

Nutrition for Los Angeles Families (NFLAF)

Sign on to CalFresh Solutions

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Nutrition for Los Angeles Families (NFLAF) is a coalition of health, child care, and nutrition advocates and providers dedicated to improving CalFresh participation in Los Angeles County and closing the CalFresh utilization gap. Please join us.

Goal

Approximately one out of every two Los Angeles County residents eligible for CalFresh receives benefits, providing approximately one million county residents with over \$125 million in nutrition benefits on a monthly basis. This means that there are nearly one million additional county residents eligible for CalFresh, but not participating. These residents are missing out on nearly \$1 billion in CalFresh benefits annually. The NFLAF Coalition, in partnership with DPSS, seeks to identify new approaches to CalFresh policies and practices that will maximize access to nutrition benefits for all eligible families in Los Angeles County.

Who?

NFLAF is made up of CalFresh outreach partners, Medi-Cal and child care providers, and representatives from community based organizations across Los Angeles County. The Coalition formed in 2012 to identify potential solutions to address the challenge of increasing CalFresh enrollment. In addition, the Coalition seeks to strengthen its partnership with the Department of Public and Social Services (DPSS) in order to identify shared solutions and further this common goal.

How?

The attached *Recommendations for CalFresh Solutions* document will build momentum toward a shared dialogue with DPSS.

Summary of Recommendations & Opportunities

Opportunity: In-Reach.

Many Californians who are eligible for, but not participating in CalFresh may be receiving other public benefits. In-reach is a tool to better inform, connect, and enroll households using other public benefit programs into CalFresh. There is extraordinary value in formalizing new collaborations and strengthening existing partnerships to conduct in-reach.

Opportunity: Consistency

With many district offices and dozens of programs to administer, the 13,000 DPSS staff face a formidable task: implementing benefit determinations for nearly two million county residents in an environment of ever-changing laws, regulations and funding. Operating consistently and delivering high-quality service in this environment is a goal identified in DPSS' current strategic plan.

Opportunity: Modernization

The redesign of LEADER and Business Process Re-engineering are two timely vehicles that should trigger DPSS to initiate a new process to hear from its closest partners and client representatives. These local voices, client experiences, observations, and ideas should be incorporated into these exciting modernization efforts.