

FOOD MATTERS

A publication of Alameda County Community Food Bank to celebrate the CalFresh Program and your good work

SUMMER 2017



ALLEVIATING CHILDHOOD HUNGER THROUGH CALFRESH PARTNERSHIPS



Oscar Rodriguez, Njeri McGee-Tyner from Alameda Health Consortium; Liz Gomez from ACCFB; Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, and Rashon Seldon, Program Specialist from Alameda County Social Services celebrate CalFresh Awareness Month efforts to enroll more eligible

In Alameda County, an estimated 19.4 percent of households are living in poverty. And with a food insecurity rate of 20.7 percent for children, approximately 70,680 children face the threat of hunger each day.

Last May, ACCFB, ACSSA, Alameda Health Consortium and other community agencies focused on enrolling eligible families in CalFresh through a CalFresh Awareness Month campaign called "Connecting Kids to CalFresh."

The campaign aimed to address food insecurity by promoting the CalFresh Program to families with children, and by providing them with resources to apply

for benefits, with an emphasis on increasing health and nutrition awareness. There were events held across the county, and some of the participating agencies included LifeLong Medical Care, Tri-City Health Center and WIC programs.

"We researched the amount of CalFresh benefits the households we assisted could receive, and it was rewarding to see the tremendous impact these extended food dollars will have on these low-income families," said Njeri McGee-Tyner, eligibility and enrollment director at Alameda Health Consortium.

Together, we can support families and improve the health and well-being of all children.

We're here to help!

The Food Bank Outreach Team is contracted by Alameda County Social Services to offer CalFresh outreach and out-of-office applications. Call (510) 635-3663 or email outreach@accfb.org.



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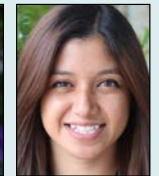
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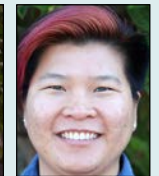
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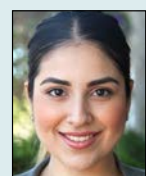
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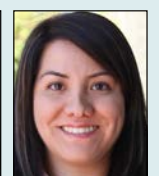
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ADVOCACY UPDATE



Food is a basic human right. Yet programs and policies that work to end hunger are continuously under attack. That's why every September, Feeding America and food banks across the nation stand together to spread awareness about hunger and work toward solutions.

This year's Hunger Action Month comes on the heels of a federal budget proposal by Congress and the President that would devastate SNAP, known in California as CalFresh, by cutting it by at least 25 percent over the next decade.

The Food Bank and other organizations are sending letters, making calls, hosting events and mobilizing our community to #SaveSNAP and make our voices heard.

Visit accfb.org/advocacy to learn more and join in making this the most powerful Hunger Action Month yet.

FRESH GROCERIES ARE JUST A CALL AWAY



Many of our Helpline volunteers have been with the Food Bank for more than five years!

ACCFB's Emergency Food Helpline helps county residents find a healthy food pantry near where they live or work.

Our helpline number is **(510) 635-3363**, ext. 602, and is open Monday-Friday. We are often able to connect callers with food the same day they call!

Many pantries are open in the afternoon and on the weekends.



Now, more students may be potentially eligible for CalFresh! Students under the following programs can qualify for an exemption from student eligibility rules.

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)
- College Disabled Students Program and Services/ Student Academic Support
- Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) Program
- UC McNair Program
- Puente Project
- CalFresh Employment and Training Program
- Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program
- Foster Youth Success Initiative
- Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES)
- Extended Foster Care (AB 12/AB 212)
- Guardian Scholars Program
- Chafee Educational Training Voucher

Did you miss a previous Food Matters edition? Visit the Food Bank's website: www.accfb.org/media/media_publications

Comments or suggestions? Please e-mail Rashon Seldon at rseldon@acgov.org