



# End Hunger in California 2019 State Policy Agenda

## BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

- We are grateful for the Governor's budget [proposal of \\$8M](#). If increased by \$16.5M, food banks would provide nearly 100M meals of California grown foods, a meaningful step toward closing the hunger gap.
- **Raising the storage and distribution rate** from 10% will better cover the transportation, cooling, and other costs to deliver the food to those in need, reducing food banks' need to fundraise to cover the shortfall.

### Food Bank Capacity: Support Governor's Proposal of \$20 million one-time

- Capacity bottlenecks are a primary barrier to food banks meeting the need for food in their community.
- **Support Governor's proposal:** \$20M will provide long-term benefits by allowing food banks to purchase clean-burning refrigerated trucks, cold storage, or make other physical improvements to their operations.

### End Poverty & Food Insecurity in SSI/SSP

- **Prevent food insecurity:** Support the Governor's proposal to [permanently fund the "hold harmless" programs](#) (SNB and TNB), and make these State entitlements with prospective eligibility. Prevent inequities by making the parity with CAPI permanent.
- **End poverty in SSI:** Immediately restore the State COLA and SSP grants so no SSI recipient must live below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. Companion bill AB 1434 (Kalra).
- **Maximize the historic CalFresh expansion:** Expand 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:** its successful, oversubscribed Organics and Food Waste Prevention and Rescue grants reduce methane emissions and fight hunger by diverting food to those in need.
- State support is needed to meet the climate goals established in AB 1826 (Chesbro, 2014) and SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) that require diverting 20% of edible food to people by 2025 while reducing green waste.

### Expand CalEITC: Enhance Economic Security for Working Families

- **Support the Governor's proposals:** increase the EITC by \$500 for low-income families with children under 6, raise the annual income limit to \$30,000, and increase the credit for workers without dependents.
- **End exclusions** for otherwise eligible immigrant Californians by allowing those with a federally assigned Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to claim the credit. Companion bill AB 1593 (Reyes).

### Improve CalWORKs for California's most vulnerable families

- Support the Governor's proposal to raise grants, and **immediately end deep child poverty for all families**.
- **Help families achieve self-sufficiency:** increase the earned income disregard that incentivizes work, and restoring the cumulative lifetime 60-month time limit for adult CalWORKs.

## LEGISLATION

### AB 534 (Mayes et al.) Envision a Hunger-Free California

- Create a plan to ensure that adequate, healthy food is available to every Californian, including:

- Plan for universal participation in school meal and other federal nutrition programs, end summer hunger for children, and eliminate food deserts by providing grants to establish food hubs.

### **AB 614 (Eggman) Food Donation Tax Credit: Make the Whole Grocery Bag Eligible**

- **Expand the tax credit** to donations of California dairy, eggs, rice, nuts, meat, and other healthy foods. Improve health and reduce food waste by ensuring a variety of foods are consistently donated to food banks.

### **AB 494 (Berman) Maximize CalFresh: Simplify Verification of Housing Costs**

- **Allow CalFresh recipients to self-declare their housing costs.** This is vital to maximize CalFresh benefits for SSI recipients who can utilize the uncapped Excess Shelter Deduction.

### **AB 1022 (Wicks) CalFresh Anti-Hunger Response & Employment Training**

- Protect highly vulnerable CalFresh recipients subject to the ABAWD time limit from experiencing hunger by providing state-funded nutrition benefits. Companion budget request.

### **AB 1377 (Wicks) Feed Kids from Class to CalFresh**

- Establish a stakeholder group to identify a confidential, data-driven approach that protects family privacy to enroll the 600,000 children who receive subsidized school meals but not CalFresh.

### **SB 241 (Moorlach) California Voluntary Contribution Program - Oppose**

- Threatens the Emergency Food for Families Fund that has provided vital food resources for 20 years.
- Last year more than \$500,000 was donated, which food banks turned into more than 2 million meals.

### **SB 268 (Wiener) CalWORKs Asset Tests**

- **Encourage self-sufficiency** by removing the counterproductive asset test that discourages families from saving resources and growing their financial stability. Companion budget request.

### **SB 285 (Wiener) CalFresh Connect**

- Maximize CalFresh benefits for hungry Californians and streamline operations for administrators:
  - develop participation goals and utilize data to create a process for continuous improvement,
  - create a universal interface to reduce barriers for those applying for multiple programs, and
  - expand proven solutions so all eligible Californian can apply over the phone, in person or online.

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*California Association of Food Banks partners with 41 food banks and 6,000+ local agencies. Our mission is to end hunger in California. Follow our Capitol Action Day: @cafoodbanks #endhunger & [cafoodbanks.org](https://cafoodbanks.org).*

#### **For more information:**

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