



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEARLY 790,000 SAN DIEGANS ARE NUTRITION INSECURE: SAN DIEGO HUNGER COALITION PRESENTS THEIR LATEST DATA ON NUTRITION INSECURITY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

SAN DIEGO, CA – On Thursday, November 16th, San Diego Hunger Coalition (SDHC) will host their 5th Annual State of Hunger. Since 2019, this organization has annually presented with its partners, a comprehensive overview of the nutrition insecurity in San Diego County, offering detailed insights into the current food assistance programs and addressing the remaining meal gap while celebrating the achievement of the hunger nonprofit sector.

San Diego Hunger Coalition's recent data shows that nearly 1 in 4 San Diegans (790,000 people) were nutrition insecure in June. In addition to nutrition insecurity and meal gap statistics, this organization's research shows that only 10% of CalFresh-eligible families report their dependent care and child expenses and only 12% of eligible older adults report their medical expenses in San Diego County. Many of these individuals and families, don't realize what expenses should be reported, like individuals experiencing homelessness not reporting shelter expenses, such as motel fees or car and insurance payments if living in their car.

The purpose of this luncheon is to present data along with the proposed solutions to elected officials, nonprofit partners, corporations, and community leaders so they utilize this valuable information to effectively plan programs, allocate resources strategically, and advocate for policies that will ultimately lead to a Hunger Free San Diego.

As San Diego Hunger Coalition gets closer to its 50th anniversary, this year's program will also include the announcement of their new President & CEO and their vision for the organization by Board Chair Julie Rice who will also honor the 9-year President & CEO, Anahid Brakke, for applying her deep knowledge and expertise on solutions to poverty, fostering collaboration, and nonprofit capacity building to growing the Hunger Coalition.

WHAT: 5th Annual State of Hunger

WHO: San Diego Hunger Coalition staff & partners

WHEN: Thursday, November 16th, 2023 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm (See pages 2-3 for details)

WHERE: Four Points by Sheraton, Pavilion A | 8110 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

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Founded in 1974, the San Diego Hunger Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization that leads collaborative action to end hunger supported by research, education, and advocacy. Its vision is that everyone in San Diego County has enough food for an active, healthy life. Learn more at www.sdhunger.org.



PROGRAM:

11:00 am – 12:00 pm **Reception and Networking / Interviews**

12:00 pm – 12:10 pm **Opening Remarks and new President & CEO announcement** by Julie Rice, Board Chair

- Honoring Anahid Brakke, President & CEO, SDHC for her 9 years leading the organization.
 - Recognitions presented by:
 - Julie Rice, Board Chair, SDHC
 - Ian Fregosi, District Director, Office of Senator Steve Padilla

12:10 pm – 12:13 pm **Transformative Power of Collective Advocacy** by Mauricio Medina, Public Affairs Manager, SDHC

12:13 pm – 12:23 pm **State of Hunger Awards**

- **Honoring Congressman Mike Levin** for his advocacy and taken actions to address hunger in San Diego County, the State of California, and nationwide. (video)
- **Honoring Vanessa Ruiz, Managing Director**, US Growth & Programs at Global Communities and Founding Member of Hunger Free San Diego for her 20 years of service in the hunger sector in San Diego County.
 - Recognitions presented by:
 - Anahid Brakke, President & CEO, SDHC
 - Chris Carter, VP Communications, Marketing & Public Affairs, San Diego Food Bank
 - Paola Aguirre, Community Representative, Office of Supervisor Nora Vargas
 - Dustin Nguyen, Director of Community Engagement, Office of Councilmember Kent Lee, District 6

12:20 pm – 12:30 pm **Lunch Break / Interviews**

12:30 pm – 12:55 pm **State of Hunger Address** (in order of participation)

- Anahid Brakke, President & CEO, SDHC
- Joseph Kendrick, Data Analyst, SDHC
- Chris Carter, VP Communications, Marketing & Public Affairs, San Diego Food Bank
- Shelly Dieu, CalFresh Program Manager, SDHC
- Anae Evangelista, CalFresh Program Coordinator, SDHC
- Angeles Nelson, Policy Advocate, Nourish California
- Eric Span, Nutrition Services Director, Sweetwater Union High School District

1:00 pm – 1:05 pm **Transition / Interviews**



1:05 pm – 1:45 pm **Panel: Barriers & Solutions to Equitable Access**

- Anchi Mei, Executive Director, MAKE Project (Facilitator)
- Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Executive Director, License to Freedom
- Angeles Nelson, Policy Advocate, Nourish California
- Carolina Vargas, Community Engagement Specialist, AmeriCorps VISTA, SDHC
- Eden Mengistu, Program Specialist, United Women of East Africa

1:45 pm – 1:50 **Closing Remarks** by Alondra Alvarado, Director of Marketing and Communications, SDHC

1:50 pm – 2:00 pm **Networking / Interviews**