



1600 Pacific Highway, Room 352
 San Diego, CA 92101-2942
www.sdstatusofwomenandgirls.org
CSWVG@sdcounty.ca.gov

Chairwoman: Kristine Custodio Suero

<u>Vice Chair</u> Kelly Jenkins-Pultz Rohida Khan Idara Ogunsaju	<u>District 1, Vacant</u> Monica Martinez Daniela Perez	<u>District 2, Anderson</u> Vacant Vacant	<u>District 3, Lawson-Remer</u> Kimberly Keen Kristine Custodio Suero
<u>District 4, Montgomery Steppe</u> Idara Ogunsaju Shantella Slaten	<u>District 5, Desmond</u> Rohida Khan Amy Nantkes	<u>Members At Large</u> Kelly Jenkins-Pultz Vernita Gutierrez Amelia Tsering	<u>Staff Assistant</u> Chiara Leroy <u>Senior Deputy County Counsel</u> Heather Murray

MINUTES
 September 4, 2026
Regular Meeting
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Chair Custodio Suero Meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM.

Agenda item #1 – Commissioner Roll Call:

Members Present:

Kristine Custodio Suero	Idara Ogunsaju
Kelly Jenkins-Pultz	Amy Nantkes
Amelia Tsering	Vernita Gutierrez
Daniela Perez	Kimberly Keen

Members Virtually:

Shantella Slaten	Rohida Khan
------------------	-------------

Members Absent:

Monica Martinez	
-----------------	--

Agenda item #2 – Approval of Minutes: August 14, 2026
 Motion by Commissioner Gutierrez, seconded by Commissioner Nantkes.
 Abstention from Kimberly Keen. Motion passes.

Agenda item #3 – Public Comments:
 Public Speaker: Jenni Prisk thanked the commission on their work.

Agenda item #4 – Guest Speaker: Galina Semenova of Womanity

Ms. Semenova presented a slide deck on her organization - Womanity Portrait Foundation. – **Attachment #1**

Participated in Q&A.

Agenda item #5 – Committee Reports:

- Civic Engagement: VC Jenkins-Pultz – Provided an update.
- Governance: VC Khan – Provide an update.
- Policy: VC Ogunsaju – Provided an update.
- Executive: Chair Custodio Suero – Provided an update.
 - Executive Committee August 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Agenda item #6 – OERJ Presentation & Updates

Deputy Director Melissa Bartolome provided a brief update and informed the commission that Chiara Leroy would present on item 1 below as well as introduced Heather Summers, Deputy Director from the Clinical and Safety Net Coordination division with HHSA who presented on the second item.

- CEDAW Baseline Report update – **Attachment #2**
- County's Safety Net Bridge and County Medical Services (CMS) initiatives (potential HR1 impacts on Medi-Cal coverage)
 - Deputy Director Heather Summers presented – **Attachment #3**
 - Participated in Q&A.

Old Business:

Agenda item #7 – Updates regarding CEDAW Baseline Report

- **Commission Statement at Board of Supervisors' August 18, 2026 Meeting**

Chair Custodio Suero stated that she and Chelsea Mutual spoke at this BOS Meeting.

Agenda item #8 – Vacancies & Appointments

- **Vacancies - District 2 (Anderson)**
 - 2 open vacancies

Agenda item #9 - Initiative Updates and Liaison Reports

- **CEDAW Advisor: Chair Emeritus, Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi**
Commissioner Nantkes read a statement and presented a flowchart from CEDAW Advisor Parisa Ijadi-Maghsoodi – **Attachment #4**
- **National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW): VC Jenkins-Pultz**
No update.
- **Women's Hall of Fame: VC Jenkins-Pultz**
No update.

Agenda item #10 – 2026 Annual Report for Board of Supervisors regarding Status Updates, Discussion and Submission

Chair Custodio Suero reminded commissioners to submit photos.

Agenda item #11 – San Diego Women's Museum (San Diego History Center)

- **Discussion on Interest in Collaboration with Commission's History Project**
- **Women's Equality Day Event Updates on August 26, 2026 at 6pm**

VC Jenkins-Pultz provided an update and thanked Commissioner Nantkes for her speech.

