



## California Food Bank Rapid Response Fund

The California Food Bank Rapid Response Fund (the Fund) provides crucial funding for food banks to increase their capacity to purchase food, supplies, and supplement their staffing needs through the COVID-19 crisis and its long recovery period. By making a significant donation, your company will ensure that we continue to help our neighbors most at-risk for hunger and strengthen California's safety net. We know that during a crisis like COVID-19, it is our low-income community members that are most impacted, and we must stand together to nourish and uplift each and every member of our community.

The Fund supports food banks who are working on the frontlines during the COVID-19 crisis. The Fund will be administered by the California Association of Food Banks, a 501(c) (3), and will be distributed to 40 food banks serving the entire state. Donations will be fully tax-deductible.

CA Food Banks is committed to a thoughtful, rapid, and transparent process to disperse the funds and will apply the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) formula\* to ensure equity among counties. The formula accounts for a community's population size as well as their poverty levels. The Fund will distribute 85% of the donations to support local food banks as they scale up their operations to meet the increased demand for food and resources, and 15% will support CA Food Banks' critical role in response efforts.

While food banks are always on the frontlines responding to community needs, this unprecedented crisis has positioned food banks as critical first-responders as food insecurity rapidly unfolds across California and the nation. Those of us who work in hunger relief have long known how many families live paycheck to paycheck, and rely on food banks to fill their pantries. Before the pandemic, one in every eight Californians was food insecure. Now countless more are being plunged into economic instability and are at high risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

California's food banks are seeing steep increases in the number of individuals and families accessing food distributions. And, we we don't anticipate those numbers to drop as layoffs and reduced work hours continue to ripple through our communities and the rate of infection rises. CA Food Banks is partnering with CDSS to maintain a steady supply of emergency food to food banks and reduce the barriers for people to access them.

Simply put, CA Food Banks makes sure that food banks have what they need to do what they do best: feed our communities. United, determined, and resilient, our food bank network will remain at the frontlines of the COVID-19 emergency and beyond as the health and economic impact unfolds across California.

Your support is essential to keep the food and resources flowing. **To donate to the Fund, please contact Laurie Loftus Galvagna , Director of Development, at [Laurie@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:Laurie@cafoodbanks.org).**

\*The CDSS funding formula is provided based on the 60/40 formula where each food bank receives a base dollar amount. The remaining funds are then based 60% on the number of persons in households within the food bank distribution area (or county) having incomes below the Federal poverty level and 40% on the number of unemployed persons within that area. CDSS uses the most current Census data for the Federal poverty level and averages of unemployment data obtained from the Employment Development Department once per year to determine 60/40 percentages.