

RESOLUTION  
*of*  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MARIN COUNTY

PROCLAIMING  
CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH  
MAY 2020

**WHEREAS**, access to safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food is a basic human right and is essential to health and wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, CalFresh (known nationally as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP) is an essential nutrition program that provides more than 10,000 Marin County residents with financial resources to purchase food; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for food assistance grew exponentially due to massive job loss associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Marin County Health and Human Services rapidly responded by focusing on CalFresh processing, resulting in a 343% increase in approved applications in April 2020 (1,187 approvals in April 2020 in contrast to 268 in April 2019); and

**WHEREAS**, CalFresh increases participants' ability to purchase nutritious food by providing an average monthly benefit of \$200 to most eligible households; and

**WHEREAS**, since CalFresh Expansion to SSI (Supplemental Security Income) recipients in 2019, more older adults and people with disabilities who are especially vulnerable to the coronavirus can use CalFresh to meet their food needs; and

**WHEREAS**, CalFresh serves as a stabilizer during economic downturn through its multiplier effect since CalFresh spending trickles down to retailers, farmers, food distributors, and their employees. Each CalFresh dollar spent in Marin County generates \$1.79, bringing to the County approximately \$2 million in associated economic activity every month; and

**WHEREAS**, CalFresh has adopted policy changes to increase program access and raise benefit amounts during the pandemic. Examples include the ability to use CalFresh to purchase online groceries at select retailers, the issuance of emergency allotments to raise benefits to the maximum amount for 3,800 Marin County households, and the availability of pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) for families with children eligible for free and reduced school lunch programs; and

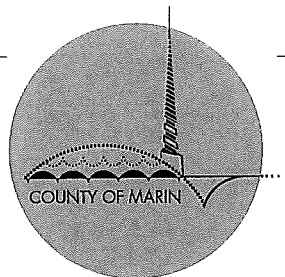
**WHEREAS**, stakeholders must continue to educate the community, debunk myths, and fight stigma in order to raise CalFresh enrollment and increase access to healthy food; and

**WHEREAS**, robust partnerships among community partners, County departments, and local leaders are crucial in raising awareness of CalFresh and promoting its value to the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Marin County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of May 2020 as "CalFresh Awareness Month" and encourages community members to support efforts to increase awareness of, and participation in CalFresh.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 19th day of May 2020.

JUDY ARNOLD – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 5



KATIE RICE – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2 – PRESIDENT