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The San Diego Hunger Coalition and the County of San Diego kick off a new partnership to increase participation in the Food Stamp Program

San Diego, CA

A report issued by the Washington, DC based Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) on October 18, 2006 indicates that San Diego is last among large cities with regard to participation in the Food Stamp Program. San Diego county's participation rate is 27%, meaning that only about one-quarter of those who are income-eligible for this essential program actually utilize it.

To address these numbers, the San Diego Hunger Coalition and the County of San Diego have established pilot programs at five Family Resource Centers, (the offices where households access the Food Stamp Program), and more than ten local non-profits. Pilot program activities will enhance outreach efforts and streamline the application process for those in need.

“The County has demonstrated a clear commitment to finding and overcoming the barriers that are keeping our Food Stamp Program participation numbers so low,” said Tia Anzellotti, Director of the San Diego Hunger Coalition. “Our shared goal is simple: to make it easier for families and individuals to access the Food Stamp Program.”

In addition to reducing hunger, an increase in Food Stamp Program participation will generate significant federal revenue for the County of San Diego. According to FRAC, every Food Stamp dollar that comes into a community generates \$1.84 in economic activity. This means that if all income-eligible households were enrolled in the Food Stamp Program, \$144,189,327 additional federal dollars would flow into our neighborhoods and businesses.

“The FRAC report and our shared commitment to fighting hunger spurred our organization and the County to begin making significant changes that will help families put food on the table. In addition, they could result in an influx of federal dollars that will benefit all residents. It's a win – win.” said Anzellotti.

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