



**CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF
FOOD BANKS**

Emergency Food Climate & Disaster Resilience: \$32 million one-time

Hunger is at record levels, affecting nearly 1 in 4 Californians due to COVID-19 — with deep disparities for low-income communities of color experiencing even greater hardship.

At the same time, disasters have become the new normal across the state and immigrants, farmworkers, and other low-income Californians experience disproportionate consequences. Whether natural disaster like fires or earthquakes, or man-made crises like the 2019 federal shutdown and public service power shutoffs (PSPS), food banks are on the frontlines responding to need for food, and remain long after to keep Californians healthy and well-fed.

Food Banks Stay Powered & Food Stays Fresh During Disasters & Climate Crises

Feeding California Communities When We Need it Most

- This one-time funding will make long-term improvements to the emergency food system. Food banks will be able to purchase back up power generators, batteries and other power storage, clean vehicles, charging stations, and related investments that help maintain continuity of operations and prevent food loss during a crisis.
- Recent events highlight this critical need: The Redwood Empire Food Bank was in the Kincadee Fire mandatory evacuation zone and could not access their facility and Napa's earthquake in 2014 damaged the local food bank, requiring temporary offsite food storage and distribution.
- The massive 2020 power outages, and PSPS events across the state, have showed how vulnerable our systems are to disruption. This investment will prevent catastrophic food loss and ensure food is available to low-income Californians when they need it most. It is a win-win, reducing the carbon footprint of the emergency food system and helping the state meet its climate goals.

For more information contact Andrew Cheyne, director of government affairs: andrew@cafoodbanks.org



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SONOMA

The Complex Fires in 2017 were so devastating that the Redwood Empire Food Bank (REFB) requested mutual aid from nine Bay Area food banks. At the peak of need, the food banks served 85 families an hour. In the 15 months after, REFB distributed \$7.75M of healthy food — enough for 3M meals. ^[1]

In 2019's Kincadee Fire, the REFB was forced to evacuate their facility yet continued to serve the Sonoma community.

SAN DIEGO

In the relatively modest PSPS events in 2019, the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank still needed \$50,000 worth of food.

In just one distribution during the federal government shutdown in 2019, the provided seven tons of groceries and more than 6,000 diapers to Coast Guard families.

SANTA BARBARA

The Food Bank of Santa Barbara County faced the Thomas Fire and then mudslides that closed highway 101.

They served 12,487 clients some 363,475 meals, in December 2017 and January 2018. This was 42% more clients and 47% more meals than in the previous year.

PARADISE

The Camp Fire in 2018 increased the need for food by 22% at Dignity Health Connected Living in Redding. The need would have been greater, however the severe crisis meant folks were displaced from the area entirely.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, which helps support the area, has distributed 2.5M pounds of food and continues to feed Paradise survivors.



1. This does not include the PSPS events, the Kincaid Fire, or several fires in Lake County that REFB supported.

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