



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Legislation Text

File #: 19-1773, **Version:** 1

To: Board of Supervisors

From: DHHS: Social Services

Agenda Section: Consent

SUBJECT:

Professional Services Agreement with United Indian Health Services to Increase Utilization of CalFresh Benefits by Eligible Households

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve, and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute, the attached Professional Services Agreement with United Indian Health Services (UIHS) to assist the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to increase utilization of CalFresh benefits by eligible households in an amount not to exceed \$281,680.94; and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to route the executed agreement to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)-Contract Unit for forwarding to DHHS-Social Services Administration.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Social Services Fund 1160

DISCUSSION:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) administers all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) SNAP funds. Focusing on the important role SNAP plays in access to nutrition and the relation of nutrition to overall wellness, CDSS renamed and re-branded food stamps as CalFresh in California. Beyond the name and image changes, CDSS also made significant program changes to increase CalFresh use by reducing enrollment and retention barriers. Many low-income individuals and families continue to not be fully aware of and do not apply for CalFresh benefits. Many others are not aware of program changes that can make it easier for them to receive and continue CalFresh benefits.

USDA and CDSS have encouraged counties to work with community partners to help reach and inform community members who might be eligible for CalFresh benefits. Partnering with community based organizations is not only consistent with DHHS's general approach and strategic plan; it is key to DHHS' goal of providing integrated, place-based and holistic services. This continuing work

through outreach partnerships with community-based organizations has led to a significant increase in CalFresh enrollment within the county and throughout the state and nation.

With the execution of this agreement, United Indian Health Services will continue to assist DHHS in increasing CalFresh utilization by eligible households thereby promoting a safe, healthy and economically vibrant community. Outreach and enrollment raises awareness of the nutrition benefits of the CalFresh program, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); promotes healthy food choices; reduces hunger in seniors and children; and helps to dispel program myths and misconceptions.

UIHS currently serves a consortium of nine federally recognized tribes - Yurok Tribe, Wiyot Tribe, Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, Blue Lake Rancheria, Trinidad Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and Elk Valley Rancheria. They serve 10,911 registered clients with a broad range of health-related services in pursuit of its mission "To work together with our clients and community to achieve wellness through health services that reflect the traditional values of our American Indian community." Many of UIHS' services are provided in a health clinic setting, but services also include home visiting, events, and a community garden. Over the past five years, UIHS has increased its CalFresh outreach efforts and set the framework for integrating CalFresh outreach and enrollment assistance into all aspects of client care. Under the attached agreement, UIHS will continue to work on their CalFresh efforts organization-wide in order to increase rates of enrollment. Client Intake personnel, Community Health Representatives, medical providers, WIC staff, Enrollment Counselors, and Community Health Programs staff will promote CalFresh and assist with CalFresh applications daily.

The professional services agreement with UIHS is coming to the Board for approval after the start date due to unforeseen delays in the contract process.

Therefore, DHHS recommends that the Board approve and authorize the Chair to execute this agreement and direct the Clerk of the Board to return two executed copies of the agreement to the DHHS-Contract Unit for forwarding to DHHS-Social Services Administration .

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with this agreement have been budgeted in the approved fiscal year 2019-20 budget in fund 1160, Budget Unit 511 in the amount of \$281,680.94. CalFresh is funded through the USDA-SNAP. There will be no impact to the County General Fund.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by creating opportunities for improved safety and health and protecting vulnerable populations.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board can choose not to approve the agreement for CalFresh Outreach and Support activities with UIHS. This is not recommended as DHHS asserts this funding is important to the goal of increasing CalFresh participation and thereby improving the health and economic stability of children, families and other individuals in Humboldt County.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Professional Services Agreement with United Indian Health Services to Increase Utilization of CalFresh Benefits by Eligible Households
2. RENEWAL CERT - Chapman GL and WC 2019-20
3. RENEWAL CERT - Auto Ins 2019-20

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: C-9; C-9; C-14; C-15; C-4

Meeting of: 09/16/14; 12/15/15; 10/04/16; 11/14/17; 12/11/18

File No.: 14-0802, 15-1355, 16-7300, 17-2630, 18-1548