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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *A-3E

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE April 23, 2013

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Proclamation of the Month of May 2013 as CalFresh Awareness Month

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim the Month of May 2013 as CalFresh Awareness Month
2. Issue a Resolution to highlight the need for CalFresh awareness in Stanislaus County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-164

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

What was formally known as the Food Stamp Program began in 1939. Since its inception, it was designed to be a federally funded food supplement program assisting families and individuals with low income or limited means. Prior to 1977, families were required to purchase their food stamps. For example, for every \$1 worth of orange stamps purchases, 50 cents worth of blue stamps were received. Orange stamps could be used to buy any food; blue stamps could only be used to buy food determined by the Department to be surplus. In 1964, the Food Stamp Act was implemented by Congress under President Johnson's war on poverty; and in 1977 the Food Stamp program was reformed. It eliminated the need for customer to "purchase" food stamps and set many of the standards still used today.

The Food Stamp Program is a central component of American policy to alleviate hunger and poverty. The program's main purpose is "to permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet . . . by increasing their purchasing power" (Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended). The Food Stamp Program is the largest of the domestic food and nutrition assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service.

In 2001, the law enacting Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) passed in Congress, eliminating the use of paper coupons, instead using a card similar to an ATM card. This simple change eliminated the stigma for many of using Food Stamps in stores as well as modernizing the program. In efforts to continue to fight the stigma, effective October 1, 2008, Federal law changed the name of the Food Stamp Program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. In 2010, California chose to name the program CalFresh.

The number of households lacking adequate food has more than tripled in the last four years, according to a report by the United States Department of Agriculture. In Stanislaus County today, there are 41,147 households with 90,500 individuals enrolled in the CalFresh program, for which the Community Services Agency issues \$13,458,366 per month. These monies, spent in the community have a significant economic impact on our area. CalFresh monies not only help the elderly, low income families and single adults (many of whom work), but also valley farmers and local grocery stores; this is called the multiplier effect. This helps sustain jobs in the various areas mentioned.

In 2013, the Department is requesting that May is proclaimed as CalFresh Awareness Month. Proclaiming May as CalFresh Awareness Month will increase the focus on awareness of the CalFresh program in Stanislaus County.

POLICY ISSUE:

Proclaiming May, 2013 CalFresh Awareness Month. This proclamation will

support the Board's priorities of A Healthy Community and Effective Partnerships by recognizing the importance of heightening the awareness of the CalFresh program in Stanislaus County.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathryn M. Harwell, Director. Telephone: 558-2500

Proclamation of May, 2013 as CalFresh Awareness Month in Stanislaus County

WHEREAS, in Stanislaus County, there are 41,147 households with 90,500 individuals enrolled in the CalFresh program; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Agency issues \$13,458,366 per month; and

WHEREAS, these monies spent in the community have a significant economic impact on our area; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh monies not only help our low income families (many of whom work), but also valley farmers and stores; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby proclaim May, 2013 as Stanislaus County CalFresh Awareness Month.