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Esperanza Colio Warren

COUNTY COUNSEL:  
Gregory Priamos

CLERK OF THE BOARD:  
Vanessa Delgado

**Agenda Item  
Special Meeting of the  
Board of Supervisors  
Thursday, November 6, 2025**

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**Item Number: 1.D**

**MEETING DATE:** 11/06/2025

**DEPARTMENT:** OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

**AGENDA ITEM PREPARER:** Dulce Alonso

**DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:** Esperanza Colio Warren

**SUBJECT:**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - E. COLIO WARREN**

1. Discuss the food distribution plan to recipients impacted by the funding of the CalFresh program (known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is a federally funded program that provides critical food assistance to 7,742 recipients and 3,794 households in San Benito County; and
2. Delegate Authority to CAO or designee to execute and negotiate a contract not to exceed \$100,000 with a local community-based organization for the emergency food distribution, with County counsel review and approval; and
3. Approve letter to State Legislators, urging support, and authorize the chair to sign.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 119

**AGENDA SECTION:**

REGULAR AGENDA

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:**

On Friday, October 31, the County Administrative Officer (CAO) issued a Proclamation Declaring a Local Emergency due to the disruption of funding for the CalFresh program.

As of November 1, CalFresh benefits were anticipated not to be issued, resulting in significant impacts to the health and safety of children, adults, and seniors in the community who rely on this essential food support. The suspension of CalFresh funding is unprecedented and will have serious consequences for San Benito County's most vulnerable residents, who depend on these benefits to feed themselves and

their families.

These conditions of extreme peril justify declaring a local emergency to enable immediate action to protect public health and welfare. The declaration allows the County to mobilize resources, coordinate emergency response efforts, and seek state and federal assistance to address the growing threat of food insecurity.

In response, the County has taken proactive measures to address the situation. It has been coordinating response efforts with community-based organizations, local food banks, and partner agencies to mitigate the impact of the disruption. These efforts include mobilizing emergency food resources, establishing outreach and communication networks to connect with affected households, and developing both short- and long-term strategies to ensure continued access to nutritious food during this critical period.

Pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code Sections 8630, et seq.), the County of San Benito Board of Supervisors must ratify the proclamation of a local emergency and find that an emergency exists, threatening extreme peril to the safety of persons within the county.

Staff respectfully submits a Resolution to Ratify the Local Emergency Proclamation, confirming the existence of an emergency and authorizing continued coordination of resources and support efforts to protect San Benito County residents.

On November 4, 2025, the Board of Supervisors subsequently adopted Resolution No. 2025-88, formally ratifying the local emergency and designating \$100,000.00 from the Health and Human Services Agency Reserve to support immediate food relief efforts through local food distribution centers. We hope that the State will support reimbursement of \$100,000.00 to assist our local community.

Staff will discuss the next steps, as well as partnering with our locally based organizations to assist individuals impacted by the distribution plan to recipients affected by the funding of the CalFresh program (known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is a federally funded program that provides critical food assistance to 7,742 recipients and 3,794 households in San Benito County.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The recent cuts to CalFresh benefits will affect 7,742 individuals in San Benito County.

Locally, 40% of those who rely on CalFresh for access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and protein are under 18 years of age, 19% are seniors aged 60 and older, and the remaining 41% are adults between 18 and 59 years old.

In total, 3,794 households will be impacted by these reductions. The community stands to lose \$1,357,767.00 in food assistance.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Discuss the food distribution plan to recipients impacted by the funding of the CalFresh program (known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is a federally funded program that provides critical food assistance to 7,742 recipients and 3,794 households in San Benito County; and
2. Delegate Authority to CAO or designee to execute and negotiate a contract not to exceed \$100,000 with a local community-based organization for the emergency food distribution, with County counsel

review and approval; and

3. Approve letter to State Legislators, urging support, and authorize the chair to sign.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Fact Sheet: Food Distribution](#)

[Fully Executed Resolution 2025-88 Ratifying Local Emergency regarding CalFresh Benefits](#)

[Proclamation of Local Emergency](#)

[2025 BOS Letter to CA State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas](#)