

1 [CalFresh Awareness and Action Month - May 2016]

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3 **Resolution declaring the month of May 2016 as CalFresh Awareness and Action Month**
4 **in the City and County of San Francisco, and urging all community members to support**
5 **efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the CalFresh program.**

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7 WHEREAS, Access to safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food is a basic human
8 right and is essential to human health; and

9 WHEREAS, Food security is a state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally
10 adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local non-emergency sources; and

11 WHEREAS, Food security is the foundation of a strong and healthy community; and

12 WHEREAS, One in four San Franciscans, especially low income residents, seniors,
13 families with children, immigrants, and people who are homeless, suffer disproportionately
14 from hunger and food insecurity; and

15 WHEREAS, Food insecurity results in poor nutritional intake, unhealthy eating
16 behaviors that persist sometimes for decades after the food insecurity experience, and is
17 associated with poor health outcomes in all populations and higher health care costs; and

18 WHEREAS, A robust CalFresh program (known nationally as Supplemental Nutrition
19 Assistance Program (SNAP) and formerly known as Food Stamps) is critical to providing
20 financial resources for food to thousands of San Franciscans;

21 WHEREAS, The average household on CalFresh in San Francisco receives
22 approximately \$238 per month for groceries; and CalFresh is provided on an electronic benefit
23 card that can be used in grocery stores, supermarkets, and at all San Francisco farmers'
24 markets; and

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1 WHEREAS, CalFresh spurs the local economy because each CalFresh benefit dollar
2 generates \$1.79 as an economic multiplier; and the City of San Francisco pays for only 15%
3 of the total cost of administering the program, and zero of the benefit dollars; which means
4 that for \$3.6 million of local investment, CalFresh brings in \$173 million in benefits and
5 associated economic activity; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 51,000 individuals in San Francisco receive CalFresh, yet
7 an estimated 49,000 additional individuals may be eligible but are not enrolled in CalFresh;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, A key opportunity for increasing participation is conducting targeted
10 outreach to people who are likely eligible, such as an estimated 43,000 Medi-Cal recipients
11 and 11,000 school children already registered for free or reduced school meals; and

12 WHEREAS, Another key opportunity for increasing participation includes reducing
13 “churn” - people who are discontinued from the program and then re-apply within three
14 months; it is estimated that approximately 20% of CalFresh participants in San Francisco
15 experience “churn”; and

16 WHEREAS, Another key opportunity for increasing participation is to debunk myths
17 and fears about participating, especially fears and misconceptions related to immigration
18 status; and

19 WHEREAS, Community partners, city agencies, local leaders all have a role to play in
20 furthering awareness about CalFresh and promoting this critical program; and therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors proclaims May 2016
22 CALFRESH AWARENESS AND ACTION MONTH and urges all community members to
23 support efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the CalFresh program.

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