



Emergency Food Disaster Resilience: \$32 million one-time

Disasters have become the new normal across the state and immigrants, farm workers, and other low-income Californians experience disproportionate consequences. Whether natural disaster like fires or earthquakes, or man-made crises like the 2019 federal shutdown and public service power shutoffs, food banks are on the frontlines responding to need for food, and remain long after to keep Californians healthy and well-fed. Food banks stretch \$1 into five meals on average, so one-time funding will make a critical difference.

\$24M = 120 Million Meals During Disasters

\$8M = Food Banks Stay Powered & Food Stays Fresh in Crises

Feeding California Communities When We Need it Most

- Most disaster-related needs are temporary, given the surge of people who have lost power, employment, or their homes. State support is critical given limitations on federal funding (Disaster CalFresh requires a Presidentially-declared disaster with Individual Assistance; mass replacement of CalFresh benefits is only available to households once per month).
- Using the CalFood reimbursement model, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) would hold the \$24M to quickly reimburse food banks to meet the elevated need for food.
- The \$8 million will enable food banks to purchase back up power generators, switches, and other one-time investments that help maintain continuity of operations and prevent food loss when communities need it most. Recent events highlight this critical need: The Redwood Empire Food Bank was in the Kincade Fire mandatory evacuation zone and could not access their facility and Napa's earthquake in 2014 damaged the local food bank, requiring temporary offsite food storage and distribution.
- With CDSS and the Legislature we will develop criteria to determine when funding can be triggered, per disaster caps, and a mechanism to replenish this fund to prevent a gap in disaster response.

For more information contact Andrew Cheyne, director of government affairs: andrew@cafoodbanks.org



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SONOMA

The Complex Fires in 2017 were so devastating that the Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) requested mutual aid from nine Bay Area food banks. At the peak of need, the food banks served 85 families an hour. In the 15 months after, REFB distributed \$7.75M of healthy food —enough for 3M meals.^[1]

In 2019's Kincadee Fire, the REFB was forced to evacuate their facility yet continued to serve the Sonoma community.

SAN DIEGO

In the relatively modest PSPS events in 2019, the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank still needed \$50,000 worth of food.

In just one distribution during the federal government shutdown in 2019, the provided seven tons of groceries and more than 6,000 diapers to Coast Guard families.

SANTA BARBARA

The Food Bank of Santa Barbara County faced the Thomas Fire and then mudslides that closed highway 101.

They served 12,487 clients some 363,475 meals, in December 2017 and January 2018. This was 42% more clients and 47% more meals than in the previous year.

PARADISE

The Camp Fire in 2018 increased the need for food by 22% at Dignity Health Connected Living in Redding. The need would have been greater, however the severe crisis meant folks were displaced from the area entirely.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, which helps support the area, has distributed 2.5M pounds of food and continues to feed Paradise survivors.



1. This does not include the PSPS events, the Kincaid Fire, nor several fires in Lake County that REFB supported.

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