COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 5/12/2026

File #: 26-366

To: Board of Supervisors

From: DHHS: Social Services

Agenda Section: Consent

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:

Signature Authorization for Professional Services Agreements with Various Community-Based Organizations Regarding the Provision of Community Outreach and Support Services Related to the CalFresh Program

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the attached professional services agreement template regarding the provision of community outreach and support services related to the CalFresh Program; and
2. Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services - Social Services Director, or a designee thereof, to execute individual agreements with various community-based organizations regarding the provision of community outreach and support services related to the CalFresh program that are substantially similar to the attached professional services agreement template, and any and all subsequent amendments thereto, after review and approval by County Counsel, Risk Management and the County Administrative Office; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to provide the Department of Health and Human Services - Contract Unit with one (1) fully executed certified copy of the Board order related to this item.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommended actions support the following areas of the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Plan:

Area of Focus: Core Services/Other
Strategic Plan Category: 9999 - Core Services/Other

DISCUSSION:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) administers all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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.

USDA and CDSS continue to encourage counties to work with community partners to help reach and inform community members

who might be eligible for CalFresh benefits. Many low-income individuals and families continue to lack awareness of the program and do not apply for CalFresh benefits. Many others are not aware of program changes that can make it easier for them to receive CalFresh benefits.

In addition to outreach, CDSS has also focused on enrollment assistance and retention in order to achieve program success. Approximately forty percent (40%) of all CalFresh applications are denied each month, largely due to missed interviews and missing verification documents. Similarly, each month many beneficiaries fall off the program and do not resolve the discontinuance despite still needing assistance feeding their family and being within the income limits for CalFresh.

As part of its CalFresh outreach and retention program, the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services - Social Services ("DHHS - Social Services") partners with local community-based organizations in order to expand CalFresh outreach, enrollment assistance and retention activities. DHHS - Social Services currently engages with twenty-five (25) local community-based organizations to assist with these activities each fiscal year. DHHS - Social Services will be offering six (6) organizations the opportunity to apply for fiscal year 2026-2027, with the hope of offering to more organizations when the budget landscape improves in future years.

The attached professional services agreement template will allow DHHS - Social Services to continue working with various community-based organizations regarding the provision of community outreach and support services that are designed to increase the utilization of the CalFresh program by eligible households, raise awareness of the nutrition benefits of the CalFresh program, promote healthy food choices, reduce hunger amongst vulnerable populations within Humboldt County and help dispel program myths and misperceptions.

Accordingly, DHHS- Social Services recommends that the Board approve the attached professional services agreement template regarding the provision of community outreach and support services related to the CalFresh program. It is also recommended that the Board authorize the DHHS - Social Services Director, or a designee thereof, to execute individual agreements with various community-based organizations regarding the provision of community outreach and support services related to the CalFresh program that are substantially similar to the attached professional services agreement template, and any and all subsequent amendments thereto, after review and approval by County Counsel, Risk Management and the County Administrative Office, in order to avoid any unnecessary delays in the provision of needed community outreach and support services.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:
Social Services Fund (1160-511)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Expenditures (1160-511)	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27 Projected***
Budgeted Expenses	$3,752,510.00	$3,182,942.00	$1,762,125.40
Total Expenditures	**$3,752,510.00**	**$3,182,942.00**	**$1,762,125.40**
Funding Sources (1160-511)	**FY 24-25**	**FY 25-26**	**FY 26-27 Projected***
State/Federal Funds	$3,189,634.00	$2,705,500.70	$1,365,647.19
Fees/Other	$0.00	$477,441.30	$396,478.21
Use of Fund Balance	$562,876.00	$0.00	$0.00
Total Funding Sources	**$3,752,510.00**	**$3,182,942.00**	**$1,762,125.40**

**Projected amounts are estimates and are subject to change.*

The CalFresh program is funded through a mix of federal (25%), state (52.25%) and local (22.5%) funds. DHHS - Social Services is implementing a twenty-two and one-half percent (22.5%) local funding contribution from partners, which will cover the County of Humboldt's contribution to the CalFresh program, resulting in approximately Three Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and Twenty-One Cents ($396,478.21).

Expenditure appropriations regarding the provision of community outreach and support services related to the CalFresh program

have been included in the proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 budget for DHHS - Social Services budget unit 1160-511. Funding for the provision of such community outreach and support services is available through CalFresh revenues received by DHHS - Social Services.

STAFFING IMPACT:
The recommended actions will not impact current staffing levels.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:
None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:
The Board may choose not to approve the attached professional services agreement template regarding the provision of community outreach and support services related to the CalFresh program. However, this alternative is not recommended since it will limit DHHS - Social Services' ability to increase CalFresh participation and thereby improve the health and economic stability of children, families and other individuals in Humboldt County.

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Professional Services Agreement Template Regarding the Provision of Community Outreach and Support Services Related to the CalFresh Program

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:
Meeting of: 6/19/18; 6/25/19; 6/23/20; 6/29/21; 6/28/22; 6/27/23; 5/21/24; 2/11/25
File No.: 18-577; 19-903; 20-692; 21-787; 22-720; 23-800; 24-851; 25-170