



WE ARE THE FOOD BANK Partner Agency Newsletter

June 2024



From the CEO

Greetings Agency Partners,

Last month, I met with state legislators to advocate for funding supporting nourishment access programs currently available to our community, such as school meals for students. Unfortunately, the Governor’s budget proposal includes the elimination of these and other nourishment-related programs due to a significant state budget deficit. As you know, eliminating programs that provide access to nourishment will increase demand at our distribution sites. Regrettably, the budget does not include additional funding for food banks to meet this anticipated demand, setting us up for a challenging few years ahead.



I have heard from many of you about the growing need for nourishment at our sites due to increased demand. This is a challenge faced by food banks across our state and nation, and we have made our voices heard in Sacramento and now the Senate and Assembly have a proposal to spare some of our state funded food programs. Now we must also engage in conversation with our federal representatives as they debate the future of the Farm Bill. This is the piece of legislation that funds the SNAP program (CalFresh) and the USDA food program. The proposal made by the Senate suggests a \$30 Billion cut to the SNAP Program and eliminates funding in the USDA food program. **Over the next few months, we will be asking you to join us in making calls to our local legislators.** Our advocacy team is preparing communication tools so that together we can work to ensure the nourishment of our community. We will overcome this challenge through our collective work and focus.

Erica Padilla-Chavez
Chief Executive Officer

Agency Network Update

Reminder: June Inventory Closure

June 27 – July 4 we will be closed for our annual physical inventory. The last day for delivery or pickup orders will be Wednesday, June 26 and normal operations will begin again Friday, July 5. The Agency Network Team will reach out with more information as we get closer to closure. We appreciate our partners’ understanding and flexibility while we maintain compliance with our inventoried product.

ShopSmart Percentage

Starting on July 1, ShopSmart, will increase to 80/20 - agencies pay 80% of the item cost and The Food Bank pays 20%. We thank everyone who filled out the survey. The most common requests were milk, eggs, tortillas, and meat. **We will work towards acquiring these items free of cost.** Please note – we will continue to provide six shelf-stable items free of cost; tomato sauce no salt added, pinto beans, peanut butter, shelf-stable milk, and long-grain white rice.

Office Hours

For any questions or concerns from network agency representatives, our next office hours will be Thursday, June 20 from 2 - 4 p.m. This will be over Microsoft Teams and the link and information is below. [Join the meeting here!](#)
Meeting ID: 231 972 592 198 | Passcode: d5yszt

Agency Participation Numbers

April 2024			
Estimated Unduplicated Households and Individuals			
County Zone	All Households	All Individuals	% Change from Feb. '24
North County	11,953	22,759	-8.86%
South County	6,405	21,804	4.62%
San Lorenzo Valley	3,343	7,364	-8.04%
Out of County	798	1,763	1.50%
Total	22,499	53,693	-3.36%

*44 of 51 (82%) partner agencies reporting – Thank you!

Community Spotlight: Veterans Memorial Building

Glenn, a 90-year-old Navy Air veteran and his wife Carol, 89, regularly visit the Veterans Memorial Building weekly meal and pantry for vets in downtown Santa Cruz, which is now coordinated by the United Veterans Council as of April 2024. Carol says that Wednesdays are a big day for Glenn.



Each week he looks forward to his visit to the Santa Cruz County Veterans Memorial Building. Glenn enjoys the food very much, but community is just as important. He looks forward to seeing other vets he knows.

Glenn and Carol appreciate the work Second Harvest does throughout the community. They have been married 66 years and have three children.

Join us in thanking Glenn and all our local veterans for their service and sacrifices for our country. The Veterans' hot meal and pantry program is open weekly to veterans on Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the SCC Veterans Memorial Building.

Save the Date

Please add the events below to your calendars. We kindly request that agencies update us regarding changes to, or cancellations of, their distributions.

Wednesday, June 19

Juneteenth - Closed In Observance

Thursday, June 20

Agency Network Team Office Hours

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Join the Meeting

Meeting ID: 231 972 592 198

Passcode: d5yszt

Tuesday, June 25

End of Year Partner Agency Meeting

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Grey Bears, 2710 Chanticleer Ave., Santa Cruz

Thursday, June 27 to July 4

June Inventory Closure

June 26 – Last day for deliveries/pick-up orders

July 4 – Offices Closed

July 5 – Normal operations resume

Thursday, September 16

Partner Agency Meeting - Time and Location TBA

Network Action Spotlight: Online Brand Toolkit

We're excited to announce the launch of our brand toolkit for partner agencies, designed to provide easy access to our assets for creating collateral and signage. This resource will be periodically updated, ensuring you have the latest materials to effectively represent our shared mission. **For more details, visit: [SH Brand Toolkit](#) – let us know what you'd like to see available in the toolkit.**



Sienna Sun



La Palma



Matisse Blue



Buttercup

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