

Food Stamp SUCCESS STORY



Food Stamps Give Families Healthy Food Choices

Samantha, 32, lives with her spouse and two young children in Oakland. Samantha was laid off soon after 9/11 and has been unable to find work since. The family's sole source of income is her spouse's wages, which vary from month to month.

Samantha had never applied for government help because her family always managed to get by without it, even in tough times. "It's especially hard at the end of the month," she says, "but I try to make meals last. I often make rice porridge and add a few pieces of chicken for flavor and to make our meals last longer."

Like most mothers, Samantha's first priority is her kids. She knows she needs to feed her children healthy meals but says that's hard to do when food is scarce in their home. She was approved to receive **WIC** for her children. While at the WIC office, she learned about the **Alameda County Community Food Bank's** pre-screening service. She called the Food Bank and was screened for potential eligibility for food stamps.

Samantha felt encouraged to apply for food stamps and recently learned her application was approved. She says the assistance her family now receives through WIC and the **Food Stamp Program** will help them make better meal choices.

FS OUTREACH Raffle Winners!

News through the grapevine is that first quarter raffle winners were very pleased with their raffle prizes. We hope this quarterly raffle will help keep you motivated to process food stamp applications that come to you with the red "FS OUTREACH" stamp. *Congrats to Second Quarter Winners:*

*Lisa Almaguer - Intake Worker
Cheryl Hare - Intake Supervisor
Noel Tuazon - Ongoing
Rick Morrison - Ongoing Supervisor*

Will you be the next raffle prize winner? Keep coding the applications marked "FS OUTREACH." Good luck!!

Food Matters is a new publication of the Alameda County Food Stamp Outreach and Promotion Campaign designed to celebrate the Food Stamp Program and your good work. Please send comments to Julie Martinez, Food Stamp Program Specialist at JHMartinez@acgov.org.

NEW! Online Food Stamp Application

The Food Stamp Program application is now available online. This new tool allows applicants to type in their information, print it out and submit a neat and readable application to the food stamp office. Check it out!

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/pdf/DFA285A1.PDF

Please accept this form of application like you would a hand-written application. We hope this new tool will help make it easier for you to read the applicant's handwriting.

Request to Waive or Schedule a Face to Face Interview CARD

Soon you will start seeing ivory-colored waiver cards that will serve two purposes. The card will have two check-off boxes and will let the applicant specify if he/she would like to waive the face to face interview due to hardship OR specify what days and times of the week are best to meet with his/her eligibility worker.

- ✓ **Waive the face to face interview:** This box will be checked if the applicant is unable to attend the face to face interview with the eligibility worker because he/she is elderly, disabled or has other hardship. **OR**
- ✓ **Preferred date(s)/time(s) for face to face interview:** This box will be checked if the applicant has specific days and times of the week that would be best to meet and make it less likely that he/she may miss the interview appointment. Some reasons why an applicant would use this card include: attend school, inflexible work schedule or medical reasons.

We hope these cards will also make it easier for you to schedule appointments with applicants.



Legislative Corner

AB 1796: Legislation to Support Families In Recovery

In January, Assembly Member Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) introduced **Assembly Bill 1796**, which will restore food stamp benefits to families with an adult member that has a drug-related felony. This critical legislation will help people through the recovery process, support them to become self-sufficient and help parents provide and care for their children. The bill is making its way through the legislature. We will keep you updated on its progress. If you have questions about the bill please call Ana Hicks at **(510) 834-3663, ext. 338**.