



**ASSEMBLYMEMBER AMMIANO APPLAUDS
SAN FRANCISCO'S CHANGE IN FOOD STAMP POLICY**

Human Service Agency Removes Sanctions for Food Stamp Recipients

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Assemblymember Tom Ammiano and advocates for the poor are celebrating a change to the city's eligibility policy for the food stamp program, known as CalFresh, which will increase Federal nutrition benefits for many low-income San Franciscans. After a meeting between Assemblymember Ammiano and Mayor Ed Lee last week where, at the urging of advocates, Assemblymember Ammiano had asked for this policy change, the Human Service Agency published a revision of the policy. As a result, CalFresh recipients will now no longer be sanctioned regardless of their status in the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) when unemployment is above the national average.

"I want to sincerely thank Mayor Lee for making this simple but influential change in the city's food stamp policy. As a result of his action and the tireless work of advocates, many more low-income San Franciscans will now have access to food during these difficult economic times. This is exactly the type of effective collaboration that I had hoped for with his administration," said Ammiano.

"St. Anthony's is proud to have brought the voice of the poor to Sacramento, as part of a collaborative effort to create meaningful change in people's lives. We are very grateful to Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, Mayor Ed Lee, and the Department of Human Services for acting swiftly on this important policy change," said Shari Roeseler, Executive Director of St. Anthony Foundation.

Under the previous policy, San Francisco had elected to mandate that Cal Fresh recipients participate in Employment and Training programs, even though the state of California no longer mandates that people participate in a work program as a condition of receiving CalFresh. As a result, people were getting sanctioned for Food Stamps unnecessarily, and San Francisco was losing out on Federal dollars. Under the new policy, regardless of their status in the FSET program, the Human Service Agency will no longer sanction CalFresh benefits. According to the Western Center on Law and Poverty, San Francisco CalFresh program was the first in the State to make this change.

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