

DISCUSSION:

INFORMATION FROM THE FOOD BANK OF MONTEREY COUNTY

The Food Bank initially objected to giving the County's management liaison access to information to independently assess needs. The sum-total of information provided by the Food Bank to respond to your Board's referral of April 14¹¹¹ is included in **Attachment 2**, but was not adequate to conduct a thorough analysis responsive to the Board's request

According to the Food Bank, they are serving 240,000 individuals each month since the shelter-in-place order was issued. As stated by the Food Bank, prior to March 2020 they were serving 13,000 families per month and are now serving 60,000 families. As a result, they have depleted 6 months of inventory in 7 weeks.

The Food Bank states that their financial needs are:

- For the next 6 months \$3.4 million
- For the next 12 months \$6.4 million
- For the next 18 months \$9.2 million

Increased demand results from increased unemployment and school closures leaving a gap in child nutrition from the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Additionally, costs to replace inventory have increased and supply chain issues have increased lead times for procurement of food with lead time currently running at between 8 and 12 weeks.

INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS BY MANAGEMENT LIAISON

In considering longer term needs it is important to keep in mind the economic fall-out for many households is likely just beginning and will not be fully felt until enhanced unemployment benefits expires at the end of the current month and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUI) expires at the end of December.

Without extension of these benefits, the economic impact of the COVID-19 recession will much profoundly affect families and food security. During the Great Recession, which began in 2008, poverty levels peaked in 2012 - well after the start of the recession, where we are today. The analysis is included in **Attachment 1**.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

FINANCING:

The Department recommends amending the current contract and adding an additional amount of \$500,000 for the Food Bank of Monterey County for a term ending December 31, 2020 to support restoring The Food Bank's inventory due to its depleted state resulting from its early responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

If the Board gives direction to negotiate an agreement, the Department will bring the agreement back to the Board for approval and will request to increase appropriations and finance this emergency need through the Cannabis Fund, BSA 001-3132. If other emergency funding does become available, the

Cannabis Fund will be reimbursed.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

This Agreement correlates to the Health & Human Services Strategic Initiative adopted by the Board of Supervisors by working towards the goals of improving health and quality of life outcomes by providing supporting services to very low-income individuals and families.

Check the related Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives:

Economic Development

Administration

Health & Human Services

Infrastructure

Public Safety

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Attachments:

Attachment 1 Independent Analysis by Management Liaison

Attachment 2 Food Bank of Monterey County's Response