



2016 State Policy Agenda

The California Association of Food Banks represents 43 food banks working together to end hunger in California.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

California can support our emergency food network close the hunger gap by helping farmers and food banks feed neighbors in need.

AB 1577 (EGGMAN) THE FARM TO FOOD BANK TAX CREDIT California's agricultural industry leads the nation, yet more than 5 million Californians, including one in four children, suffer from food insecurity. AB 1577 (Eggman) would increase access to healthy foods for low-income Californians while reducing food waste by:

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO COMPLETE NUTRITION, including expensive items that are difficult to access, by making donations of meat, dairy, rice, beans, eggs and other foods eligible for the credit.

PROVIDING CERTAINTY TO FOOD BANK DONORS BY EXTENDING THE SUNSET TO 2019.

AB 2131 (MAIENSCHIN) THE IMAGINE NO HUNGER LICENSE PLATE would:

ESTABLISH THE IMAGINE NO HUNGER LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM within CDFA.

BENEFIT FOOD BANKS by allowing Californians the option to purchase a specialty license plate from the DMV that would help food banks end hunger in California.

FUND THE STATE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM California food banks need our state to help meet the need for food assistance because of record demand due to the drought, an uneven economic recovery and the high cost of living. SEFAP also helps California's farmers and local economies because all purchases must be healthy California grown foods.

PROVIDE \$10 million to the State Emergency Food Assistance Program for food banks to purchase and distribute healthy California foods to low-income communities.

ESTABLISH FOOD WASTE PREVENTION FUNDING via CalRecycle's \$100 million to support two programs that would reduce greenhouse gases and hunger.

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION GRANTS to support one-time investments in transportation, cold storage, and other capital improvements. to increase diversion of food from landfills to food banks.

SUPPORT FOR ORGANIC GRANTS to fund food recovery efforts in partnership with digestion facilities.

MODERNIZE AND SIMPLIFY THE CALFRESH PROGRAM

CalFresh (formerly food stamps) is California's number one nutrition and anti-hunger program. It provides 100 percent federally-funded benefits to some 4 million Californians—most of them children. California has one of the lowest participation rates, annually losing \$2.9 billion in federal funds and \$5.2 billion in economic activity as a result.

AB 492 (GONZALEZ): Establishes a diaper benefit for eligible CalWORKs families.

AB 608 (GORDON): Requires child nutrition and feeding programs such as summer meal sites to the list of resources that must be provided to CalFresh applicants with children.

AB 1747 (WEBER): Addresses college student hunger by requiring all public colleges to provide access to EBT and CalFresh Restaurant Meal Programs, as appropriate.

AB 1770 (ALEJO): Updates CFAP eligibility rules for immigrants and refugees who are legally present.

AB 2054 (THURMOND): Requires California to design & implement Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children.

AB 2099 (STONE): Establishes a method to add a water supplement to the CalFresh EBT for households struggling to afford clean drinking water.

SB 904 (HERTZBERG): Reduces the potential for harm among CalFresh Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) by ensuring adherence to waivers of their 3 month time clock during time of high unemployment.

SB 1339 (MONNING): Improves and increases to efficiency of the Inter-County Transfer process for clients receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal.

ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF HUNGER

Our state has key opportunities to help build an inclusive economy for every Californian to access nutritious foods by supporting themselves and their families.

AB 1584 (BROWN, THURMOND): Reinstates the cost-of-living adjustment for the SSI State Supplemental Portion (SSP) and would increase the grant amount.

AB 2151 (CHU): Increases CalWORKs special diet of food preparation needs allowance to be distributed as a food benefit via EBT. Allows for various health professionals to determine need.

SB 23 (MITCHELL): Removes the Maximum Family Grant rule in CalWORKs.

SB 1223 (LENO): Simplifies and improves transparency in electronic verifications. CalFresh clients would be notified when consumer reports were used in the benefit determination process.

STATE BUDGET: REBUILD AND REINVEST IN CALIFORNIA'S SAFETY NET

Vital health and human services programs for low-income Californians were cut by some \$15 billion during the recession. We now must reinvest in our programs that help reduce hunger, including SSI/SSP, CalWORKs & child care.

RAISE SSI/SSP GRANT LEVELS TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL POVERTY MEASURE AND REINSTATE THE ANNUAL COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT. Current grant levels trap 1.3 million Californians at 90% of the Federal Poverty Level, leaving no money to purchase food. In many counties, SSI/SSP recipients make up 25-30% of those relying on food banks. As SSI/SSP recipients cannot receive CalFresh, this population is particularly at risk for hunger.