



1624 Franklin Street, Suite 722
Oakland, CA 94612
510.272.4435 • Fax: 510.272.9171
www.cafoodbanks.org

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President Pro Tempore
California State Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 94814

The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
California State Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Budget Committee
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 30, 2018

**Re: [HHS 62 \\$12.6 Million for CalFood – Support Assembly Version](#)
[HHS 82 \\$25 Million for Food Bank Infrastructure – Support Assembly Version](#)**

California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) represents 41 food banks that partner with more than 6,000 local agencies statewide with a mission to end hunger in California. Together with a broad coalition of anti-hunger, environmental and food industry stakeholders, we write to you regarding the CalFood & food bank infrastructure capacity proposals under consideration by the Budget Conference Committee.

Despite our great wealth, [1 in 8 Californians unfortunately faces hunger](#), a crisis that demands the state develop a proportionate response. We have the [nation's highest poverty rate of 20.6%](#). California's world-leading agricultural regions are ironically home to [two of our nation's hungriest cities – Bakersfield \(#1\) and Fresno \(#5\)](#).

The lines at food banks have never been longer, with the **current climate of fear limiting the reach of CalFresh, historic disasters**, unprecedented **costs of housing**, and the **drought** still felt in many corners of the state, food banks struggle to serve. Food banks across the state continue to report that families are afraid to enroll in CalFresh, **as food banks are the only place to access food with no questions asked**.

[The House Farm Bill's proposals for massive cuts to CalFresh provide additional urgency](#) for these requests, and would put overwhelm food banks.

HHS 62 CalFood: Support Assembly \$12.6 million on-going above the May Revision

The 2016-17 Budget responded to hunger crisis with \$20.6 million for emergency food: [\\$2M for CalFood](#) & [\\$18.6M for the Drought Food Assistance Program](#). The 2017-18 budget funded CalFood at \$8M, while DFAP expired. The May Revision proposes \$8M for CalFood.

We request that the Conference Committee support the Assembly proposal for an additional \$12.6 million on-going for CalFood in the 2018-19 Budget. With the Governor's proposal of \$8 million, this would mean a total of \$20.6 million.

This would enable food banks to deliver more than 100 million meals, a significant step toward ending hunger in California. Anything less than \$12.6M represents a cut, as the need is even greater than in 2016-17. \$20.6M would only place California among our peer states:

Peer State Investments in Emergency Food Assistance				
State	Annual State Emergency Food Funding ¹	Food Insecure Persons ²	Annual Expenditure Per Person	SNAP Participation Rate ³
Massachusetts	\$17.7 million	701,630	\$25.16	85%
New York	\$34.5 million	2,502,250	\$13.79	86%
Pennsylvania	\$18.2 million	1,674,420	\$10.86	88%
Ohio	\$19.6 million	1,852,870	\$10.55	87%
Washington	\$6.3 million	915,550	\$6.88	100%
New Jersey	\$6.8 million	971,920	\$7.00	75%
Texas	\$4.8 million	4,320,050	\$1.11	73%
California	\$8 million	4,855,020	\$1.64	70%

Supporting CalFood at this level provides numerous benefits to the state:

- CalFood is incredibly efficient: Food banks leverage incredible economies of scale –each \$1 appropriated enables California food banks to provide roughly 5 meals.
- CalFood has great reach and flexibility– CalFood reaches all 58 counties, and enables each county to purchase foods according to their needs.
- CalFood supports our agricultural communities as funds must be used on California grown foods, particularly the fresh produce and proteins needed to support a healthy population.

¹ Compiled from each state's emergency food funding data.

² Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap. <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

³ USDA, Reaching Those in Need. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ops/Reaching2015.pdf>

HHS 82 Food Bank Infrastructure: Support Assembly Proposal \$25 Million One-Time

In addition to the hunger crisis already discussed, the state has taken decisive actions on [clean burning diesel trucks](#) and [preventing food from entering landfill](#) to protect the health of the same low-income Californians served by food banks. These policies put pressure on food banks – already under-resourced – to meet the emergency need for food.

