



## County of Orange Restaurant Meals Program Proposal

### **Proposal:**

The County of Orange Social Services Agency requests approval from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to implement the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). Orange County would benefit from incorporating RMP to expand food access for eligible elderly, disabled and homeless CalFresh recipients who do not have a place to store or cook food, may not be able to prepare food or lack access to a grocery store. Implementing RMP will provide increased benefit flexibility and enhanced food access for this target population by adding authorized RMP restaurant providers as an option for CalFresh Program benefits. Other potential benefits include increased CalFresh participation, food security and access to nutritious and affordable prepared meals at approved restaurants.

### **Demographic Analysis:**

Orange County is the third largest county in California with a population over 3.3 million. During Fiscal Year 2015-16 an average of 263,941 persons per month received CalFresh benefits. Current projections indicate approximately 19,000 CalFresh recipients may be eligible for RMP. Attached are Orange County Geographic Information maps developed in August 2016 to reflect active CalFresh individuals and potential eligible RMP recipients by zip code.

### **Outreach Plan:**

Orange County plans to implement RMP through a geographic-based phased in process targeting restaurant recruitments in areas with high RMP eligible populations. Outreach efforts would initially focus on restaurant participation in targeted geographic areas and continue county-wide. To monitor and control for costs associated with RMP implementation Orange County plans to set a limit on the RMP restaurant providers, as other large RMP counties have done.

Marketing and outreach efforts would include the following activities for eligibility staff, CalFresh recipients and potential RMP restaurant providers:

- Develop and train staff on RMP eligibility and access.
- Develop and mail informing notices to all eligible recipients upon implementation.
- Develop RMP informational pamphlets for customers and potential RMP restaurant providers.
- Post RMP information and a directory of participating restaurants on Orange County's website.
- Collaborate with stakeholders and outreach organizations on dissemination of RMP information to the community and restaurants and encourage participation.
- Recruitment of restaurants with health eating options.
- Design OC CalFresh RMP decals to be posted near the entrance of approved RMP restaurants.

- Offer workshops to explain RMP requirements to potential RMP restaurant providers

### **County Responsibilities:**

Orange County is aware of the county responsibilities associated with implementation of RMP including:

1. Obtain County Board of Supervisor approval for RMP implementation.
2. Submit a written proposal to CDSS for review and approval.
3. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be utilized with participating RMP restaurants.
4. Prepare a demographic analysis by zip code of RMP eligible recipients.
5. Prepare a county marketing and outreach plan to advertise RMP to the restaurant community and eligible recipients.
6. Create county RMP signage for display in participating restaurants.
7. Certify elderly, disabled and homeless CalFresh recipients as eligible to purchase low cost meals with CalFresh benefits at approved restaurants which have entered into MOU's with the county for this purpose.
8. Identify households eligible to participate in RMP for the use of CalFresh benefits at authorized restaurants during the CalFresh Intake and annual Recertification.
9. Inform RMP recipients of the names and addresses of participating county restaurants by providing a list that includes other RMP counties.
10. Ensure the RMP indicator code programmed into the county consortium system, CalWIN, will only be activated for RMP-eligible Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cardholders.

Orange County is part of the CalWIN Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS). At application and recertification, CalWIN will automatically identify RMP eligible households and code the individual's EBT card for RMP use. If the household becomes ineligible for RMP, the system will remove the individual from the program and decode the EBT card.

### **Restaurant Responsibilities:**

In order to receive CalFresh acceptance and redemption, participating restaurants must abide by all rules and regulations established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). Participating restaurants will be notified that involvement in any illegal activity or FNS disqualification resulting from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) violations may result in permanent termination from the RMP. A restaurant interested in participating with the RMP in Orange County must comply with the following requirements:

1. Be located in Orange County.
2. Provide low cost meals during regular business hours to CalFresh RMP recipients.
3. Serve meals at concessional prices which cost less than would be charged to customers not using CalFresh benefits, or discounted meal already offered to certain customers or advertised special or sale priced meals offered to all customers.
4. Prohibit accepting of service gratuity, charging of sales or meal taxes, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
5. Offer healthy food options for RMP recipients.

6. Comply with all county, state and federal health and safety regulations pertaining to food operations.
7. Complete and submit USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application for Meal Services and provide required documents.
8. Notify County when CalFresh Application for Meal Services has been approved by USDA.
9. Enter into an MOU with the County stipulating the restaurant meets basic government requirements to participate, including the ability to process EBT card payments at the point of sale.
10. Post County's designed signage notifying the public of the restaurant's participation in RMP.
11. Maintain required liability insurance policy levels.
12. Maintain a current public health operations permit, issued by the Orange County Health Care Agency, throughout the term of RMP MOU and provide a copy of the permit with the MOU.
13. Obtain and utilize required RMP EBT Point of Sale (POS) equipment for eligible CalFresh RMP transactions. Restaurants are responsible for any vendor costs associated with EBT and or POS equipment and services.
14. Maintain confidentiality of all records and information relating to CalFresh participants. Restaurant owners are required to inform its officers, managers, supervisors and employees of the confidentiality provisions. No information pertaining to RMP eligible recipients shall be disclosed except to designated County or Restaurant employees without prior written permission of the SSA Director, or his/her authorized representative.
15. Notify the County/SSA Director of any request for records or information regarding any individual RMP participant.

Orange County strives to support the community by providing access to healthy and nutritious food to our most vulnerable populations while maximizing CalFresh revenue and enrollment. Additionally, Orange County's Director of Care Coordination has identified RMP as a recommended component of the County's response to address the needs of the homeless. The expansion of our county's CalFresh program to include the Restaurant Meals Program will significantly aid in these efforts.

**Attachments to be developed and included in final plan:**

Draft MOU

Customer flyer draft

Retailer flyer draft

Retailer signage draft

Elderly, Disabled, and/or Homeless CalFresh population map