RESOLUTION

OF

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARIN COUNTY

PROCLAIMING

CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH

MAY 2020

WHEREAS, access to safe, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food is a basic human right and
is essential to health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh (known nationally as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP)
is an essential nutrition program that provides more than 10,000 Marin County residents with financial
resources to purchase food; and

WHEREAS, the need for food assistance grew exponentially due to massive job loss associated
with the coronavirus pandemic. Marin County Health and Human Services rapidly responded by focusing
on CalFresh processing, resulting in a 343% increase in approved applications in April 2020 (1,187
approvals in April 2020 in contrast to 268 in April 2019); and

WHEREAS, CalFresh increases participants’ ability to purchase nutritious food by providing an
average monthly benefit of $200 to most eligible households; and

WHEREAS, since CalFresh Expansion to SSI (Supplemental Security Income) recipients in 2019,
more older adults and people with disabilities who are especially vulnerable to the coronavirus can use
CalFresh to meet their food needs; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh serves as a stabilizer during economic downturn through its multiplier
effect since CalFresh spending trickles down to retailers, farmers, food distributors, and their employees.
Each CalFresh dollar spent in Marin County generates $1.79, bringing to the County approximately $2
million in associated economic activity every month; and

WHEREAS, CalFresh has adopted policy changes to increase program access and raise benefit
amounts during the pandemic. Examples include the ability to use CalFresh to purchase online groceries
at select retailers, the issuance of emergency allotments to raise benefits to the maximum amount for
3,800 Marin County households, and the availability of pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) for
families with children eligible for free and reduced school lunch programs; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders must continue to educate the community, debunk myths, and fight
stigma in order to raise CalFresh enrollment and increase access to healthy food; and

WHEREAS, robust partnerships among community partners, County departments, and local
leaders are crucial in raising awareness of CalFresh and promoting its value to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Board of Supervisors hereby
proclaims the month of May 2020 as “CalFresh Awareness Month” and encourages community members
to support efforts to increase awareness of, and participation in CalFresh.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin
held this 19th day of May 2020.

JUDY ARNOLD -- SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 5

KATIE CICIL – SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2 – PRESIDENT

COUNTY OF MARIN