

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles is home to hundreds of thousands of residents who rely on Medi-Cal and CalFresh for essential healthcare and food assistance. According to the Office of the Mayor, approximately 25 percent of the City's adult population – roughly 600,000 people – are enrolled in Medi-Cal, and more than 350,000 residents received CalFresh benefits as of 2022.

One Big, Beautiful Bill imposes a new requirement that recipients of Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) and Food Assistance (CalFresh/EBT) must document at least 80 hours per month of either paid employment or approved volunteer community service in order to maintain eligibility. These requirements are scheduled to take effect two years following the 2026 midterm elections.

A substantial portion of Medi-Cal and CalFresh participants in Los Angeles – including people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and single parents with caregiving responsibilities – face barriers to formal employment. Without accessible, qualifying volunteer opportunities, tens of thousands of Angelenos could lose access to critical healthcare and food assistance when these federal requirements are implemented.

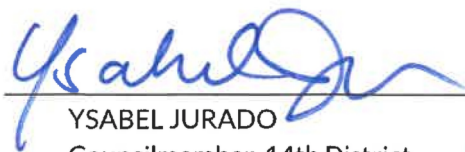
To ensure continued access to Medi-Cal and CalFresh benefits, the City should act now to identify and leverage existing volunteer opportunities that meet federal eligibility requirements, centralize and promote those opportunities, and establish clear mechanisms for tracking and verifying volunteer service hours in compliance with the new federal requirements.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO), with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and in consultation with the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Public Library, to report on the feasibility and requirements for designating City-sponsored volunteer opportunities as qualifying “approved volunteer community service” under the federal *One Big, Beautiful Bill* for purposes of Medi-Cal and CalFresh eligibility.

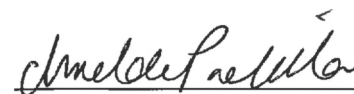
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney, in coordination with the CAO and CLA, be requested to report back on the legal standards, documentation requirements, and verification procedures necessary to ensure City-administered volunteer hours fully comply with applicable federal and state community service requirements under the *One Big, Beautiful Bill*, including data-sharing and privacy considerations.

I FURTHER MOVE that both reports include recommendations to ensure accessibility and equity for participants, including accommodations for individuals with disabilities, language access needs, housing instability, or limited access to technology, so that participation in volunteer service does not itself become a barrier to retaining benefits.

PRESENTED BY


YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY




JAN 28 2026

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