

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the matter of proclaiming May 2022 as "CalFresh Awareness Month."

Resolution No. 2022/169

WHEREAS, the Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD), along with the CalFresh Partner Group -- comprised of The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Family Economic Security Partnership, Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition and Meals on Wheels -- is committed to increasing CalFresh participation and awareness for residents within Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, encouraging eligible residents to enroll in CalFresh will increase access to healthy and affordable food; and

WHEREAS, EHSD's partnership with the community will raise recognition and visibility of the CalFresh program; and

WHEREAS, approximately 4.5 million Californians, in 2.5 million households, currently receive CalFresh Food benefits yet it is estimated that nearly 2 million more are eligible for food assistance, via CalFresh, and do not receive it; and

WHEREAS, lack of awareness of the program and who is eligible for help are among reasons people don't apply. Many don't realize they can get benefits, even if they have some income, own a home or own a car; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh Food benefits can be used at most grocery stores, even select online retailers and matched dollar-for-dollar at participating farmers markets; and

WHEREAS, approximately 88,000 Contra Costa County residents are receiving CalFresh, as of March 2022; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh benefits have driven more than \$440 million in total economic activity, from April 2021 through March 2022, in Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, CalFresh supported families by providing emergency benefits, implementing program flexibilities, and establishing new programs to ensure Californians continue to have access to food; and

WHEREAS, due to extensive economic impacts of COVID-19, some individuals and families were eligible to receive CalFresh for the first time ever; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County is one of 34 counties in the state to offer the CalFresh Employment and Training Program -- providing CalFresh participants training and assistance towards job readiness, job security, work norms and access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, actively promoting CalFresh participation, by having all County departments join in CalFresh appreciation, throughout Contra Costa by including CalFresh information and a link to the MyBenefitsCalWIN site on their individual websites, will result in increased engagement within the CalFresh program, as well as favorable economic and health outcomes for Contra Costa County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby proclaim May 2022 as CalFresh Awareness Month in Contra Costa County, and honors all of the individuals, organizations and agencies working to ensure that all County residents have access to safe, nutritious food and support in achieving sustainable economic health.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 10th day of May 2022.

Karen Mitchoff

KAREN MITCHOFF
Chair,
District IV Supervisor

John Gioia

JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

Candace Andersen

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

Diane Burgis

DIANE BURGIS
District III Supervisor

Federal D. Glover

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: May 10, 2022

MONICA NINO, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By *Monica Nino*, Deputy