



FIGHT HUNGER IN CALIFORNIA

FOOD BANK CAPACITY: \$150M ONE-TIME

COVID-19 completely changed the reality of emergency food assistance in California.

In 2020, CAFB member food banks*:

- » Served more than 1 billion pounds of food
- » Doubled the food directly distributed to the community (101% increase)
- » In April alone, served over half (62%) the number of people than in all of 2019

Food banks know that hunger will remain high long after the COVID-19 crisis ends. It took a decade after the 2008 downturn for food insecurity to return to pre-Great Recession levels. Right now, 21.2% of California households — more than 8 million people — still report food insecurity. This is more than double pre-pandemic rates.

Food banks are here to serve California's communities for the long haul, but need State support to meet this elevated need. The extraordinary level of service during COVID-19 put an enormous strain on existing emergency food infrastructure, and revealed the need for more capacity.

The statewide need for one-time capacity improvements — like refrigerated trucks — are approximately \$42 million. Facility upgrades — like cold storage — are an additional \$115 million. Food banks' total capacity needs are \$150 million.

A \$150 million one-time investment will make a long-term impact to improve the most critical parts of our emergency food system, enabling food banks and local partners to obtain and distribute more California grown healthy produce and protein that must be kept fresh, and are crucial to supporting community health.

\$150M will enable food banks to purchase



Refrigerated trucks to receive & distribute food



Cold storage to keep food fresh



Technology for modern inventory systems

For more information, contact Andrew Cheyne andrew@cafoodbanks.org

*Data available upon request