

Hunger Amidst Plenty

San Diego County Fails to Use Available Resources to Address Hunger

29% participation rate makes San Diego worst urban area in the nation in use of food stamps

Two million households in California go to bed hungry each night

Two million households = about 6 million people including almost 1 million in San Diego County

People move in and out of food insecurity regularly - meaning that far more than 6 million people in California experience food insecurity over a year's period

Most of these people are children under 18 years old

49% of all children will be eligible for food stamps before they reach 18 years old

Food Stamps most successful hunger fighting program

HUNGER has a devastating effect on young children. Children from families who suffer with hunger tend to have lower birth rates, more hospitalizations, delays in learning to read, lower reading and math scores, suffer from obesity and have poor social skills.

Nationally, the **FOOD STAMPS PROGRAM** has provided food support to over 13 million children, lifting over a million out of poverty. In San Diego 89% of food stamps benefits go to families with children (2nd highest in nation). Studies show participation in food stamps program reduces the effects of hunger in children.

29% of those eligible get Food Stamps in San Diego

The **BARRIERS** to receiving food stamps in San Diego can be found in its complex, intrusive, humiliating and confusing application process. The average applicant must make 5 trips, have every adult in the household fingerprinted, and often be subjected to a home search by a fraud investigator from the District Attorney's office. Many potential applicants are verbally denied applications - preventing them from applying.

San Diego is known for using excessive anti-fraud activities that have been identified as costly and ineffective by the State Auditor.

County loses millions of dollars due to low food stamp program participation

More than 180,000 eligible San Diegans do not receive food stamps, resulting in the County **LOSING \$135,872,689 yearly** that could be used to reduce hunger/food insecurity.

\$1.00 of Food Stamps generates \$1.84 in economic activity

\$1.00 of Food Stamps generates up to \$.47 spent in a grocery store

\$1.00 of Food Stamps generates 2.25 cents in local taxes

A loss of \$135,872,689 in food stamps translates into:

A loss to the San Diego economy of \$250,057,748

A loss of up to \$63,601,164 to grocery stores in the county

A loss of approximately \$3,057,135 in tax revenue to the state

A loss of approximately \$1,375,710 in tax revenue to the county

The County would collect more money in tax revenue from the use of these food stamps than it would cost them to run the program making it a money making operation

If the food stamps program helps families in time of need, contributes significantly to the local economy, and does not create a financial burden for the county

Why does the County make it so difficult for people to get the help they need?

LEARN MORE ~ FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO END HUNGER IN SAN DIEGO
CONTACT the CARING COUNCIL

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