



Why is SNAP important to Fresno 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.¹ 23 percent of California children live in a food insecure household.²

Fresno has the fifth highest food hardship rate of any metropolitan area in the nation.³

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

SNAP benefits

- SNAP brought \$378,360,000 in 100% federally funded benefits to Fresno County last year.⁴
- As those benefits circulated in Fresno County, they created approximately \$677 million in total economic activity.⁵
- These benefits support some 3,700 Fresno jobs by providing markets for farmers and customers for retailers.⁵

SNAP participation

- SNAP benefits go to 215,600 people in Fresno – more than 1 in 5 of everyone who lives in the County.⁴
- Two-thirds of Fresno SNAP recipients are children, and 5 percent are seniors.⁶

Lost dollars

- In 2016, SNAP reached 87% of everyone eligible in Fresno.⁶
- If SNAP reached 100% of those eligible, Fresno County would see \$71 million in additional benefits, and \$127 million in total economic activity.⁷
- Federal nutrition programs provide 19 of every 20 emergency meals – private charity could never address the need for food.



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

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

³ Food Research & Action Center and Gallup. <http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/food-hardship-2016-1.pdf>.

⁴ California Budget & Policy Center. <http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/calfresh-reduces-hunger-every-county-california-changes-federal-level-cut-benefits/>.

⁵ USDA Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>.

⁶ California Department of Social Services. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Dashboard/2016/CountyDashboardApr-Jun16.xls>.

⁷ California Food Policy Advocates. <http://cfpa.net/CalFresh/CFPAPublications/LDEP-FullReport-2016.pdf>.