

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) / CalFresh Disruption

Merced County Human Services Agency (HSA)

John Ceccoli, HSA Director





SNAP/CalFresh Disruption

- ▶ **October 20, 2025: California Department of Social Services (CDSS) released guidance on the federal funding hold for November 2025 benefits.**
- ▶ **October 20, 2025: CDSS began notifying CalFresh recipients that benefits would be delayed if the government shutdown was not resolved by October 23rd.**
- ▶ **HSA immediately began preparing for impacts to the community.**

SNAP/CalFresh Disruption



October 22, 2025: CDSS indicated no state of emergency was declared.

No FEMA reimbursement anticipated
No federal reimbursement for emergency County-issued benefits



October 31, 2025: two federal judges ordered that the SNAP funding be released and required a response on Monday on their plan.

Information is forthcoming.



Additional Safety-Net Programs may be affected if funding continues to be disrupted.

CalWORKs
Aid to Adoptions
Foster Care
In Home Supportive Services

SNAP/CalFresh Demographics

- ▶ Approximately 32,000 Households in Merced County
 - ▶ Over 67,000 individuals
 - ▶ Over 26,000 recipients are children 0-18
 - ▶ Over 9,500 recipients are aged 60 and over

Local Communities Impacted

- ▶ 31,000+ Merced
- ▶ 10,000+ Los Banos
- ▶ 8,000+ Atwater
- ▶ 3,000+ Livingston
- ▶ 3,300+ Winton



SNAP/CalFresh Demographics

- ▶ Many of the families who receive SNAP/CalFresh Benefits are working families
 - ▶ According to the US Department of Agriculture, 1/3 of total SNAP households have earned income
 - ▶ In California, approximately 2 in 5 households have an employed member
 - ▶ In Merced County, over 19,000 CalFresh households have income
 - ▶ Approximately 60%



Economic Impacts

- ▶ CalFresh benefits are entirely funded with federal dollars
 - ▶ No State or County funding obligated
- ▶ \$11.7 million in monthly benefits are provided to the families
 - ▶ Average of \$316.22 per household
- ▶ For every dollar of SNAP benefits, approximately \$1.54 - \$1.79 is infused into the local economy
- ▶ Nearly 300 vendors in Merced County accept SNAP benefits



Department Operation Center Efforts



Collaboration with Food Bank Food Pantry

Countywide food drives
Food Location Perimeter App Created



Collaboration with MCAG-The Bus

Free rides through November 13th



Coordination and Outreach

103 grocery stores and vendors
Coordination Amongst Cities
Website Created, Media Campaign



Created a plan for any increased lobby traffic and indirect impacts on the families we serve.

Food Drive Partnership with Food Bank

MERCED COUNTY
FOOD BANK

Food Drive Donation Sites

MERCED

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street, Merced

Fire Station 51
99 E. 16th Street, Merced

Fire Station 52
1400 Falcon Way, Merced

Fire Station 53
800 Loughborough Drive

Fire Station 54
1425 E. 21st Street, Merced

Fire Station 55
3420 N. Parsons Ave, Merced

Police Station – Central Station
611 W. 22nd Street, Merced

81 Merced
735 MLK Jr Way, (209) 385-7336

ATWATER

41 Atwater City
699 Broadway, Atwater
(209) 357-6352

61 Atwater
961 Gurr Rd, Merced
(209) 384-7027

PLANADA

82 Planada
9234 E. Broadway, Planada
(209) 382-0502

WINTON

63 Winton
6825 Winton Way, Winton
(209) 358-2842

LOS BANOS

71 Los Banos
525 H St, Los Banos (209)826-2895

GUSTINE

74 Gustine
686 3rd Ave. Gustine (209)826-2895

LIVINGSTON

94 Livingston
1430 "C" St, Livingston
(209) 394-7919

DELHI

91 Delhi
16056 Acacia St, Delhi
(209) 634-5007

DOS PALOS

76 Dos Palos 1540 Golden Gate Ave, Dos Palos (209) 392-2081

Food Resources

- ▶ Merced County Website
 - ▶ QR Code
- ▶ Contact 2-1-1



Conclusion



**HIGHLIGHTED NEED FOR
COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO
DISRUPTIONS**



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!