



# Why is SNAP important to Alameda County?



SNAP, known as CalFresh in California, is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. With the other federal programs including the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs, TEFAP, WIC and others, the nutrition safety net reduces hunger and poverty, improves health and learning, increases productivity, creates jobs, and invests in the future of our communities.

1 in 8 Californians suffers from food insecurity.<sup>1</sup> 23 percent of California children live in food insecure households.<sup>2</sup>

**We ask California Members of Congress to protect and strengthen the federal nutrition programs. Every Californian should have access to the food they need to live healthy and productive lives.**

## SNAP benefits

- SNAP brought \$192,370,000 in 100% federally funded benefits to Alameda County last year.<sup>3</sup>
- As those benefits circulate in the County, they created approximately \$344,342,300 in total economic activity.<sup>4</sup>
- These benefits supported some 1,900 Alameda jobs by providing markets for farmers and customers for retailers.<sup>4</sup>

## SNAP participation

- SNAP benefits go to 112,300 people in Alameda – more than 1 in 14 of everyone who lives in the County.<sup>3</sup>
- 59% of all Alameda SNAP recipients are children, and 11% are seniors.<sup>5</sup>

## Lost dollars

- In 2016, SNAP reached 63% of everyone eligible in Alameda.<sup>5</sup>
- If SNAP reached 100% of those eligible, Alameda would see an additional \$126 million in benefits, and \$226 million in total economic activity.<sup>6</sup>
- Nationwide, federal nutrition programs provide 19 of every 20 emergency meals – private charity could never address the need for food.



<sup>1</sup> USDA Economic Research Service, 2013-15 average. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/err215/err-215.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Kids Data, Lucile Packard Foundation, 2014. <http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/764/food-insecurity/bar#fmt=1168&loc=1,2&tf=79&sort=loc>.

<sup>3</sup> California Budget & Policy Center. <http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/calfresh-reduces-hunger-every-county-california-changes-federal-level-cut-benefits/>.

<sup>4</sup> USDA Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>.

<sup>5</sup> California Department of Social Services. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Dashboard/2016/CountyDashboardApr-Jun16.xls>.

<sup>6</sup> California Food Policy Advocates. <http://cfpa.net/CalFresh/CFPAPublications/LDEP-FullReport-2016.pdf>.