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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**MAY IS 'CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH'**

**DPSS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS LAUNCH COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO REDUCE HUNGER IN THE COUNTY OF L.A.**

*Award-winning campaign will also highlight the long-term benefits of making healthier food choices and increasing exercise*

**LOS ANGELES** – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors joined the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and a broad-based community collaborative to launch what has been described as the most comprehensive and coordinated local effort to increase access to food assistance and reduce hunger in the nation's largest county.

According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report on food insecurity, the number of U.S. homes lacking adequate food more than tripled in the last four years. In Los Angeles County (home to 10.4 million residents), it's estimated that only half of those eligible are receiving CalFresh – the supplemental nutrition food benefit previously called Food Stamps.

Despite a record high number of 1,061,000 individuals who received CalFresh benefits in January 2012, there are still many residents in immediate need of assistance who are unaware that they may be eligible for CalFresh.

**-MORE-**

“Hunger is an issue that affects us all and this collaboration represents an intense effort to serve those most vulnerable in Los Angeles County, particularly during this tough economic time,” stated DPSS Acting Director Sheryl L. Spiller.

As they did last year, the Board of Supervisors will again kick off the campaign, announcing a month-long series of events to increase participation in CalFresh. Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Mark Ridley-Thomas lead the Board in proclaiming May 2012 as “CalFresh Awareness Month” throughout the County.

This year, the campaign will highlight the nutritional benefits of CalFresh. Due to reports that lower-income communities are at greater risks for obesity, diabetes and certain other diseases, the department has enlisted the help of the Department of Public Health, local supermarkets, farmer’s markets, food banks, and school districts, to promote the benefits of healthier food choices and more exercise.

The campaign will also emphasize the department’s convenient methods to apply for services, such as on-line applications and a web-based Customer Service Center.

In May 2011, DPSS and various faith-based and community-based organizations came together with a common goal to highlight the CalFresh program and to remove barriers and/or stigmas that were discouraging eligible individuals and families from applying for food benefits. The inaugural public outreach campaign was recognized nationally by the USDA and the National Association of Counties.

For more information on CalFresh benefits, visit [www.dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/calfresh](http://www.dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/calfresh) or call the Health and Nutrition Hotline at 1 (877) 597-4777.

**# # #**



# CALFRESH PROGRAM FACT SHEET

## WHAT IS CALFRESH PROGRAM?

The new name for California’s Food Stamp Program is “CalFresh.” This name change is a result of a recent State law. The CalFresh Program is the cornerstone of the federal food assistance program. The purpose of this program is to promote and safeguard the health and well-being of low-income households by raising their levels of nutrition and increasing their food purchasing power.

In California, the monthly CalFresh benefit is transferred to the household’s Golden State Advantage Card, known as Electronic Benefit Transfer card, and is issued when the household’s CalFresh case is approved.

## WHO CAN GET CALFRESH?

Individuals or households whose income is low enough and meet other eligibility factors, can get CalFresh benefits. Qualified immigrants may get CalFresh benefits. In California, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program recipients are not eligible for CalFresh.

## HOW MUCH CALFRESH BENEFITS CAN A HOUSEHOLD RECEIVE?

The amount of CalFresh benefits depends on the household size and income. The less income a household receives, the more CalFresh benefits a household can get.

If a household has this many members ....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
And makes less than this each month ....	\$1,180	\$1,594	\$2,008	\$2,422	\$2,836	\$3,249	\$3,663	\$4,077
The household could get up to this much in benefits: *	\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1,052	\$1,202

\* Actual amount depends on your case situation

## ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOUSEHOLDS

The 130% gross income limit is not used to determine eligibility for households that contain an elderly and/or disabled member. Instead, the net monthly income limit (gross income minus applicable deductions) is used to determine eligibility.

## RESOURCES

Effective February 1, 2011, resources such as money and property are no longer counted when determining CalFresh eligibility. If a household is applying for cash aid (CalWORKs, General Relief and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)) or Medi-Cal, resources will be counted for those programs.

## APPLICATION PROCESSING AND EXPEDITED SERVICE

CalFresh applications are processed within 30 days. In emergency situations, a household may receive CalFresh benefits within three days of the date of their CalFresh applications. It is DPSS policy to issue expedited CalFresh benefits on the day of application, whenever possible. The household must meet specified conditions which would render the household’s situation emergent (e.g., monthly gross income is less than \$150).

## HOW MANY PERSONS ARE RECEIVING CALFRESH IN LOS ANGELES?

Currently, the Department of Public Social Services provides CalFresh benefits to over one million individuals in Los Angeles County.

## HOW TO APPLY

Online at [www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov](http://www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov), or in person at any Department of Public Social Services Office or contracted partner sites, in person at some schools, community events, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Offices, or by mail or fax.

For more information on how and where to apply, visit us online at <http://dpss.lacounty.gov> or call 1(877) 597-4777.