Agenda item #12 – Collaborators/Partners of the Commission – Update on Selection Process & Information Gathering for Upcoming Events/Projects

- 9/1/2026 – General Legislative Session (9:00 am)
- 9/15/2026 – General Legislative Session (9:00 am)
- 10/6/2026 – General Legislative Session (9 am)
- 10/27/2026 – General Legislative Session (9 am)
- 11/17/2026 – General Legislative Session (9 am)
- 12/8/2026 – General Legislative Session (9 am)

Agenda item #13 – Discussion regarding Strategic Plan and Updates

Chair Custodio Suero strongly encourages the November meeting be turned into a 2-hour Strategy Planning Meeting.

Agenda item #14 – Discussion regarding Participation and Attendance at Committee and Monthly Meetings

Chair Custodio Suero reminds commissioners to respond to emails timely.

New Business

Agenda item #15 – Debrief regarding August 14, 2026 Monthly Meeting

- **Triton Consulting Presentation & Next Steps**
 - No update.
- **Commission Website and Commissioner Profile Standards**
 - Chair Custodio Suero informed commission that this topic would be discussed at the Executive meeting; encouraged attendance.
- **SB 707 Revision of the Brown Act for Virtual Meetings**
 - Chiara will update the Chair next week.
- **Updating Strategic Plan**
 - No update.
- **Invitations to Board of Supervisors' Chiefs of Staff and/or Policy Advisors regarding CEDAW Baseline Report at October 2, 2026 Monthly Meeting**
 - District 1 (Supervisor Paloma Aguirre): Paul Worlie**
 - District 2 (Supervisor Joel Anderson): Roarke Shanley**
 - District 3 (Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer): Meghan M. Elledge**
 - District 4 (Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe): Donte Wyatt**
 - District 5 (Supervisor Jim Desmond): Darren Gretler**

Chair Custodio Suero and Chiara will be working on sending out invitations and hopefully the Chiefs of Staff or Policy Advisors will be in attendance at the next meeting.

- **Succession Planning & Upcoming Nominations**
 - Need to complete report and photos to submit by end of December.

Agenda item #16– Commission Historian/Archivist

Chair Custodio Suero hopes the commission designates an archivist in tandem with the Women's History Center.

- VC Jenkins-Pultz will reach out to Melissa Jones at the Women's History Center.

Agenda item #17 – Discussion regarding Potential Priority Issues of the Commission

No updates.

Agenda item #18 – Chair/Commissioner Announcements

Jackson Martin, from BOS Terra Lawson-Remer (D3) presented a Proclamation to Jenni Prisk.

Agenda item #19 – ADJOURNED: This meeting is closed at 1:33 PM.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego declares that it is the policy of the County to take action to identify needs and problems of women in the County that are affected by public policy decisions; and furthermore, to eliminate the practice of discrimination and prejudice on the basis of sex within the County. In order to promote this policy and to provide an open forum for discussion and action, there is hereby established a San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women in the Chief Administrative Office. County Code of Administrative Ordinances, Section 85.



