

Mendocino County Department of Social Services CEO Report

May 2026

II. Safe & Healthy County



Department Procedures Approved/Updated

- 22-01 Rev 1 DSS Hiring
- 26-01 Employee Transfer Requests
- 26-02 Use of Personal Devices and Related Communication Standards

May is CalFresh Awareness Month

The observance of May as CalFresh Awareness Month started in 2011 and serves to increase public awareness of the CalFresh program. Below is a brief overview of the CalFresh program.

The CalFresh program, formally known as Food Stamps, is a federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that was established under the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). While the Food Stamp Act of 1964 formally established the program in 22 states, the Food Stamp program did not start operating nationwide until July 1, 1974.

CalFresh allows low-income families to supplement their food budgets, to reduce food insecurity. CalFresh helps to improve the health and well-being of qualified households and individuals by providing improved access to healthy and nutritious foods. The program allows households to not only purchase food items but also plants and seeds that are used to grow food. CalFresh benefits can be spent at your local Farmer's Markets; households might even be able to double their spending power through a grant-funded match program. Gone are the days of households having to use Food coupons to purchase food, CalFresh benefits are now issued on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

March 2026 participation rates show 10,117 households in Mendocino County (16,029 persons) are receiving Cal Fresh benefits. Our department issued \$3.04 million dollars in CalFresh benefits for the month to support nutritional needs.

The CalFresh program is an important safety net program; **for every \$5 in CalFresh** benefits it generates **\$9 in local economic activity**. Benefits spent in local grocery stores and Farmers Markets helps support local retailers throughout Mendocino County.



**Mendocino County Department of Social Services Monthly
Data Dashboard**

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In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Older Americans Month is observed every May. The national theme for 2026 is "Champion Your Health." The Older Californian's Month theme is "Age Well Start the Conversation." Mendocino County's employees within the In Home Supportive Services program strive to provide quality services to all our IHSS recipients. This includes supporting our community members and honoring our older Mendocino County residents.

The In Home Supportive Services program in Mendocino County assists over 2,500 aged and disabled recipients. Of those recipients approximately 900 entered the IHSS program as Aged. IHSS is one of our county's services that supports individuals' independence in their own homes and reduces the risk of out-of-home placement such as skilled nursing facilities and/or hospitalization. The services provided by IHSS care providers include domestic and related services as well as personal care services. These services support an individual's ability to improve their health and quality of life. Currently, IHSS Social Workers are processing approximately 215 IHSS applications.

The following are helpful tips for understanding the IHSS Application process:

- You must have a Medi-Cal eligibility determination.
- You must submit a Health Care Certification form completed by a licensed health care professional.
 - This certification includes documentation about a permanent disability that is expected to last for more than 12 months.
- You must live in your own home (acute care hospital, long-term care facilities, and licensed community care facilities are not considered "own home").
- A Social Worker will conduct a home visit and complete an assessment of need to determine approval or denial of services.

More information about In Home Supportive Services can be found online at [Information for IHSS Recipients | Mendocino County, CA](#) or by calling (707)-463-7900.

If you would like more information about Older Americans Month and Older Californians Month please visit the following websites:

[Older Americans Month | ACL Administration for Community Living Aging Resources](#) | [California Department of Aging - State of California](#)

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MCDSS Quarterly Reporting

| Family & Children's Services (FCS) | 2025 Qtr 1 | 2026 Qtr 1 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jurisdictional Reports | 78% | 50% |
| Dispositional Reports | 45% | 85% |
| Semi-Annual Status Review Reports | 60% | 42% |

| Special Investigations Unit (SIU) | 2025 Qtr 1 | 2026 Qtr 1 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Referrals Received | 109 | 120 |
| Closed Investigations | 248 | 65 |
| Timely IEVS Processing | 89% | 100% |

The Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) matches an applicant or recipient's data with State welfare files, wages, unemployment and disability benefit files, income information from the Internal Revenue Services, and/or Franchise Tax Board and the Social Security Administration. Eligibility Examiners review the matches within 45 days.