



CalFood Program

Fund CalFood at \$17.5 million & Fight Hunger in California

One in eight Californians – including 1 in 4 children – faces hunger, for whom food banks are a vital source of nutrition. It is a sad irony that [two of America’s hungriest cities – Bakersfield #1 & Fresno #5](#) – sit in our great Central Valley that feeds the world. **Even among CalFresh recipients, one-third visit food banks.**¹

The 2016-17 budget responded to this crisis in two forms - [\\$2M for CalFood](#) (formerly SEFAP) & [\\$18.6M for the Drought Food Assistance Program](#). The Governor’s January 10 Budget discontinues funding to both programs, a dangerous cut at a time when the need is rising.

We request the 2017-18 Budget fund CalFood at \$17.5 million to simply maintain the current support for emergency food, because:

- **The current climate of fear is driving families away from the CalFresh program.** Food banks are the only source of food with no questions asked.
- While the rains have returned, employment in drought affected areas lags as farmers plan far ahead of the weather, and agricultural communities face high unemployment even in good economic times.

Reduce hunger & support CA agriculture

CalFood funds must be used to purchase and distribute foods grown or produced in California, benefiting our agricultural sector.

Californians miss 1 billion meals every year, and it would cost food banks approximately \$325M annually to meet that need.² **Our ask of \$17.5M would provide some 87.5 million meals statewide – a meaningful step toward closing that gap.**

Peer State Investments in Emergency Food Assistance				
State	Annual State Emergency Food Funding ¹	Food Insecure Persons ²	Annual Expenditure Per Person	SNAP Participation Rate ³
Massachusetts	\$14.7 million	767,550	\$19.15	84%
New York	\$34.5 million	2,739,920	\$12.59	86%
Ohio	\$19.2 million	1,951,880	\$9.84	87%
Pennsylvania	\$17.8 million	1,808,660	\$9.84	88%
Washington	\$6.3 million	1,017,900	\$6.19	100%
New Jersey	\$6.8 million	1,101,750	\$6.17	75%
Texas	\$2.9 million	4,653,290	\$0.62	73%
California	\$2 million	5,401,770	\$0.37	66%

Prioritize ending hunger in the California budget

Funding CalFood at \$17.5M would still only provide some \$3.25 per Californian in need of food – far less than our peer states that have fewer people facing hunger and much higher SNAP (CalFresh) participation.

Fight hunger & support our farmers by investing \$17.5M in CalFood

For more information, contact andrew@cafoodbanks.org

¹ Compiled from each state’s EFAP funding data.

² Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap. <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

³ USDA, Reaching Those in Need. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ops/Reaching2014.pdf>

