CalFood: $16.5 million on-going & Raise the Storage & Distribution Rate to 15%

The demand for emergency food is higher than ever as food banks face the climate of fear from public charge rules limiting CalFresh, unprecedented disasters, and the extraordinary cost of living. CalFood enables food banks to purchase California grown foods, supporting our farmers. The present storage & distribution rate of 10% is far less than the transportation, cooling and other costs to deliver the food to those in need. The Governor’s January 10 budget proposes $8M.

Food Bank Capacity: Support Governor’s Proposal of $20 million one-time

Infrastructure bottlenecks are a primary barrier to food banks meeting the need for food in their community, and a statewide survey of food banks shows that the total need is $150 M. A one-time investment of $20 million will provide long-term benefits by allowing food banks to purchase clean-burning refrigerated trucks, expand cold storage, or make other physical improvements critical to their operation.

Food Donation Tax Credit: Make the Whole Grocery Bag Eligible

Expand the current tax credit currently restricted to donations of California grown fruits and vegetables to include other California grown foods such as dairy, eggs, rice, nuts, and meat. This will improve health and reduce food waste by expanding the variety of healthy foods donated to food banks.

End Poverty and Food Insecurity in SSI/SSP

- **Eliminate food insecurity**: Support the Governor’s proposal to permanently fund the ‘hold harmless’ programs (SNB and TNB). Also, provide prospective eligibility for households not eligible next summer and creating a Cost of Living Adjustment for the SNB and TNB programs.
- **Improve SSI grants** by restoring the state COLA prior to 2022 and restore SSP grants so that no SSI recipient is forced to below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- **Modernize CalFresh** by expanding adoption of proven solutions that will make enrollment in CalFresh seamless and easy to navigate for the 500,000 newly eligible seniors and people with disabilities.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF): $100 million for CalRecycle

Expand funding for CalRecycle’s successful and oversubscribed Organics & Food Waste Prevention & Rescue grants which reduce methane emissions and fight hunger by diverting food to those in need. State support is necessary for emergency food providers to meet the bold climate goals established in AB 1826 (Chesbro, 2014) and SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) that require 20% of edible food to be diverted to people by 2025 while reducing green waste.

California Association of Food Banks partners with 41 food banks and over 6,000 local agencies. Our mission is to end hunger in California. Learn more at www.cafoodbanks.org. @cafoodbanks

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