April 2020**
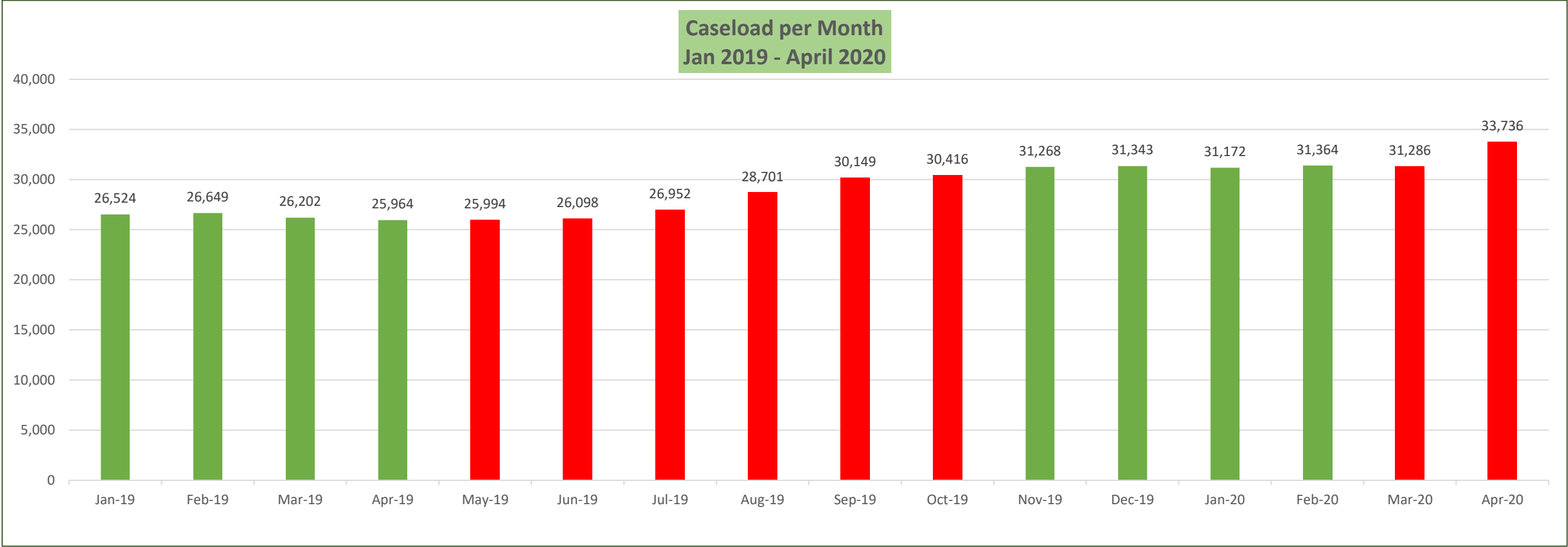
From January 2019 through April 2020, the CalFresh caseload average was 28,989 monthly. In May 2019, newly eligible SSI (Social Security Income) recipients began applying for benefits (noted above in red). This programmatic change is also known as CalFresh Expansion. March and April 2020 are also in red noting the COVID 19 crisis.
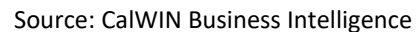
Source: CalWIN

CalFresh Cases by Zip Code

Standardized Zip Code	Number of Cases
94509	6,737
94565	6,029
94801	3,745
94806	3,704
94804	2,446
94531	2,204
94520	1,980
94513	1,674
94561	1,653
94553	1,379

Source: CalWIN Business Intelligence

Length of Time Receiving Benefits Geographically

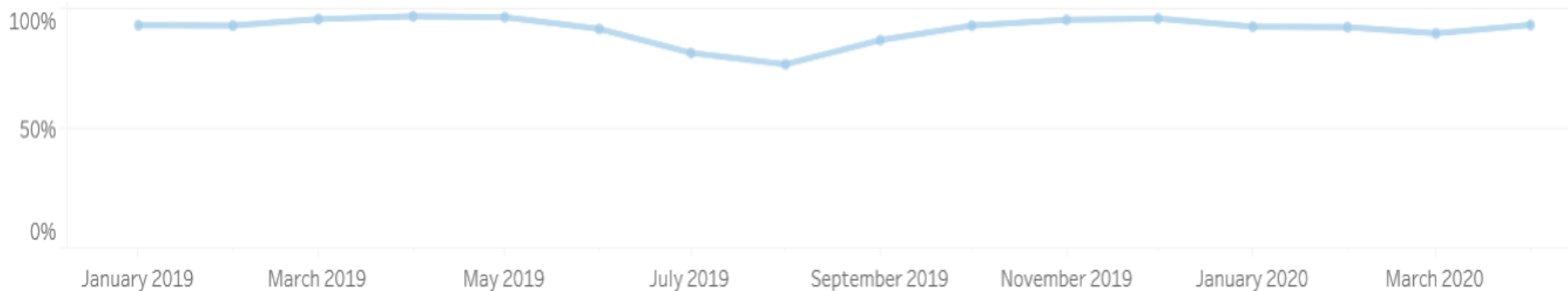Source: CalWIN Business Intelligence

![CalFresh logo] **Program Updates**

➢Workforce Services Bureau Staffing
  ➢ Hiring Update
  ➢ COVID 19 Impacts

Applications Approved within 30 Days

Source: CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report (CF 296)

Program Updates (continued)

➢ Service Delivery Updates
  ➢ Call center established for phone applications using telephonic signature
  ➢ Intake and recertification interviews continue telephonically
  ➢ Expanded use of Adobe Sign for remote document signature

➢ Temporary Waivers, Postponements and Benefit Expansion Due to COVID 19
  ➢ Recertification postponements and no negative actions through May 2020
  ➢ Emergency CalFresh benefits bring families up to maximum household benefit through June
  ➢ Interview waivers allowed on some applications
  ➢ Pandemic EBT for eligible households with school aged children
  ➢ Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents work requirements waived through public health emergency
  ➢ Online EBT purchases through Amazon and WalMart

➢ SSI and Senior Outreach
  ➢ Mailings not very fruitful but continue
  ➢ Community outreach stopped due to COVID 19

Employment and Training Update

- Voluntary program that launched in April 2017 in partnership with the Foundation of California Community Colleges (FCCC).

- Provides comprehensive employment support, including job training, soft skills, employment application assistance, skill development, interview skills

- As of April 2020, 67 individuals are participating in Fresh Success in Contra Costa County.

- Current service delivery partners*:
  - Rubicon
  - Opportunity Junction
  - Diablo Valley College (DVC)

*Providers currently provide services to the CalFresh population via teleconference, video conferencing and phone calls.

CalFresh

Community Partnership

EHSD is committed to community partnership to address food insecurity in Contra Costa County.

CalFresh Partnership Group includes:
- ❖ Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
- ❖ Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa
- ❖ Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP)/First 5
- ❖ Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition
- ❖ Community Clinic Consortium of Contra Costa and Solano

Feeback informed outreach materials, phone application expansion.

Questions?