

FOOD MATTERS

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



FALL 2018

BREAKING BARRIERS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

Last year, Alameda County Community Food Bank's Outreach team began holding CalFresh enrollment clinics in an effort to increase program participation among UC Berkeley Students. For the Fall 2017 through Spring 2018 school year, a total of 1,300 students were enrolled in the program.



Determined to increase CalFresh participation among students even further, the Outreach team tried something different this year. With the help of the Basic Needs Department, they shifted their outreach initiatives to target incoming freshmen during student orientation week. The team offered six days of enrollment sessions and one day of onsite interviews with an Alameda County Social Services Eligibility Worker.

More than 400 students attended the sessions, 240 students were

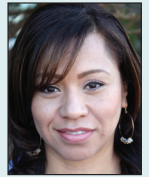
helped with applications, and 62 students completed their in-person interviews.

"Not having to stress about food is something that really just takes a big burden off my mind. I didn't need to worry about having to pick up extra shifts just to get enough money to buy food for the next week or having to cut down my food intake just to make rent this month," one student shared.

Student enrollment initiatives are also progressing at 6 of the 10 community colleges in Alameda County. Our goal is to exceed the number of students helped this school year.

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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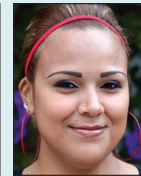
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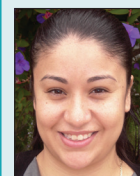
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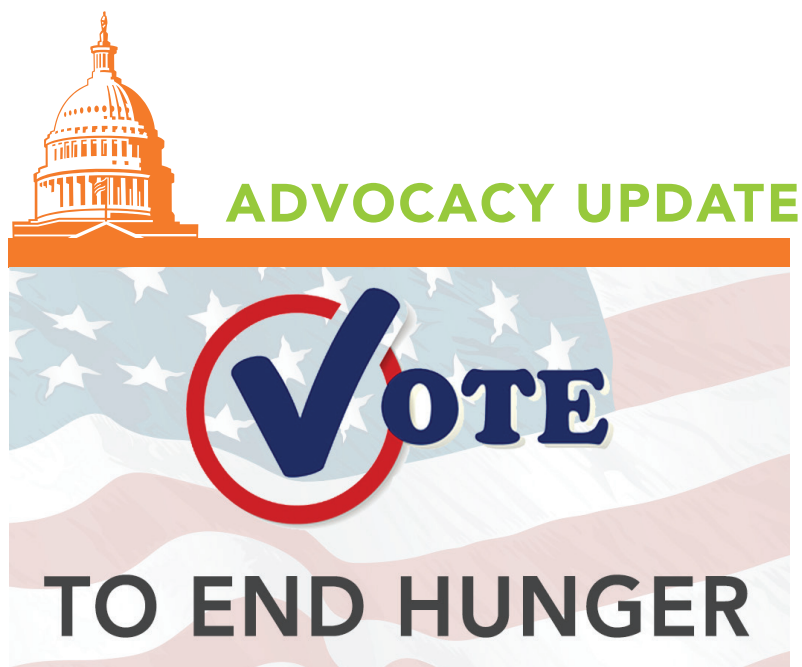
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Food is a basic human right. Yet, we serve 116,000 Alameda County residents each month. Our advocacy team regularly works with all levels of government to address the root causes of hunger. But, ending hunger starts at the polls.

Over the years, policies we've advocated for have made huge impacts on the lives of the people we serve. In June, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a state budget that grants access to CalFresh for 50,000 Alameda County neighbors and 1.2 million Californians who also receive SSI.

Hunger is not a partisan issue. Every election offers choices that can worsen or alleviate hunger and poverty. The election on Nov. 6 is pivotal for our community because of issues, like housing, that can create hardship across Alameda County.

Make sure you make your voice heard this Election Day.

Visit accfb.org/vote for more information about the upcoming election.

FRESH GROCERIES ARE JUST A CALL AWAY



Holiday
Information Line:
(800) 870-FOOD
or (510) 635-3663

From Nov. 1 through Dec. 25, the Food Bank operates a special Holiday Information Line to connect our community members with groceries or a hot meal close to home.

Callers are prompted to press the option for Holiday Food, enter their zip code, and provide the number of household members. The automated operator will list distribution sites in the caller's neighborhood. The majority of our sites distribute food on a first-come, first-served basis. Please remind anyone needing food to call the Holiday Information Line early as some sites fill up quickly.



College students approved for Work Study

Students who are approved for work-study are eligible for CalFresh as long as they meet the other CalFresh requirements. Any student who is approved or anticipates starting a state or federally financed work-study is exempt from the CalFresh student eligibility rule (MPP 63-406.212, AB 214). Students can verify work-study by submitting a screenshot of their financial aid package reflecting the amount they were approved for. Even if a job is not immediately available, the student still qualifies for the exemption.

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@acgov.org