**County of Los Angeles**  
**Department of Public Social Services**  
**January 2012**  
**Numbers of CalFresh Beneficiaries by City**

City	Persons	City	Persons	City	Persons
Agoura Hills	185	Hawthorne	9,974	Pasadena	11,872
Alhambra	4,680	Hermosa Beach	97	Pico Rivera	5,413
Arcadia	967	Hidden Hills	16	Pomona	25,492
Artesia	845	Huntington Park	9,136	Rancho Palos Verdes	137
Avalon	127	Industry	3	Redondo Beach	1,050
Azusa	4,667	Inglewood	12,928	Rolling Hills	4
Baldwin Park	9,167	Irwindale	108	Rolling Hills Estates	30
Bell	5,377	La Canada-Flintridge	74	Rosemead	5,432
Bell Gardens	7,048	La Habra	-	San Dimas	998
Bellflower	8,028	La Habra Heights	51	San Fernando	2,453
Beverly Hills	324	La Mirada	1,259	San Gabriel	2,377
Bradbury	-	La Puente	4,691	San Marino	15
Burbank	4,779	La Verne	940	Santa Clarita	6,895
Calabasas	227	Lakewood	3,094	Santa Fe Springs	1,319
Carson	5,602	Lancaster	27,818	Santa Monica	1,927
Cerritos	647	Lawndale	2,965	Sierra Madre	129
Claremont	894	Lomita	1,159	Signal Hill	1,025
Commerce	1,393	Long Beach	55,926	South El Monte	3,316
Compton	21,111	Los Angeles	448,063	South Gate	12,052
Covina	3,439	Los Angeles County	143,004	South Pasadena	456
Cudahy	5,098	Lynwood	10,833	Temple City	1,162
Culver City	966	Malibu	61	Torrance	2,844
Diamond Bar	947	Manhattan Beach	72	Vernon	7
Downey	7,599	Maywood	4,260	Walnut	366
Duarte	1,113	Monrovia	2,047	West Covina	6,403
El Monte	25,993	Montebello	6,399	West Hollywood	651
El Segundo	208	Monterey Park	3,236	Westlake Village	43
Gardena	4,693	Norwalk	10,602	Whittier	5,756
Glendale	19,749	Palmdale	21,887	Unknown*	23,456
Glendora	1,602	Palos Verdes Estates	27		
Hawaiian Gardens	2,108	Paramount	7,706		
				<b>Total</b>	<b>1,061,099</b>

\* City could not be determined.



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**Total Population**  
**County of Los Angeles**  
10,441,080

**Total Population**  
**Unincorporated Areas**  
**County of Los Angeles**  
1,095,276

*Los Angeles County makes up about 27 percent of the state's population.*

## Estimated Population of the 88 Cities in the County of Los Angeles

Cities	Population	Cities	Population
Agoura Hills	23,387	Lancaster	145,875
Alhambra	89,501	Lawndale	33,641
Arcadia	56,719	Lomita	21,015
Artesia	17,608	Long Beach	494,709
Avalon	3,559	Los Angeles	4,094,764
Azusa	49,207	Lynwood	73,295
Baldwin Park	81,604	Malibu	13,765
Bell	38,867	Manhattan Beach	36,773
Bellflower	77,312	Maywood	30,034
Bell Gardens	47,002	Monrovia	39,984
Beverly Hills	36,224	Montebello	65,781
Bradbury	963	Monterey Park	65,027
Burbank	108,469	Norwalk	109,817
Calabasas	23,788	Palmdale	152,622
Carson	98,047	Palos Verdes Estates	14,085
Cerritos	54,946	Paramount	57,989
Claremont	37,608	Pasadena	151,576
Commerce	13,581	Pico Rivera	66,967
Compton	99,769	Pomona	163,683
Covina	49,622	Rancho Palos Verdes	42,893
Cudahy	26,029	Redondo Beach	68,105
Culver City	40,722	Rolling Hills	1,974
Diamond Bar	61,019	Rolling Hills Estates	8,157
Downey	113,715	Rosemead	57,756
Duarte	23,124	San Dimas	36,946
El Monte	126,464	San Fernando	25,366
El Segundo	17,049	San Gabriel	42,984
Gardena	61,927	San Marino	13,415
Glendale	207,902	Santa Clarita	177,641
Glendora	52,830	Santa Fe Springs	17,929
Hawaiian Gardens	15,884	Santa Monica	92,703
Hawthorne	90,145	Sierra Madre	11,099
Hermosa Beach	19,599	Signal Hill	11,465
Hidden Hills	2,025	South El Monte	22,627
Huntington Park	64,219	South Gate	101,914
Industry	803	South Pasadena	25,881
Inglewood	119,053	Temple City	35,892
Irwindale	1,717	Torrance	149,717
La Canada Flintridge	21,261	Vernon	96
La Habra Heights	6,161	Walnut	32,659
La Mirada	50,015	West Covina	112,890
La Puente	43,355	West Hollywood	37,805
La Verne	34,051	Westlake Village	8,872
Lakewood	83,636	Whittier	87,128