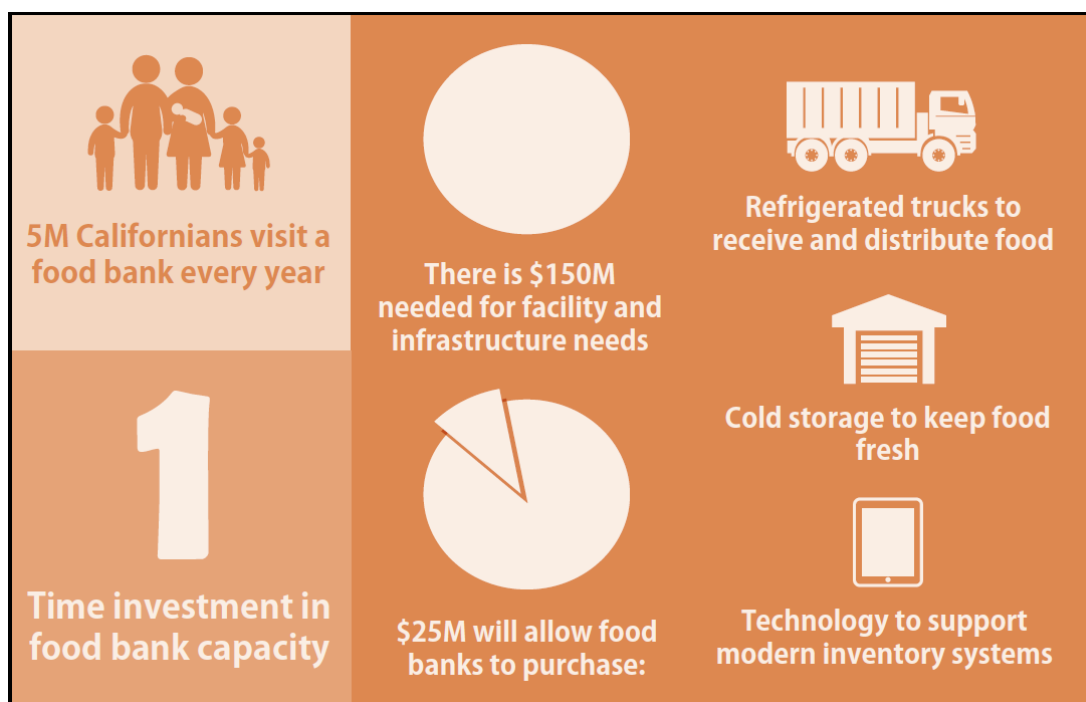
We request that the 2018-19 budget support food bank infrastructure at \$25 million one-time, only one-sixth of the total need in the emergency food network. A survey of food banks showed that the total Infrastructure capacity need was \$150 million, so we are only requesting the state’s share of these resources that food banks otherwise secure from private donations.

A one-time investment creates long-term gains by providing the modern refrigerated transportation, cold storage and other capital improvements necessary to advance our anti-hunger mission and the state’s climate change goals. This investment will enable food banks to distribute more California grown foods – **particularly the healthy produce and protein items that must be kept fresh** –while supporting the state to achieve its commitments to [prevent food from producing methane in landfills](#), improving the long-term health of our communities.

Climate Policies Put Stress On Food Banks

Tail pipe emission regulations [require diesel trucks to upgrade by 2023](#), or switch to costlier alternatives like Compressed Natural Gas or electric vehicles. Food banks need these vehicles, particularly for fresh produce and proteins that require refrigeration. It is burdensome for food banks to meet these requirements, taking valuable dollars from our mission of ending hunger.

Mandates to [increase Organics Recycling](#) and [reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants](#) established a bold target to divert 20 percent of edible food from landfill to human consumption by 2025. Food banks know well that [up to 40% of food is wasted](#), creating [methane that drives climate change](#). Recovering food aligns with our mission to end hunger. Yet emergency food providers cannot expand their operations without resources – particularly to expand physical infrastructure.



A failure to support these investments would be costly and harmful to the state.

- Hunger is linked with chronic diseases like [diabetes that costs California \\$25 billion](#) a year.
- [Reducing hunger prevents costly hospitalizations that spike the 4th week of the month](#) when families exhaust food budgets.
- Even one incident of [hunger during childhood can have lifelong consequences](#).

CAFB and our coalition look forward to working with the Budget Committees and Administration so that more families have the food they need to move out of poverty and live their lives in dignity.

Sincerely,



Andrew Cheyne
Director of Government Affairs

CC:

Budget Conference Committee Members
Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon
Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Department of Finance
Department of Social Services
Health & Human Services Agency
Office of Governor Edmund Brown Jr.





SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
of SANTA CLARA and SAN MATEO COUNTIES

