

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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA #: *A-4c

AGENDA DATE: April 26, 2016

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2016 as CalFresh Awareness Month

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2016-199

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

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

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A. King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Community Services Agency
Urgent Routine

BOARD AGENDA #: *A-4c

AGENDA DATE: April 26, 2016



CEO CONCURRENCE: *ph*

4/5 Vote Required: Yes No

SUBJECT:

Approval to Proclaim May 2016 as CalFresh Awareness Month

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim May 2016 as CalFresh Awareness Month.

DISCUSSION:

The foundation for the Food Stamp Program or as it is now known "SNAP" Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was first built in 1933 as part of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA). The program, referred to as the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, was established in the midst of the Great Depression, when prices for crops fell dramatically and farms across America were struggling to deal with the excess supply. To support farmers, the Federal government bought basic farm commodities at discount prices and distributed them among hunger relief agencies in states and local communities.

Major revisions were made to the program in the Food Stamp Act of 1977, including the elimination of the requirement that participants purchase the stamps; the establishment of uniform national standards of eligibility; the expansion of the program to minority communities; and more federal support for the implementation of the program at the state level. The SNAP as we know it today purposes strengthening the agricultural economy and providing improved levels of nutrition among low-income households; this goal remains in effect and has a significant impact on Stanislaus County to this day.

In 1981, nutrition education, now termed SNAP-Education (SNAP-Ed) in the Food Stamp Program was established as an optional program in the states. By 2004, nutrition education was being conducted in all 50 states. In the late 1990s the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card was introduced. This was part of the Program's goal to streamline. This also had the added benefit of reducing the stigma some individuals felt when using the old stamps while at the same time reducing fraud and ensure ease of use. In addition to this change, funding for the Program were converted to Block Grants for States to Administer and included stricter requirements on SNAP usage and eligibility.

Today, the SNAP program (in California it is referred to as the CalFresh Program) is the largest Federal food assistance program in the country serving more than 46 million Americans. SNAP is not only a critical safety net program, but also has the potential to be one of the most important health and nutrition initiatives in the United States.

Approval to Proclaim May 2016 as CalFresh Awareness Month

In Stanislaus County the Community Services Agency (CSA) has partnered with local Community Based Organizations, the Health Services Agency (HSA) and the UC Davis Cooperative Extension Program to expand Nutrition Information to lower income or remote areas of Stanislaus County. In Stanislaus County, EBT cards can be used at grocery stores as well as Farmers Markets; there are 42,632 households (89,906 individuals) receiving CalFresh, issuing approximately \$12 million dollars each month into the local economy. Each \$1 of CalFresh benefits spent in Stanislaus County generates \$1.79 in economic activity through the support of local businesses. This helps local farmers, grocers, as well as aiding the elderly, low income families and single adults (most of who work). This helps sustain jobs in the community.

In 2016, Community Services Agency is requesting that May be proclaimed as the CalFresh Awareness Month. Proclaiming May as the CalFresh Awareness Month will increase the focus on awareness of the CalFresh Program in Stanislaus County.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Governor and the California Legislature have historically proclaimed May as CalFresh Awareness Month.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 operating budget for the Community Services Agency includes \$23.6 million for the administration of the CalFresh Program. Federal and State revenue of \$21.8 million will offset the planned program expenditures and the County Match requirement of \$1.8 million will be funded with County General Fund. The Community Services Agency 2015-2016 Mid-Year budget includes sufficient appropriations and estimated revenue to support the current year program activities.

There is no additional cost to the General Fund associated with this agenda item.

Cost of recommended action:		\$ 23,550,945
Source(s) of Funding:		
Federal & State Funding	21,774,532	
CSA Existing County Match	1,776,413	
Funding Total:	\$ 23,550,945	
Net Cost to County General Fund		\$ -

Fiscal Year:	2015/2016
Budget Adjustment/Appropriations needed:	No

Fund Balance as of N/A

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended action supports the Boards' priority of ensuring A Healthy Community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

Kathryn M. Harwell, Director (209) 558-2500

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proclamation

**Proclaiming May 2016 as
CalFresh Awareness Month in Stanislaus County**

WHEREAS, the CalFresh program is a federal program established in 1964 with the goal of reducing severe hunger in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the CalFresh program provides monthly benefits for low income individuals and families, the elderly and disabled, improving their health and well-being by providing nutritional assistance and access to healthy food; and,

WHEREAS, in Stanislaus County, there are 42,632 households with 89,906 individuals enrolled in the CalFresh program; and,

WHEREAS, the Community Services Agency issues approximately \$12 million 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 individuals and families, but also valley farmers and stores; and,

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition that the Community Services Agency and valley farmers and stores help make the County of Stanislaus a healthier place for children and families, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby declare the Month of May 2016 as **CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH** in Stanislaus County.