



## MPA Economic Security Action Team Minutes

June 12, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Zoom - <https://zoom.us/j/93861814508?pwd=OYln2iMxXmwsFusZvQ8txD2AaAVaLL.1>

**Attendees:** Rick Baum, Regina Brennan, Angela Conte, Raquel Curiel Morales, Katie Greaves, Mary Lockhart, Bonnie Petty, Melissa Slama

### 1:30 Welcome

- Introductions

### 1:35 Data Review

- Action Team reviewed key take aways from *Sonoma County 2024 Food Distribution System Assessment* and the *2023 Sonoma Valley Food Security Assessment*.

### 2:20 Root Cause Analysis for Prioritized Strategies

- Action Team reviewed RCA completed in May for strategy 6.1:
  - **6.1 Advocate at the local and state levels for streamlined processes and increased access to CalFresh (SNAP) and other nutrition benefits.** Hot Roots included:
    - Computer literacy, functional disabilities, and isolation are barriers to completing CalFresh forms
    - People may be unaware of food resources beyond CalFresh
      - *There is stigma around asking for help*
- **Complete RCA for 6.2**
  - **6.2 Expand concrete assistance (financial, food, gift card, etc.) to help older adults with medical bills, utility bills, and other out-of-pocket expenses through increased funding and eligibility for benefits.** Hot Roots included:
    - Food is one of the easiest costs to cut to free up financial resources
    - Need to elevate the voices of affinity/community groups – build trust
    - Stigma around needing support
    - Language barriers

### 2:55 Next Steps/Closing

- Transportation also emerged as a significant concern related to food access. Joni will share this with the Transportation Action Team.

**Outcomes:**

- Completed Root Cause Analysis and identified key hot roots associated with both prioritized strategies.