



Why is SNAP important to Merced 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 food insecure households.²

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

SNAP benefits

- SNAP brought \$88,730,000 in 100% federally funded benefits to Merced County last year.³
- As those benefits circulated in the County, they created approximately \$158 million in total economic activity.⁴
- These benefits support some 880 jobs by providing markets for farmers and customers for retailers.⁴

SNAP participation

- SNAP benefits go to 55,800 people in Merced – more than 1 in 5 of everyone who lives in the County.³
- Two-thirds of all Merced SNAP recipients are children, and 5 percent are seniors.⁷

Lost dollars

- In 2016, SNAP reached 74% of everyone eligible in Merced.⁸
- If SNAP reached 100% of those eligible, Merced County would annually see an additional \$21 million in benefits, and \$38 million in total economic activity.⁹
- Nationwide, 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 California Budget & Policy Center. <http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/calfresh-reduces-hunger-every-county-california-changes-federal-level-cut-benefits/>.

⁴ USDA Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>.

⁵ California Department of Social Services. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Dashboard/2016/CountyDashboardApr-Jun16.xls>.

⁶ California Food Policy Advocates. <http://cfpa.net/CalFresh/CFPAPublications/LDEP-FullReport-2016.pdf>.