



FIGHT HUNGER IN CALIFORNIA

Hunger Remains at Record Levels, Demands Ongoing State Response

No Californian should go hungry, yet hunger remains at tragic levels. Despite many policy interventions, **21.2% of California households** – more than 8 million people – still report food insecurity. This is more than **double pre-pandemic rates**. Even worse, there are deep racial and ethnic disparities, with **37.9% of Latinx** and **36.1% of Black households with children** facing hunger and the irreparable harm from persistent food insecurity. **This demands an ongoing response proportional to this long-term crisis:**

Bolster the Emergency Food System in the COVID-19 Crisis & Beyond

- » **\$110 million one-time: Emergency Food (Sen. Laird, Asm. Wicks)**
Food banks served 1 billion meals in 2020, and remain on the frontlines of hunger caused by COVID-19. Based on current data, and that from the Great Recession, food banks expect demand to remain above pre-pandemic levels for years. State support funds highly effective food programs through DSS, which are critical given a sharp drop in federal food supports.
- » **\$32 million one-time: Climate & Disaster Resilience (Sen. Newman, Asm. Villapudua)**
Climate emergencies and disasters are the new normal. Immigrants, farmworkers, and other low-income Californians experience disproportionate consequences. California has had close calls, and we need to prevent a crisis like the Texas freeze. Whether fires or public safety power shutoffs, we must ensure food banks are climate friendly and can go off the grid, to prevent catastrophic food loss, and remain able to serve when Californians are in greatest need.
- » **\$150 million one-time: Capacity Enhancements (Asm. Daly)**
While serving record demand, food banks have faced steep costs from operational shifts to drive-throughs and other direct distributions. A survey of our members underscored the acute need for long-term capacity will enable food banks to distribute more California grown healthy produce and protein items that must be kept fresh.
- » **SB 240: Prevent the Healthy Food Donation Tax Credit from Expiring (Sen. Eggman, Asm. Levine)**
A triple win to help farmers and food banks, while preventing food waste, by extending the 15% tax credit for donations to food banks to 2027.

Questions?

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