



Why is SNAP important to Orange 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 California Members 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 \$402,020,000 in 100% federally funded benefits to Orange County last year.³
- As those benefits circulated in Orange County, they created approximately \$720 million in total economic activity.⁴
- These benefits support some 4,000 Orange County jobs by providing markets for farmers and customers for retailers.⁴

SNAP participation

- SNAP benefits go to 247,600 people in Orange County – nearly 1 in 12 of everyone who lives in the County.³
- Two-thirds of all Orange County SNAP recipients are children, and 10 percent are seniors.⁵

Lost dollars

- In 2016, SNAP reached 61% of everyone eligible in Orange County.⁵
- If SNAP reached 100% of those eligible, Orange County would see an additional \$252 million in benefits, and \$451 million in total economic activity.⁶
- Nationwide, federal nutrition programs provide 19 of every 20 emergency meals – private charity could never address the need for food.

ONE IN 20

One in 20 bags of food assistance comes from a charitable organization. Federal nutrition programs provide the rest.

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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>.