

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2025

Peninsula Health Care District Approves Emergency Funding to Support Families Facing Rising Food Insecurity

BURLINGAME, CA — In response to a growing hunger crisis affecting residents throughout the region, the Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) Board of Directors voted unanimously on November 13, 2025, to allocate **\$317,000 in new grant funding** to four local organizations delivering essential food assistance to its residents.

This action comes as local need intensifies following the recent federal government shutdown, which temporarily halted SNAP benefits (known as CalFresh in California). The suspension affected approximately **34,000 countywide recipients**, including **13,000 residents within the PHCD service area**, leaving many families without reliable access to nutritious food.

Although national SNAP funding is expected to resume following the end of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, experts warn the disruption may have **lasting effects**, including discouraging eligible households from seeking CalFresh benefits and deepening food insecurity at a time when demand continues to rise.

“Local partners report a sustained 15% increase in demand, representing 2,500 additional households seeking food assistance in our service region. Our community is facing an unprecedented food access challenge, and waiting is not an option,” said Ana M. Pulido, Chief Executive Officer of PHCD. “By increasing funding today— to meet our local agencies’ full budgetary needs—we are making an immediate investment in the health, dignity, and stability of thousands of families. These organizations are on the front lines, and our action ensures they have the tools and resources to meet the surge in need.”

Grants Completely Fulfill these Organizations’ Emergency Funding Requests

Samaritan House

Experiencing a 15% increase in need, or 2,500 additional households. Funding will support two temporary kitchen staff, provide hot meals and nonperishable items, and add an additional distribution vehicle.

San Mateo County Health Foundation – Food Farmacy Program

Expanding from serving 1,800 individuals last year to 5,000 projected in 2025. Funding will provide grocery gift cards and nonperishable items.

CALL Primrose Center

Facing a 20% daily increase in households served. Funding will bridge next year’s budget gap to maintain services.

YMCA Peninsula Family/Urban Services

Meeting a 10% increase in weekly need with emergency pantry demand expected to triple. Funding will bolster emergency food distribution.

Regional Response

PHCD's investment complements broader efforts to stabilize the local food safety net. San Mateo County recently committed \$900,000 to address rising food insecurity.

"PHCD has a responsibility to act when the health and well-being of our residents are at stake," said Lawrence W. Cappel, Ph.D., Board Chair of PHCD. "This funding is both a humanitarian and public-health imperative. By strengthening our nonprofit partners, we are sustaining the essential services that thousands of families rely on every day."

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About the Peninsula Health Care District

Established in 1947, the Peninsula Health Care District is a public agency dedicated to advancing the health and wellness of more than 200,000 residents across San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo, Foster City, and parts of South San Francisco. PHCD provides community-based health programs and partners with local organizations to enhance access to care, wellness, and resources for vulnerable populations. Learn more at: www.peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org.