WOMANITY
PORTRAIT
FOUNDATION

Healing, identity & belonging after breast cancer

Overview for the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls

Galina Semenova
Founder & CEO



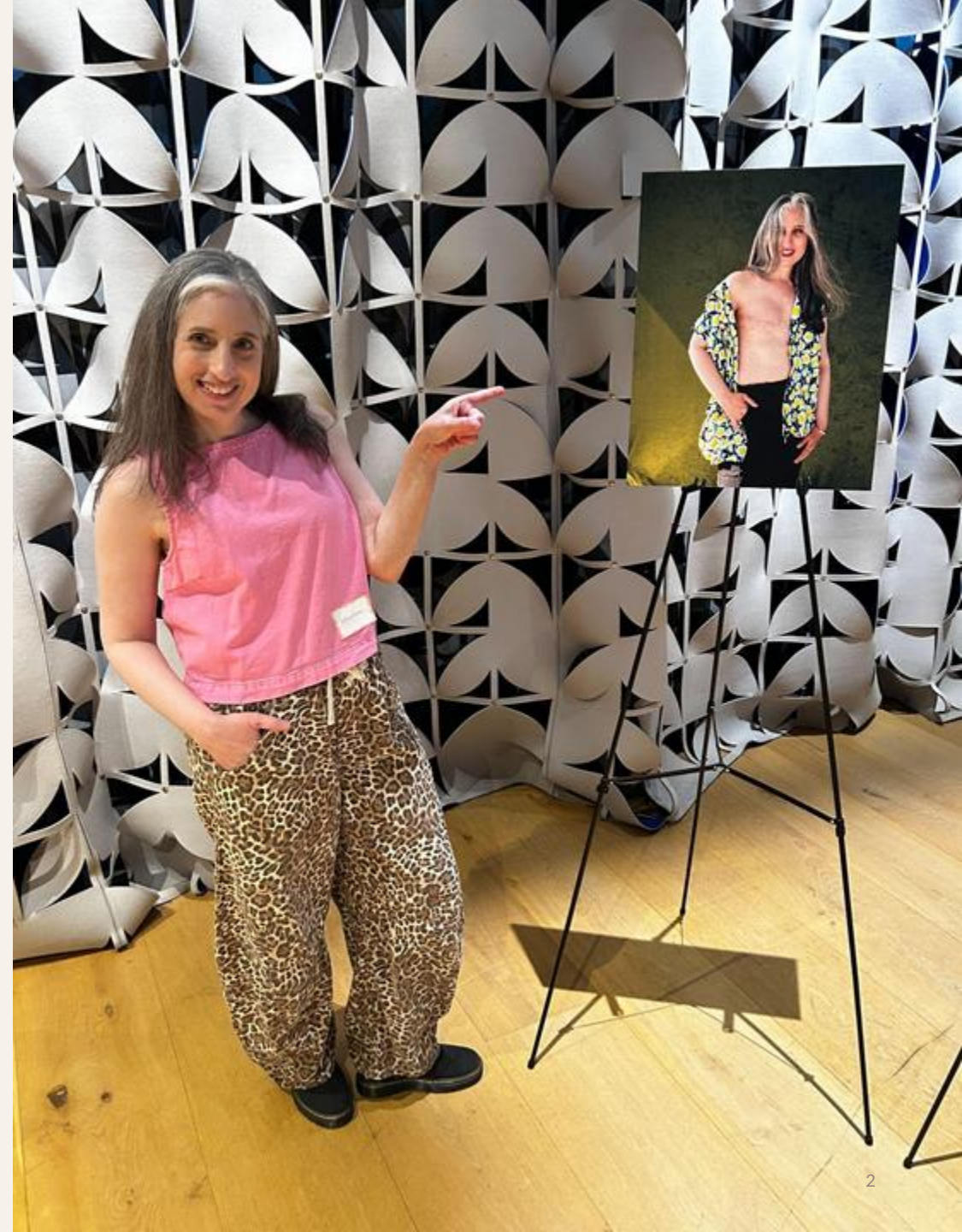
The gap we are responding to

Breast cancer care saves lives. It does not always restore identity, body trust, or belonging.

Treatment may end. Recovery does not.

- Changed relationship with the body
- Loss or shift in identity
- Fear, grief, and isolation after treatment
- Pressure to “go back to normal” for family and work

This is a women's health issue, not only an arts issue.



What women arrive carrying

New ME Retreat journaling: 8 written reflections, conservatively coded once per participant.

The language women used was not about vanity.

It was about grief, shame, fear, identity, and being seen again.

75%

body-image distress or discomfort

50%

shame or embarrassment

50%

sadness or grief

50%

self-judgment or insecurity

“I lost a sense of who I was as a person.”

Maria Joseph, survivor

“Survivorship can be harder than treatment in ways people don’t always see.”

Ashley Banaag, survivor

Source: New ME Retreat Evaluation, journaling analysis, n=8.





What Womanity does

**Photography is the doorway.
The deeper work is identity, self-compassion,
and community.**

Portrait experiences

Women are photographed with care, dignity, and creative intention.

Self-portrait workshops

Participants use the camera as a tool for self-expression, not perfection.

New ME Retreat

A small, intimate retreat for connection, body care, and rebuilding confidence.

Public storytelling

Exhibitions and film bring lived experience into public spaces.



