

Food for Farmworkers *Alimentos para Agricultores*

Access to enough food to nourish your body is a basic human right. And yet, many of the farmworkers who plant and harvest the food that fill our nation's plates don't have enough food to feed themselves or their families.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, farmworkers struggled with a variety of challenges, such as low wages, inadequate food access, poor housing conditions, and poor health outcomes. Since the onset of the pandemic, these hardships have only been exacerbated.

At the same time, the pandemic has highlighted how critical these skilled farmworkers are to the nation's well-being. They work not only through a pandemic, but also through California's increasingly devastating wildfires.

Farmworkers are essential to our food supply chain, our economy, and our communities. It is paramount that farmworkers can easily and safely access quality, nutritious food.



“ I am thankful that the food bank came to bring food [to the farm]. It is a relief to be remembered.”

—Farmworker, Watsonville, CA

- » 500,000–800,000 farmworkers live in California — about a third to half of the nation's farmworkers.
- » Farmworkers face food insecurity at 3x the rate of the average Californian.
- » 50% of farmworkers in California have no health coverage.
- » Only 17-18% of farmworkers receive SNAP (known as CalFresh in California) or WIC.



Increasing Food Access for Farmworkers

California Association of Food Banks and 11 food banks throughout the state have joined together to respond to the needs of farmworkers. Together, we are working to improve access to healthy food and improve health outcomes amongst farmworkers.

Each food bank is working in creative ways to establish new partnerships, target outreach to farmworking communities, and serve more regions, all while sustaining a new, heightened level of need throughout their community.

At the same time, CAFB is also working to create inclusive public policies that create more equitable access to food, and secure immediate pandemic-response food resources for our immigrant community members who have been excluded from other public benefits.

Specifically, these food banks are:

- » Distributing boxes of food appropriate to the cultural diets of farmworkers and their families
- » Holding food distributions at times and in locations that are convenient for farmworkers
- » Working with trusted farmworker organizations to build relationships with farmworking communities and debunk myths about the nutrition safety net
- » Partnering with health clinics to reinforce the importance of healthy, nutritious food

Learn more about this work: <http://cafoodbanks.org/farmworkers>