



2022 State Policy Priorities

An Equitable, Hunger-Free Future

Food Banks Continue to Face Near-Record Demand

We thank the Administration & Legislature for the critical investments made to prevent hunger throughout the pandemic. The unfortunate reality is that despite all interventions to date, the most recent data show that 34.7% of Latinx and 23.5% of Black families with children report food insecurity (Schanzenbach, October 2021).

Food banks continue to face near record demand, and saw firsthand that it took a decade for food insecurity to return to 2008 levels following the Great Recession. Hungry families cannot wait, and with the predicted budget condition, this is the moment to learn that lesson and build toward a more equitable, hunger-free future.

Bolster the Emergency Food Network & Drive an Equitable Recovery

» **\$120 Million: CalFood**

At least \$120M enabling California food banks to purchase California grown foods, a win-win to fight hunger and support farmers, including \$60 million ongoing, and \$60 million one-time.

» **\$180 Million One-Time: Food Bank Capacity & Climate Resilience**

Food banks and local partners face significant capacity constraints made worse by supply chain challenges and ongoing disasters. One-time investment also builds the emergency food network toward a zero-emission future.

» **\$10 Million: State Disaster Food Assistance Program**

Current \$1 million funding leaves the Program vulnerable to running out when communities are in greatest need. Provide permanent authority to CDSS for program administration to prevent future program delays.

Strengthen the Anti-Hunger Safety Net

» **CalFresh:**

- › Continue California's leadership to improve access for college students by preventing hunger and supporting successful college completion.
- › Prevent hunger and support successful re-entry for community members returning from incarceration.
- › Protect unemployed Californians from the harsh federal "work for food" ABAWD time limit.
- › Food for All – support CalFresh for all Californians regardless of immigration status.

» **School Meals for All:**

Build on California's historic School Meals for All victory by continuing to invest in healthy, California grown and prepared school meals and in child hunger prevention for periods when school campuses are closed (BOOST). Update, modernize, and increase security and privacy protections for school income data collection needed to maximize federal nutrition funding and other purposes.

» **SSI/SSP & the SSI CalFresh Expansion:**

- › Immediately provide part two of SSP grant cut reversal, and lift all grants above the Federal Poverty Level.
- › Ensure parity in Supplemental and Transitional Nutrition Benefits with the Thrifty Food Plan in CalFresh to fulfill their hold harmless goal.

» **Food with Care:**

Lift the State Meal Reimbursement pay penalty for child care meals; Expand free child care meals to all kids by enabling all child care providers to receive the highest federal reimbursement rate for meals served under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

For more information, contact: policy@cafoodbanks.org