Independent workshop validation

Self-portraiture workshops offered through Living Beauty Foundation retreats.

Across two cancer retreat workshops, participants consistently rated the photography/self-portrait experience highly.

93%
rated the workshop
Excellent or Satisfied

October 2024 retreat



91%

March 2025 retreat



95%

n=42 total evaluations

“It helped me express myself in photography and see myself in new lights without trying to judge myself too much.”
Living Beauty participant

“It goes deeply to accept who I am and see the beauty beyond the image.”
Living Beauty participant

Source: Living Beauty Foundation post-workshop surveys, October 2024 and March 2025.

What changed after the New ME Retreat

Pre/post survey results from breast cancer survivors, November 19, 2025.

Resilience



Body dissatisfaction

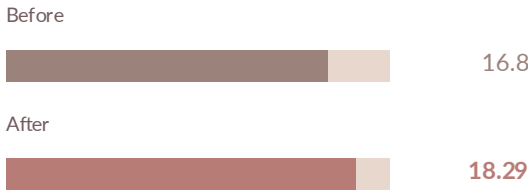


(lower is better)

Body appreciation



Empowerment



Participants reported higher resilience, higher body appreciation and empowerment, and lower anticipated body dissatisfaction after the retreat.

Source: New ME Retreat Evaluation, pre n=15, post n=14. Scores are group averages.

The story behind the numbers

What participants say changed for them.

“Being able to talk about my cancer journey and to visualize living out my dreams empowers me to embrace the future.”

Virginia Rodriguez, Dreams Beyond Tomorrow

“I don’t have to wait for life to feel “normal” again. This is my life now.”

Ashley Banaag, survivor

“Never have I felt so beautiful and at peace with myself.”

Ruth Stark, Dreams Beyond Tomorrow



Why this matters to the Commission

Womanity can help make the less-visible effects of breast cancer visible in public conversations about women's health and equity.

Women's health

Recovery includes emotional, social, and identity-related needs after treatment.

Workplace equity

Fatigue, chemo brain, and body changes follow women back to work.

Community & belonging

Small-group connection reduces isolation and creates support beyond the event.

Lived experience + data

Portraits and film carry the human story behind the numbers.

Potential connection: CEDAW implementation, women's access to healthcare, and community-based public education.



What Womanity can contribute

Possible next steps for Womanity and the Commission.

I am interested in where survivor voices can be useful to the Commission's work.

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 01 | Survivor voices | Direct stories from women living through treatment, survivorship, and metastatic breast cancer. |
| 02 | Emerging data | What we are beginning to learn about body image, resilience, empowerment, isolation, and belonging. |
| 03 | Visual storytelling | Portraits, film, and exhibitions that make the human experience behind the numbers visible. |

A bridge between lived experience, data, and public understanding.



Thank you. I welcome your questions and guidance on where this work could be most useful.



Thank you

LEARN MORE





Agenda Item #6: OERJ Presentation & Updates CEDAW Baseline Report

Timeline – Next Steps

Currently Here



Visualize

**Align Around
the Vision**

July 2026 –
November 2026

Normalize

**Understand
Dept. Context**

November 2026 –
May 2027

Organize

**Build Action
Plan Templates**

May 2027 –
September 2027

Operationalize

**Implement &
Track Progress**

September 2027
– onward

Co-created by OERJ in collaboration with
CSWG and County departments

Timeline – Next Steps

Currently Here



GARE Framework: CEDAW Phase	Strategic Objective	OERJ Role	CSWG Role
VISUALIZE: Align Around the Vision	Build shared understanding of the Baseline Intersectional Gender Equity Analysis and establish a common vision for implementation.	Present report, facilitate dialogue, provide technical guidance	Provide community perspective and advisory feedback
NORMALIZE: Understand Department Context	Help departments understand what the findings mean for their work and identify opportunities to improve gender equity outcomes.	Facilitate data interpretation and equity analysis	Provide feedback on community priorities and lived experience
ORGANIZE: Build Action Plan Frameworks	Build organizational capacity and co-design practical action plan templates aligned with County priorities.	Develop templates, facilitate workshops, provide coaching	Review drafts and advise on equity considerations
OPERATIONALIZE: Implement & Track Progress	Support departments in implementing action plans and establishing accountability mechanisms.	Technical assistance, coordination, reporting support	Continue advisory role and monitor implementation
OPERATIONALIZE Learn & Improve	Create a continuous improvement cycle that strengthens implementation over time.	Analyze countywide trends, prepare Board reports, facilitate learning	Review progress reports and recommend improvements



