



# CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) Update

*Presentation to Social Services Advisory Board*

*March 12, 2015*



# CalFresh RMP Background

- \* The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) notified counties of the option to participate in the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) in May 2004.
- \* San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency began recruiting restaurants for the RMP in August 2012.
- \* The RMP was officially launched for eligible recipients in February 2013.



# Why RMP?

- \* Many of the elderly, disabled and homeless people in our communities are not able to fully utilize their CalFresh benefits because they are unable to store or prepare food safely. Those who are eligible to participate in the RMP may not have the tools, appliances or physical ability to prepare their own meals.
- \* The RMP allows these individuals to purchase hot, prepared meals with their EBT cards at participating restaurants.
- \* The RMP enables the most vulnerable in our community access to an affordable meal in a food-safe environment.



# Purpose of the RMP

- \* The purpose of the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program is to ensure homeless, elderly and disabled individuals have the ability to purchase prepared meals at participating restaurants.

Its goal is to provide a variety of meal choices to eligible CalFresh RMP recipients.



# Participating RMP counties

- \* As of February 2015, San Diego is one of seven (7) California counties operating the RMP:
  - \* Alameda
  - \* Los Angeles
  - \* Sacramento
  - \* **San Diego**
  - \* San Francisco
  - \* San Luis Obispo
  - \* Santa Clara



# Who benefits from the RMP?

- \* San Diego County has nearly 46,000 elderly, disabled and homeless individuals in receipt of CalFresh benefits.
- \* These recipients have the option to use their Golden State Advantage (EBT) cards to purchase meals from approved restaurants.
- \* The CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) increases options for eligible individuals who do not have a place to store and cook food or may have difficulty preparing meals for themselves.

# Who is eligible to participate in RMP?

Eligible RMP individuals include:

- \* Homeless
- \* Elderly (60 or older)
- \* Disabled
  - Receiving Social Security Disability Benefits, or
  - Receiving Railroad Retirement Benefits, or
  - Receiving Veteran's Administration (VA) benefits based on total disability or paid as total by the VA, or
  - Approved for and currently receiving Disability Determination Service Division (DDSD) Medi-Cal benefits



# San Diego RMP

- \* As of February 2015, San Diego County had 197 restaurants participating in the program and 81 restaurants pending approval.
- \* San Diego has the second largest RMP program in the State (second only to Los Angeles County)
- \* In February 2015, \$345,000 was spent in restaurants by San Diego RMP participants.



# How it works

- \* When CalFresh eligibility is determined, the worker evaluates eligibility to the RMP following program criteria. Once established, the Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) card is coded so that it may be accepted as payment for meals at participating restaurants.
- \* The majority of participating restaurants are chain restaurants and all provide healthy food options for customers to choose from. A restaurant may also include in-store deli's or food trucks.

# RMP Limitations

- \* Restaurants who participate in the RMP cannot:
  - \* Charge sales tax or tips
  - \* Charge alcoholic beverages
  - \* Charge the purchase of gift cards
  - \* Charge in advance for future purchases



# Additional RMP Information

- \* Find out more about the RMP by:
  - \* Visiting: [www.SanDiegoRMP.org](http://www.SanDiegoRMP.org)
  - \* Calling: 2-1-1
  - \* Emailing: [pubassist.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:pubassist.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov)





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