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**Agenda Item
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

Item Number: 3.4

MEETING DATE: 11/18/2025

DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Dulce Alonso

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Esperanza Colio Warren

SUBJECT:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - E. COLIO WARREN

Receive updates related to the current food distribution plans and status of the CalFresh program, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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.

On November 6, 2026, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting to receive updates from the federal government regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It was reported that recipients are expected to receive 50% of their November benefits, distributed in a staggered manner. The Board also received updates from the State of California, confirming that an additional truckload of food supplies will be delivered to the Community Food Bank of San Benito County in the coming days to support local assistance efforts. County Counsel provided an update that the Supreme Court would hear the remaining 50% allocation, and additional information is expected to be released soon. More information on the final allocation is expected quickly, once the Supreme Court has made its decision.

During deliberations, the Board approved a budget adjustment resolution to allocate an additional \$50,000 from the Health and Human Services Reserves, increasing the County's total contribution to \$150,000 in emergency food support. The Board further authorized the County Administrative Officer (CAO) to execute a contract with the Community Food Bank of San Benito County, not to exceed \$150,000, to ensure efficient coordination and delivery of resources. Additionally, the Board approved sending a formal letter to state and federal legislators urging immediate assistance and the restoration of full SNAP benefits to ensure that recipients receive the resources and support they urgently need.

The Health and Human Services Agency, in coordination with the County Administrative Office, has finalized and executed the contract with the Community Food Bank. On Thursday, November 13, 2026, the County issued a payment of \$100,000 to support ongoing food distribution and related community services.

Due to continued uncertainty regarding Federal funding levels and future allocations, additional local

support may be required to sustain essential food assistance operations.

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.

The Board authorized up to \$150,000.00 to be utilized from health and human services reserves, and \$100,000.00 has been issued to the vendor.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive updates related to the current food distribution plans and status of the CalFresh program, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

ATTACHMENTS:

[Agenda Fact Sheet - SNAP Update](#)