Q&A

Chiara Leroy
Chiara.Leroy@sdcounty.ca.gov



Attachment #3

Safety Net Bridge Program

Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG)

September 4, 2026

County HR 1 Action Plan



**Coordinated
Countywide
Strategy**



**Proactive
Customer
Service &
Communication**



**Statewide
Engagement &
Advocacy**



**Technology, AI,
and Data
Solutions**



**Cross-Sector and
Community
Partnerships**

Potential Local Impacts from Federal and State Changes

310,000

San Diego County residents will be subject to new work requirements



69,000

Residents might be unable to meet new work requirements



68,000

Residents only might be eligible for emergency Medi-Cal due to their immigration status



Board Initiatives



Safety Net Bridge Program

This proposed pilot program is intended to provide primary care with access to social services, medications, and fresh food for people who may *temporarily* lose Medi-Cal coverage due to federal work requirements under HR 1.

County Medical Services Reform

On March 3, 2026, the Board directed an evaluation of County Medical Services (CMS), the State-required indigent care program serving adults who do not qualify for Medi-Cal.



Safety Net Bridge Program

On [November 4, 2025 \(12\)](#), the Board of Supervisors directed staff to explore options for establishing a Safety Net Bridge Program to address anticipated service gaps resulting from HR 1.

The vision is to provide the following services at no cost to persons who experience a temporary gap in Medi-Cal benefits:

- Medical services (primary, specialty, behavioral)
- Prescription medication
- Access to fresh food
- Medi-Cal re-enrollment support

