

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

DECLARING MAY AS CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, CalFresh is a nutritional supplement for individuals and families across Santa Cruz County that helps reduce hunger and poverty, and is part of a pathway of health and wellbeing for Santa Cruz County's youngest and most vulnerable adult citizens with almost half of recipients being children and approximately ten percent over 60 years of age; and

WHEREAS, seniors and people with disabilities are at increased risk for food insecurity, and beginning in June 2019, recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) may be eligible for CalFresh benefits for the first time since 1974, enabling thousands of Santa Cruz County residents to increase their food budgets, facilitating access to nutritious food, helping to reduce the risk of illness and the development of chronic diseases and contributing to disease management; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County continues to collaborate with community-based organizations and partners to educate residents about the benefits of CalFresh, good nutrition and exercise; and to support community health across generations by raising awareness about the expansion of CalFresh to seniors and people with disabilities including those on SSI, and to remove barriers that discourage eligible households from applying for CalFresh; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive health and safety, and a dynamic economy is part of the county strategic plan, and the CalFresh program supports both goals, county residents will receive approximately \$38 million in CalFresh benefits this year, which will be spent in local community grocery stores and farmer's markets, in turn generating \$1.80 in economic activity for every \$1 in CalFresh benefits spent, supporting health and the economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ryan Coonerty, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby declare the month of May 2019, as CalFresh Awareness Month in Santa Cruz County.





Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

May 1, 2019

Date