

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

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *A-5

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE May 6, 2014

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Proclamation of the Month of May 2014 as CalFresh Awareness Month

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Proclaim the Month of May 2014 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. 2014-208

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

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

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:

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

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.

The SNAP as we know it now began in 1964; among the purposes of the Food Stamp Act of 1964 were 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. 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; more federal support for the implementation of the program at the state level.

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 providing ease of use. In addition to this change, funding for the Program was converted to Block Grants for States to administer and included 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 14% of the population (more than 45 million Americans), SNAP is 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. Currently, there are many proposals being considered to ensure that the program promotes healthy nutrition, ranging from establishing economic incentives to defined restrictions, such as the exclusion of sugar-sweetened beverages.

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

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42,363 households (92,372 individuals) receiving CalFresh, infusing \$13 million dollars into the local economy on a monthly basis. This helps local farmers and grocers; provides aid to the elderly, low income families and single adults; and helps to sustain jobs in the community. In Stanislaus County there are approximately 13,134 non-assisted working poor individuals receiving CalFresh.

In 2014, the Department is requesting that May is 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:

Proclaiming May as CalFresh Awareness Month promotes community awareness of CalFresh Programs in Stanislaus County and confirms the Agency's effort to meet the Board's priority of ensuring A Healthy Community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this request.

CONTACT PERSON:

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

WHEREAS, in Stanislaus County, there are 42,363 households with 92,372 individuals enrolled in the CalFresh program; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Agency issues over \$13 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 low income families, 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 **2014 as Stanislaus County CalFresh Awareness Month.**