

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CalFresh Fights Rising Food Insecurity in the Wake of COVID-19 Pandemic

Santa Cruz County, CA — The COVID-19 economic shutdown has caused a steep rise in food insecurity for many Santa Cruz County residents. As of May 2020, almost 19,000 people in Santa Cruz County were unemployed and demand for public benefits, such as CalFresh, is surging. People who previously did not need food assistance, or did not qualify for CalFresh, are now in dire need of help to combat hunger and support families impacted by COVID-19.

CalFresh is a lifeline that helps families and seniors combat food insecurity, especially in Santa Cruz County where we have one of the highest costs of living in the state. CalFresh is a nutrition assistance program that provides access to healthy foods for families, children and individuals in households earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level before taxes (about \$4,184 per month for a family of four). CalFresh benefits are especially crucial to seniors on fixed incomes. The CalFresh benefit varies depending on individual circumstances like household size, income, and expenses. Annual CalFresh benefits may range from \$180 to over \$1,200.

To find out more and apply, go to getcalfresh.org or call 1-877-847-3663. In addition, there are local organizations that provide one-on-one assistance to answer questions and help people enroll in the program. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing restrictions enrollment assistance is provided via phone or email. Organizations providing assistance, their locations, available hours and contact information are below.

WHERE	CONTACT
COMMUNITY BRIDGES: La Manzana Community Resources 521 Main Street, Suite Y, Watsonville	831-724-2997 Monday–Friday: 9am to 4:30pm(closed for lunch 12pm to 1pm)
COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Live Oak Community Resources 1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz	831-476-7284 Monday–Thursday: 9am to 5pm (closed for lunch 12pm to 1pm)

COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Mountain Community Resources 6134 Highway 9, Felton	831-335-6600 Monday–Thursday: 9am to 4pm (closed for lunch 12:30pm to 1pm)
COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Nueva Vista Community Resources 711 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz	831-423-5747 Monday–Friday: 9am to 5:30 pm (closed for lunch 1pm to 2pm)
Santa Cruz County Human Services Department	1-888-421-8080 Monday–Friday: 8:00am to 5:00pm
Seniors Council / Area Agency on Aging	831-688-0400
Central Coast Center for Independent Living	831-757-2968 / info@cccil.org

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where every person has the opportunity to unleash their full potential. Together, our family of programs delivers essential services, provides equitable access to resources, and advocates for health and dignity across every stage of life. To learn more, please visit www.communitybridges.org.

The Community Bridges family of programs includes the Child & Adult Care Food Program, Child Development Division, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), La Manzana Community Resources, Live Oak Community Resources, Mountain Community Resources, Nueva Vista Community Resources, Elderday Adult Day Health Care, Lift Line and Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County.

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