



August 2026

DRAFT LETTER – SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY VAC AT AUGUST 11, 2026 MEETING

To: Office of Mayor Daniel Lurie and Members of the Board of Supervisors

Dear [Mayor], [Board of Supervisors],

The Veterans Affairs Council wishes to express appreciation for Mayor's newly announced legislation establishing the Office of Food Security Coordination, which comes at a crucial time, as nutrition assistance relied upon by veterans in our community is now at risk.

H.R. 1, a recent federal law revising several nutrition-assistance rules, **eliminated the longstanding CalFresh exemption for veterans**. As a result, veterans who cannot meet the expanded federal work-hour requirements can be subject to the three-month limit on CalFresh benefits, creating an additional hardship for those experiencing unemployment, disability, or housing instability.

Many veterans and other vulnerable residents in San Francisco rely on CalFresh for essential nutrition. This is why the Council was especially grateful for the July 28 announcement of the Mayor's legislation to establish the Office of Food Security Coordination within the Human Services Agency (HSA). By strengthening coordination across departments this important and timely initiative will help residents, including veterans, access essential nutrition resources as federal changes make eligibility more challenging.

VAC members would like to utilize our connections within the San Francisco veterans community to help connect veterans with available food-assistance programs and resources of the Office of Food Security. If a representative from the Mayor's Office, a District Supervisor, or an appropriate program staff member would be interested in sharing information about these services, the Council would welcome the opportunity to provide a platform at an upcoming VAC meeting. A brief overview would help ensure veterans are informed about the support available to them.

The Council is grateful for the City's ongoing support of San Francisco's veterans and appreciates any opportunity to raise awareness of assistance programs. To coordinate inclusion on an upcoming VAC meeting, please contact Council Secretary Mary Murphy at mary.c.murphy@sfgov.org.

Respectfully,

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Council
City and County of San Francisco