



California Association of Food Banks

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Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Bold Strategies to Fight Child Hunger

Background

- ❖ [Nearly half of California's children](#) live in or near poverty, [the highest percentage of any state](#).
- ❖ The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, CalFresh in California) is the most important child hunger program reaching nearly 20 million children, including [more than 2 million in California](#).
- ❖ The 2018 Farm Bill maintained essential protections against childhood hunger by rejecting the extension of SNAP time limits and work requirements to families with children.
- ❖ Child nutrition programs have not been improved since the [Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#).

California's anti-hunger community hopes for the opportunity to advocate for investments proven to work when children are most hungry, during summer and other out of school times:

Protect and Strengthen the Existing Child Nutrition Programs:

- ❖ The Child Nutrition Reauthorization includes the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool and Summer Meals, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program.

Expand Access to Summer Meals:

- ❖ Reduce red tape for non-profits like food banks to feed kids all year through the '[Summer Seamless](#)' option.
- ❖ [Lower area eligibility for open sites](#) from 50% to 40% of children receiving free or reduced-price school meals to reduce food access barriers.
- ❖ Reduce child hunger with Summer EBT through SNAP (CalFresh) — a [proven intervention](#) to reduce hunger and improve nutrition that [maximizes food retail access for hungry families](#).
- ❖ Where summer meal sites are not viable, [provide flexibility to the congregate feeding requirement](#) in areas with barriers to summer feeding.

Do No Harm:

- ❖ The reauthorization should protect children's access to school meals by leveraging new opportunities to directly certify eligible children, and preserving the [Community Eligibility Provision](#).
- ❖ No harmful increases to school meal verifications.
- ❖ No child nutrition investments that come at the expense of other programs.

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