

# County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency

353 West Julian Street  
San Jose, California 95110-2335



**DATE:** May 29, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

**FROM:** Robert Menicocci, Social Services Agency Director *RM*

**SUBJECT: SSA Off Agenda Report Regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**

On April 14, 2020 (Item 6), at the request of Supervisor Ellenberg, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed Administration to report to the Board on a weekly basis relating to increases in the percentage of individuals applying for nutritional programs and other forms of assistance, whether the County is maintaining pace with providing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to individuals through Federal and State funding, and notification if the County nears a breaking point for fund availability or faces backlogs that exceed the current number of days in response time for providing SNAP benefits to individuals.

## Social Services Agency Dashboard

The Social Services Agency Dashboard, accessible to the Board, provides weekly information on public assistance applications, including CalFresh (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Medi-Cal, CalWorks, and General Assistance, received and approved.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Funding

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California, is an entitlement program that offers nutrition assistance to millions of low-income individuals and families. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers the program in partnership with states, 10 of which delegate that responsibility to counties: California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin. **Counties operating SNAP often contribute significant levels of local funds to meet the administrative and supplemental costs of running the program.**

CalFresh administrative expenditures are expensed in the county general fund and then partially reimbursed by state and federal funds. The federal reimbursements are

uncapped and covers approximately 50% of the total expenses. The capped state allocation then reimburses the County for about half of the remaining nonfederal portion.

The current county appropriations and state and federal reimbursements are sufficient to support our CalFresh program at this time. The state's May Revise is projecting a 14% increase in its funding to counties in FY21.

#### Timeliness and Application "Backlog"

Currently CalFresh applications on average are approved within 9 days of receipt of application. State regulations stipulate that CalFresh applications must be processed within 30 days of the application date (MPP 63.301.1). As of May 23, 2020, the SSA has a total of 2,001 pending CalFresh cases of which 104 are over the 30-day limit. In many such "backlog" cases, the delay occurs because the client is not able to provide required eligibility verification document(s).

C: Chief Board Aides  
Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer  
James R. Williams, County Counsel  
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board