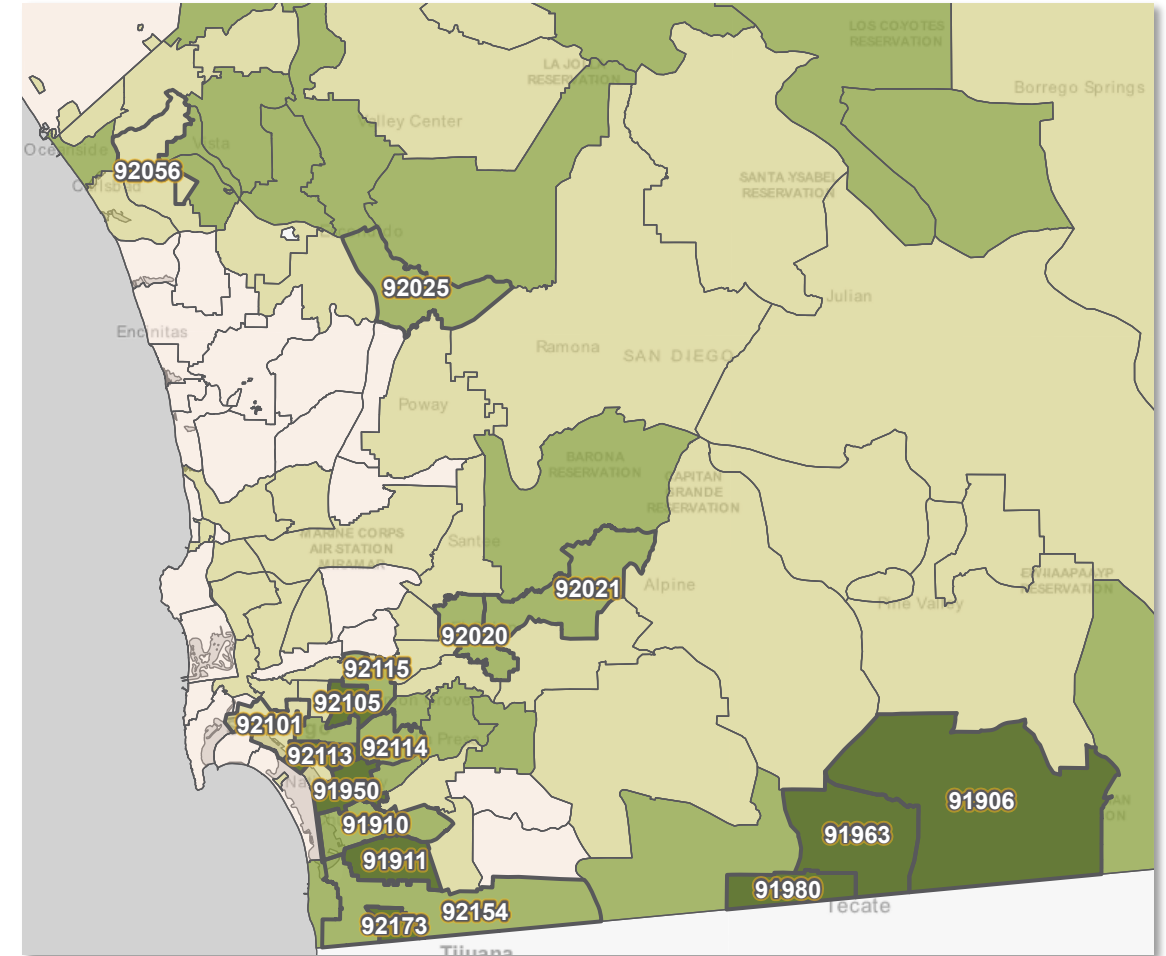


Safety Net Bridge Program ZIP Code Analysis



To identify high-need ZIP codes where residents are most likely to experience gaps in Medi-Cal coverage, the following criteria was utilized:

1. identify zip codes with 3,000 or more individuals ages 40-64 years old.
 - 13 zip codes identified
2. Apply the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index
 - 5 of the 13 zip codes were in high vulnerability areas (91911, 91950, 92173, 92113, 92105)
3. Evaluate other high vulnerability areas for factors impacting access to care
 - 3 additional zip codes identified (91963, 91980, 91906)



Safety Net Bridge Program Pilot

On [March 24, 2026 \(27\)](#), the Board received the Safety Net Bridge Feasibility Analysis and directed a return in 180 days with a pilot implementation plan in high-need ZIP codes.

The County is exploring partnerships with community clinics and independent medical offices that accept Medi-Cal insurance to provide medical care, access to prescription medications, and linkages to social services through:

- Telehealth visits
- In-person clinic visits
- Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) visits at community health fairs / community events
- County and community coordinated Medi-Cal enrollment



Safety Net Bridge Medical Next Steps



- Continue to gather input and feedback from the community, Advisory Boards and Commissions through meetings, e-mails and meetings.
- Email us at CSC@sdcounty.ca.gov if you have additional comments
- Return to the Board in November with recommendations

Safety Net Bridge Program Food Component

- The County is partnering with the San Diego Food Bank and Feeding San Diego to host regular food distribution events.
- The County's [Live Well on Wheels Mobile Office](#) and eligibility services staff will also be on-site to help people enroll in benefits, answer questions, and connect them to resources.

Access Fresh Food Near You

In partnership with Feeding San Diego and the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, the County of San Diego is expanding [free food distributions](#) at six community locations. County staff will be on site to help with CalFresh applications and work requirements.

Kick-off Date	Location
Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026 9 a.m. - Noon	South Region Live Well Center at Chula Vista 690 Oxford St, Chula Vista, CA 91911
Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026 9 a.m. - Noon	El Cajon Family Resource Center 220 S 1st St, El Cajon, CA 92019
Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026 9 a.m. - Noon	North Central Live Well Center 5055 Ruffin Rd, San Diego, CA 92123
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 9 a.m. - Noon	North Coastal Live Well Center 3708 Ocean Ranch Blvd, Oceanside, CA 92056
Friday, Aug. 28, 2026 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Spring Valley Library 836 Kempton St, Spring Valley, CA 91977
Friday, Aug. 21, 2026 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	Spring Valley Community Center 8735 Jamacha Blvd, Spring Valley, CA 91977





For the full schedule, scan the QR code, call 2-1-1 or visit livewellsd.org/food-access

Thank you!





San Diego County CEDAW's Ordinance

