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## DPSSSS Announces 25 Community Grants to Promote ARPA Food Assistance Awareness Campaign



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The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), in collaboration with the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), announces its partnership with 25 community-based organizations to prevent food insecurity and promote health and well-being by raising CalFresh awareness and enrolling residents in the program.

The partner organizations, selected from across the county, include:

- Advanced Healthcare Administrators
- Black Lesbians United
- California Benefits Support Center
- Change Lane Youth Support Services
- Chinatown Service Center
- Chinese Christian Herald
- Circle of Women, Inc.
- City of Bell Gardens
- Granada on Broadway Outreach Project
- Healed Women Heal
- Heart of Ida
- Kedren Community Health Center, Inc.
- Korean American Community Coalition
- Korean American Federation of LA
- Living Advantage, Inc.
- Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND)
- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
- Next Generation Advocates
- Open Arms Food Pantry and Resource Center
- Pomona Pride Center, Inc.
- Project Q
- South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency
- The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach

- The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles
- World Food Bank, Kitchen, and Urban Farm

“CalFresh is the most effective resource we have to ensure no one goes hungry in Los Angeles County,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District. “Our community partners play a critical role in getting this message out, which is why I am so pleased to see these unique partnerships move forward.”

DPSS was awarded \$500,000 in ARPA funds to conduct the Food Assistance Awareness campaign over a period of one year. Each of the 25 selected organizations will receive a \$20,000 grant to market CalFresh Program benefits to Asian, Asian Pacific Islander, senior, and LGBTQ+ communities and help them enroll in the program. The organizations will also use [“So many lives are transformed by receiving CalFresh,” said DPSS Interim Director Jackie Contreras. “That’s why we’re focusing on outreach and enrollment to ensure that every eligible resident receives their benefits as quickly as possible. Working collaboratively with community organizations, government agencies and other statewide partners will help individuals and families receive this critical support.”](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?data=05%7C01%7CEweinberg%40bos.lacounty.gov%7Cda55c78c1a5c%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&reserved=0&sdata=DxEQf68vcsW5LWNc9E00r7zgTY%2FEJwcomx21Q13w4g4%3D&url=https%3A%2F%2Fbenefitscal.com%2F%3Futm_content%3D%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_name%3D%26utm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26utm_term%3D&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term= ] to assist residents and track the number of CalFresh applications submitted.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. ARPA is a \$1.9 trillion package intended to reduce the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on low-income families and individuals. In July 2021, the County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to strategically use ARPA funds to benefit local communities suffering disproportionately from health and economic conditions due to the pandemic.