

For Immediate Release

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San Joaquin County Response to CalFresh Impacts Resulting from the Federal Government Shutdown

Stockton, **CA** – In response to the Federal government shutdown, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has confirmed that November CalFresh benefits will not be issued on the normal schedule. The State is coordinating communication efforts to inform recipients and stakeholders Statewide. This occurred between October 21-25 via text and email notifications.

"There are 131,891 CalFresh recipients in San Joaquin County, or 65,903 households and San Joaquin County Human Services Agency (HSA) issues \$25 million in CalFresh benefits monthly," said Chris Woods, Director of HSA. "We are committed to providing support and resources to our residents during this unprecedented time."

HSA is coordinating internally with local partners to prepare for increased public concern and foot traffic at its County offices as residents seek information and assistance. The Agency's Food For You Program has initiated enhanced food purchases, including 28,000 pounds of emergency food boxes, to be distributed to the community through partner agencies for qualifying individuals. Beneficiaries are being referred to the CDSS FAQ website for information related to the Federal shutdown and its effect on benefit issuance at CalFresh Frequently Asked Questions, and to the attached resource list of food distribution sites throughout the County. Qualifying individuals may also find food distribution sites here San Joaquin County Food For You Find Food.

Updates will be provided as new guidance becomes available from the State or Federal government.