



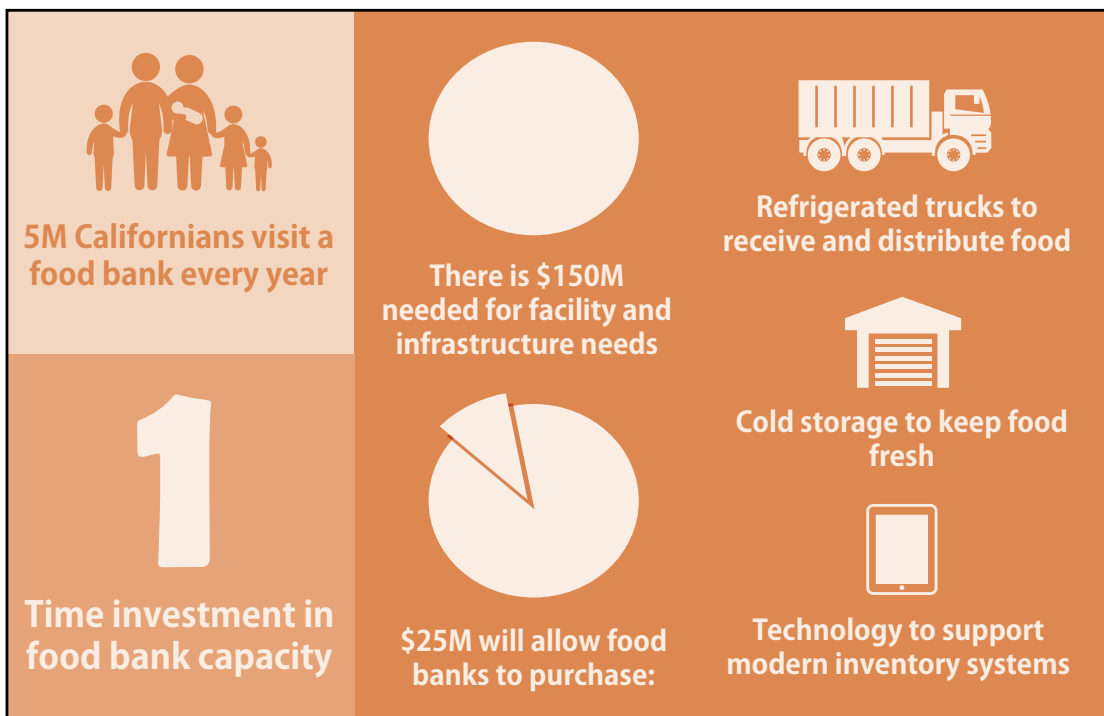
\$25M for Food Bank Infrastructure: 1 Time Investment Supports Hunger & Climate Goals

Food banks are an integral part of California’s anti-hunger safety net. **They keep 5 million people healthy with fresh produce and protein.**

But food banks are hamstrung, in part because it has been almost 20 years since the state invested in the food bank infrastructure. Food banks raise funds to support their needs from the private sector, but **it’s time for the state to step up and help food banks meet the needs of struggling Californians.**

A survey of California food banks revealed that the statewide need for one-time infrastructure improvements - e.g., vehicles, cold storage – are approximately \$42 million, and facility expansions or purchases are an additional \$115 million. Food banks’ total infrastructure needs thus approach \$150 million.

This investment will enable food banks to distribute more California grown foods – **mainly the healthy produce and protein items that must be kept fresh** – and help the state achieve its bold climate commitment by preventing food from going to landfill, together with improving the long-term health of our communities.



Finally, the state’s climate change actions, designed to protect the health of the same low-income Californians served by food banks, has put pressure on food providers, including:

- Clean-burning diesel emission regulations require vehicle fleet upgrades, taking valuable dollars away from our mission of ending hunger.
- Efforts to increase Organics Recycling and reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants established bold targets to divert 20 percent of edible food from landfill to human consumption by 2025. No entity, let alone emergency food providers, can expand their operations without additional resources.

ⁱData available from CAFB upon request