

**CITY OF OAKLAND**  
**AGENDA REPORT**

**To:** Office of the City Administrator  
**Attn:** Deborah Edgerly  
**From:** Department of Human Services  
**Date:** December 14, 2004

**RE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$112,500 TO IMPLEMENT THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S IMMIGRANT FOOD STAMP PROMOTION PROJECT**

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**SUMMARY**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$125,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and authorize the execution of a contract with the Alameda County Community Food Bank to implement the City of Oakland's Immigrant Food Stamp Promotion Project.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Acceptance of this grant would have no negative or additional fiscal impact on the General Fund. Funds received will be appropriated in the amount of \$125,000 to Fund 2159, Org 78111, Project G223510 and the City will use \$12,500 of these funds to manage the grant and \$112,500 to contract with the Alameda County Community Food Bank to implement the Immigrant Food Stamp Promotion Project. The professional services contract with Alameda County Food Bank is subject to the City of Oakland's three percent contract compliance fee, which amounts to \$3,750. The request for waivers for the Department of Human Services' contracts with non-profit agencies is under review. Not imposing the contract compliance assessment fee would increase the existing negative balance in the Contract Compliance Assessment Fund (1790).

**BACKGROUND**

In March of 2002, the Alameda County Community Food Bank published *Hunger: The Faces and Facts*, a comprehensive study of emergency food recipients in Alameda County. One of the study's most alarming findings revealed the extent to which federal nutrition programs are under-utilized by eligible participants. While an estimated 80 percent of households were income-eligible for the Food Stamp Program (FSP), only 21 percent were enrolled in Alameda County. According to USDA data compiled by California Food Policy Advocates, food stamp enrollment in Alameda County dropped by 68,014 – 55 percent – between 1995 and 2002 following Welfare Reform. In response to these findings, the Alameda County Food Bank launched a food stamp outreach project in the fall of 2002 to increase food stamp enrollment. As a result, food stamp enrollment in Alameda County increased by 13 percent from September

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2002 to December 2003. However, food stamp enrollment among the non-English speaking population only increased by 4 percent.

### **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

The City of Oakland, with a population of nearly 400,000 residents, has 19.4 percent (76,000) of its population living in poverty compared to 11 percent countywide. There are a reported 106,000 immigrants living in Oakland and 22,461 are reported as living below the federal poverty line. A recent report documented the Bay Area as having the second highest cost of living in the nation; therefore, every dollar counts to help make ends meet. However, it is alarming that Oakland's neediest families are missing out on receiving millions of dollars in support benefits each year. Research by the Urban Strategies Council reported that in 2002, approximately 74,426 Oakland families were eligible, but did not receive \$105,521,000 in food stamp benefits for that year alone. The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service reports that the most common barriers to ensuring full participation in the Food Stamp Program is confusion about changing eligibility rules, income limits, allowable deductions, and language.

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This grant will allow the City to partner with the Alameda County Community Food Bank to provide food stamp outreach to Oakland's low-income immigrant population in conjunction with the City's 2005 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign. Because food stamps are a vital support for working families, the project will provide multi-lingual outreach and one-on-one assistance to non-English speaking immigrants throughout Oakland's low income communities and at Oakland's 11 community based Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. It is estimated that 30,000 Oakland Immigrants are income eligible but are not currently participating in the Federal Food Stamp Program. To this end, the project plans to outreach to 15,000 Oakland immigrant residents and increase Food Stamp Participation (FSP) enrollment among non-English speaking immigrants by 10 percent in 2005. Furthermore, this grant directly supports the multi-benefit work the City is currently engaged in under its National League of Cities designation as a "Helping Working Families" site.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

The impact of City's USDA Immigrant Food Stamp Promotion Project, in conjunction with the City's Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign (EITC), provides the community with several positive economic and social equity benefits geared toward moving Oakland's low income community toward a sustainable level of self-sufficiency. The Food Stamp Program serves an essential role in helping low-income individuals and families access nutritional benefits while transitioning to self-sufficiency; combined with the Earned Income Tax Credit, these two programs provide a vital mechanism for lifting families out of a life of poverty.

### **DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS**

All services are open to low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities.

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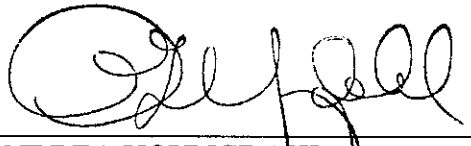
**RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached resolution authorizing the City Administrator or her designee to accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$125,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement the City of Oakland's Immigrant Food Stamp Promotion Project and to execute an agreement with the Alameda County Community Food Bank in an amount not to exceed \$112,500 to conduct food stamp outreach to Oakland's low-income immigrant population.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff requests that the City Council accept this report and approve the attached resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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ANDREA YOUNGDAHL  
Director, Department of Human Services

Reviewed by:  
Sara Bedford  
Policy and Planning Manager

Prepared by:  
Estelle Clemons  
CAP Manager

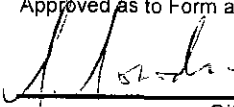
**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE  
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the City Administrator

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Approved as to Form and Legality

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$112,500 TO IMPLEMENT THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S IMMIGRANT FOOD STAMP PROMOTION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded the City of Oakland Department of Human Services a grant in the amount of \$125,000 to implement Oakland's *Immigrant Food Stamp Promotion Project*; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 30,000 Oakland immigrants are income eligible but are not currently participating in the Federal Food Stamp Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland designated by the National League of Cities as a "Helping Working Families" site, is working toward increasing access to and receipt of public benefits for qualifying individuals and families, with an emphasis placed on immigrants and non-English speaking individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that support from programs such as Foods Stamps, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Medicaid can drastically increase a family's income and actually lift a family above the federal poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) has successfully launched a food stamp outreach project which resulted in an increase in the number of food stamp applications among low-income residents; and

**WHEREAS**, this effort builds upon the City's annual Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Human Services would like to enter into a professional services contract with the Alameda County Community Food Bank in an amount not to exceed \$112,500 to conduct food stamp outreach and assistance to Oakland's low-income non-English immigrants and refugees; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$125,000 to Fund 2159, Org 78111, Project G223510 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement the City of Oakland's Immigrant Food Stamp Promotion Project; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or her designee as an agent to execute an agreement with the Alameda County Community Food Bank in an amount not to exceed \$112,500 to conduct food stamp outreach to Oakland's low-income immigrant population.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
CEDA FLOYD  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California