

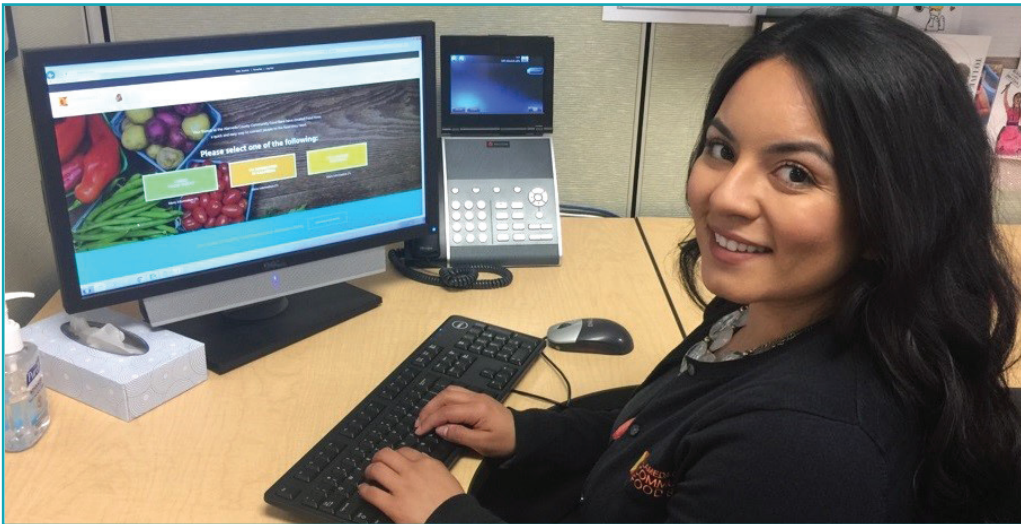
FOOD MATTERS

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



SPRING 2018

FOOD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Last year, Alameda County Community Food Bank created a CalFresh pre-screening and eligibility website called Food Now, as well as a Spanish version called Comida Ahora. The sites provide three main tools: information about food distribution sites, a CalFresh prescreening tool, and an easy referral process for third party agencies that would like their clients to apply for CalFresh.

Since launching, almost 6,000 clients have requested information about food distribution sites.

Clients who express their interest in CalFresh by entering their information will receive a call from our outreach staff within 24 hours. Our staff then confirms the client's

eligibility and provides step-by-step assistance to complete their application.

Organizations like Mandela MarketPlace, The Unity Council, and Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation share our commitment to ending hunger and now use this tool to connect clients with food.

"Food Now has been an incredibly useful tool in its ease and efficiency in referring patients to ACCFB," said Chelsea Sarg, retail incentive program coordinator at Mandela MarketPlace. "We're grateful to have an online tool for immediately referring patients without the overhead of having to save, upload, and send excel documents like we had to before."

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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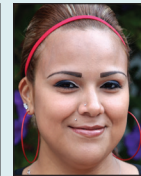
Roy
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Tina
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Patty
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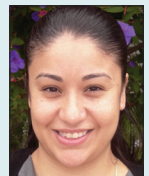
Cindy
Gonzalez
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Lisa
Houston
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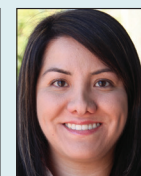
La Wonda
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Vanessa
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ext. 374



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ADVOCACY UPDATE



This year's annual Hunger Action Day (May 16) comes on the heels of a proposal from the House of Representatives that would drastically cut SNAP, known in California as CalFresh. These cuts would increase hunger, and make life harder for millions of people who are already living in or near poverty.

Every day, CalFresh helps more than 110,000 of us in Alameda County put food on the table, support our families, and protect our health. Plus, 6 out of 10 CalFresh recipients in our county are children.

That's why the Food Bank and other anti-hunger organizations across the state are meeting with legislators, lobbying in Congress, and mobilizing our community to defend SNAP.

Ready to join us? Visit accfb.org/advocacy to take action and join our mailing list.

FRESH GROCERIES ARE JUST A CALL AWAY



Our helpline is often able to connect callers with food the same day they call.

ACCFB's Emergency Food Helpline helps county residents find a healthy food pantry near their home or workplace.

Our helpline number is (510) 635-3363, ext. 602, and is open Monday-Friday.

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

Voices of CalFresh

"The cost of living in Berkeley is high. I'm a student with a campus job but I'm still struggling to pay rent and other expenses. CalFresh helps me to cover the food cost, which allows me to use my income to pay the rent, electricity, and educational expenses. If I didn't have CalFresh, I would have to work more hours which would affect my academic performance and increase stress, which could impact my health."

— UC Berkeley College Student

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

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