

# Fund CalFood at \$17.5 million

## Fight Hunger in California

### California faces a hunger crisis affecting 1 in 8 statewide —

including 1 in 4 kids — compounded by:



**the extraordinary cost of housing** that is forcing families to choose between food and rent;



**the most destructive Wildfires in state history** that has disrupted families' ability to find housing and work;



**the effects from 5 years of punishing drought** which disrupted agricultural communities that face high unemployment even in good economic times. It is a sad irony that two of America's hungriest cities, Bakersfield #1 & Fresno #5, sit in our great Central Valley that feeds the world.

**CalFresh should be our first defense against hunger, but its ability to meet the need is diminished by the current climate of fear that drives families away from the program.**

Food banks are the only source of food with no questions asked. **Even among CalFresh recipients, nearly one-third visit food banks due to inadequate benefits.**

We gratefully recognize that the Governor proposes \$8M for CalFood in the 2018-19 budget. It discontinues what had been \$9.5M available through the Drought Food Assistance Program.

**We request the 2018-19 Budget fund CalFood at \$17.5 million to simply maintain current support for emergency food – anything less is a cut during a time of intense need.**

#### Peer State Investments in Emergency Food Assistance

	Annual State Emergency Food Funding <sup>1</sup>	Food Inse- cure Persons <sup>2</sup>	Annual Expenditure Per Person	SNAP Participation Rate <sup>3</sup>
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	66%

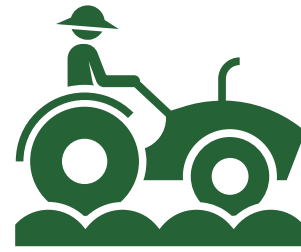


For more information, contact [andrew@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:andrew@cafoodbanks.org)

## Fight hunger & support farmers

CalFood can only purchase foods produced in California, like healthy fresh produce, dairy and proteins, benefiting our farmers.

Californians miss 1 billion meals every year, and it would cost food banks about \$325M annually to meet that need.<sup>2</sup> Our ask of \$17.5M would provide some 87.5 million meals statewide – a meaningful step to close that gap.



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## Prioritize ending hunger in the California budget

Funding CalFood at \$17.5M would only provide some \$3.25 per Californian in need of food – far less than our peer states that have fewer people facing hunger and much higher SNAP (CalFresh) participation.



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# Fight hunger & support our farmers by investing \$17.5M in CalFood



For more information,  
contact [andrew@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:andrew@cafoodbanks.org)

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/Reaching2014.pdf>