



California Association of Food Banks

2024 STATE POLICY AGENDA

We thank the Administration and Legislature for the critical investments made to prevent hunger throughout the pandemic. With the ending of COVID-era anti-hunger supports like CalFresh Emergency Allotments, combined with record spikes in food prices, hunger is again on the rise. Today, over one in five California households are faced with the toxic stress and health consequences of food insecurity, with shocking disparities for communities of color: 45% of Black and 32% of Latine families with children report food insecurity, compared to 16% of White families with children.

Food banks continue to face near record demand, and most are still serving 1.5 more community members than they were pre-pandemic. We know that it took a decade for food insecurity to return to 2008 levels following the Great Recession. Hungry families cannot wait, and we must build toward a more equitable, hunger-free future now.

Bolster the Emergency Food Network & Ensure Resiliency During Disasters:

» Budget: CalFood: (\$60 Million Ongoing)

Appropriate \$52 million General Fund in 2023-2024 and on-going to sustain the total \$60 million General Fund amount that is already included in the 2023-24 baseline budget for CalFood. ([Factsheet](#))

» Budget: State Emergency Food Bank Reserve (\$3M One-Time & Permanent Authority)

Establish permanent authorization for the State Emergency Food Bank Reserve to ensure that California is prepared and able to respond quickly when disaster strikes. ([Factsheet](#))

Strengthen the Anti-Hunger Safety Net:

- › **AB 1961 (Wicks):** Convene the End Hunger in California Master Plan Task Force to make recommendations aimed at addressing access to healthy and culturally relevant food for all Californians. ([Factsheet](#))

» CalFresh:

- › **Budget:** Ensure on-time implementation of the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit Pilot to boost benefits for elderly and disabled households who receive below \$50 per month.
- › **Budget:** Establish state-funded CARE benefits for CalFresh recipients who are subject to the punitive federal ABAWD time-limit rules. ([Factsheet](#))
- › **AB 2150 (Arambula):** Build on success of AB 1326 (Arambula) to ensure collaboration and information sharing between higher education liaisons and stakeholders. ([Factsheet](#))
- › **SB 245 (Hurtado & Rubio) / AB 311 (Santiago):** Provide state-funded food benefits to all Californians ineligible for CalFresh due to immigration status. ([Factsheet](#))

» School & Summer Meals

- › **Budget:** Fully fund School Meals for All to ensure that all California children can continue to receive two nourishing meals at school each day. ([Factsheet](#))
- › **AB 2595 (L. Rivas):** Establish a pilot at public libraries to allow summer meal sites to offer meals to parents and caregivers so that they can share a meal with their children. ([Factsheet](#))

Strengthen the Anti-Poverty Safety Net:

- › **Budget / AB 2446 (Ortega) / SB 953 (Menjivar):** Expand access to diapers and menstrual products through California's successful Diaper Bank Program (\$23M ongoing) and Menstrual Products Pilot (\$3.85M ongoing), and expand access through Medi-Cal to diapers (AB 2446 Ortega/[Factsheet](#)) and menstrual products (SB 953 Menjivar/[Factsheet](#)).
- › **Budget:** Address SSI/SSP benefit adequacy by ensuring grant increases are enacted and establish grants above the Federal Poverty Level. Revive and refund the Special Circumstances Program to support SSI recipients when emergency costs arise. ([Factsheet](#))
- › **Budget:** Build on Governor's proposal to pursue new TANF pilots to reimagine CalWORKS' ability to fight hunger by centering family choice, eliminating punitive policies, and maximizing aid needed to exit poverty. ([Factsheet](#))



CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF
FOOD BANKS

For a full list of bills CAFB is supporting: cafoodbanks.org/2024-tracker
For questions: policy@cafoodbanks.org