

## Food Systems Resiliency Webinar Series

### #2 California Food Systems: Partnerships and Resources, July 28, 2020

This webinar provided information about programs, resources and services that can support our children and families during this unprecedented time. Some of the main topics covered includes ways to secure benefits and access nutritious foods. The links below were provided by panel members.

### Moderator and speaker Bios:

**Kamaljeet Khaira** [kjkhaira@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kjkhaira@ucdavis.edu) has over 25 years of experience in management, non-profit leadership and health promotion. She is currently the Director of the CalFresh, Healthy Living program based at UC DAVIS. The goal of UC CalFresh is to improve diet and nutrition-related skills. CalFresh's adult, family-centered and youth programs are implemented in partnership with more than 30 UC Cooperative Extension county offices throughout California. The program operates through a joint agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, the California Department of Social Services (CalFresh and Nutrition Branch) and the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Khaira previously held management roles with the Public Health Institute (PHI), leading their National Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) – Education Programs, and prior to her work with PHI, she was with the American Heart Association (AHA), Western States Affiliate, as the Senior Vice President for Youth Markets.

Her passion for working towards a healthy and more just society for young people was recognized in June, 2012, when she was named the recipient of the Ted K. Bradshaw Memorial Alumnus Award, which honors a University of California, Davis alumnus who exemplifies passion, humanity, and devotion for community empowerment. She holds a bachelor degree in exercise physiology, with a minor in nutrition, and a master's in community and regional development, both from the University of California, Davis.

CalFresh Healthy Living, UC website:

<https://uccalfresh.ucdavis.edu/>



**Brian Kaiser** [Brian.Kaiser@DSS.ca.gov](mailto:Brian.Kaiser@DSS.ca.gov) joined the CalFresh and Nutrition Branch at the California Department of Social Services in May 2016. As the CalFresh and Nutrition Programs Bureau Chief, he leads California's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for seniors, the CalFresh Outreach program, and the State's CalFresh Healthy Living (SNAP-Ed) programs. Kaiser has a Bachelor's degree in Geography as well as an MBA in Economics from the University of Nevada, Reno. Before joining the Department of Social Services, he spent nearly 20 years as a housing and demographic analyst for the University of Nevada, Reno.

CalFresh (client facing):  
<http://calfresh.dss.ca.gov/food/>

CalFresh (CDSS/partners):  
<https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh>

CalFresh Data Dashboard:  
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/data-portal/research-and-data/calfresh-data-dashboard>

Online EBT:  
<https://cdss.ca.gov/ebt-online>

P-EBT Benefits/**Toolkits**:  
<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt>

CalFresh Application:  
<https://www.getcalfresh.org/>

Food Bank Locator:  
<http://www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food-bank>



**Andy Naja-Riese** [andy@agriculturalinstitute.org](mailto:andy@agriculturalinstitute.org) brings 15 years of experience in community food systems and education. He is Chief Executive Officer of the Agricultural Institute of Marin (AIM), a Bay Area 501c3 educational non-profit that connects communities and local and regional food systems so the public can access healthy and sustainably-grown food. In his current role, Andy is a champion for a systems approach to connecting farmers and food producers with communities in a way that promotes a healthier, equitable food system built on a foundation of healthy soils and a healthy planet. AIM operates 8 certified farmers' markets, a mobile market for older adults and underserved communities, and interactive farm-based educational programs. He brings a unique perspective to non-profit executive management after spending 10 years with the Federal government, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. Andy successfully navigated these bureaucratic systems to effect change so that scientific evidence would drive policy and program decisions. This experience has shaped much of Andy's thinking about designing food systems and charitable food programs to nourish communities while supporting the financial viability of small-to-mid size producers in a way that is responsible, empowering, and socially just.

[www.agriculturalinstitute.org](http://www.agriculturalinstitute.org)

[www.farmfreshfoodrelief.org/](http://www.farmfreshfoodrelief.org/)

[www.marketmatch.org](http://www.marketmatch.org)

**Leyla Marandi** [leyla@ecoliteracy.org](mailto:leyla@ecoliteracy.org) is a public health professional based in Oakland, CA. Her work has focused on chronic disease prevention, child nutrition programs and school wellness policy. In her current role with Center for Ecoliteracy, she supports a statewide network of 89 school districts to serve healthy, freshly prepared school meals made from California-grown food through the Center's California Food for California Kids® initiative.

[California Food for California Kids Website](#)

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Return to School Planning Tools](#)

Register for upcoming Community of Practice calls [here](#) and/or view recordings [here](#).



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