



2022 Federal Priorities

FIGHT HUNGER IN CALIFORNIA

In our nation of abundance, no one should go hungry. Thanks to unprecedented government response, hunger in California remained relatively stable in 2020 during the COVID-19 crisis, despite incredible hardship. But deep inequities remain for low-income communities of color, stemming from long standing historical and systemic injustices based on racist and xenophobic policies. We call on the California Congressional Delegation to take bold action at the scale urgently necessary to end hunger and systemic poverty facing our communities.

SNAP Delivers Unparalleled Anti-Hunger & Economic Benefits to California, But We Can Do More

Last year, SNAP helped to support 4.4 million Californians – that’s nearly 1 in 9 people. SNAP brought \$11 billion in federal food benefits, \$20 billion in total economic activity, and 272,000 jobs statewide.*

Thankfully, following Congress’s direction, USDA successfully implemented the 2018 Farm Bill, including a long overdue update to the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). Unfortunately, SNAP households face a hunger cliff with the looming end of the Public Health Emergency, an average drop of \$82 per person per month.

Even with the TFP update, SNAP benefits are still inadequate to maintain a healthy diet: SNAP benefits in California will average approximately \$5.50 per person per day once temporary COVID enhancements expire. Congress shouldn’t repeat past mistakes from previous crises and should prevent a premature expiration of boosts to food aid while they are still sorely needed.

Maximize SNAP’s Anti-Hunger & Counter-Cyclical Power

Congress must build on its innovative emergency interventions, by working to end hunger and promote equity:

- » Center the work to end hunger on policies and strategies that most effectively support the groups that are at the highest risk. Black, Latinx, Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander American households have faced a long history of structural racism that has contributed to disproportionate rates of food insecurity that must be addressed head-on through equitable policies.
- » Permanently strengthen SNAP by basing benefit allotments on the Low-Cost Food Plan, removing the cap on the shelter deduction, increasing the minimum benefit level, and better accounting for medical expenses incurred by SNAP participants who are older and/or have disabilities.
- » Broaden the reach of SNAP for immigrant communities by undoing xenophobic restrictions that deny eligibility and have a broader chilling effect on participation.
- » Eliminate the SNAP time limits and improve SNAP access for college students, former drug felons, and families working their way up the economic ladder.
- » Provide such sums as are necessary to ensure continuity of SNAP operations and benefits, and ensure SNAP can operate in October 2022 in the event of a shutdown at the start of the fiscal year.

Strengthen SNAP Through Proactive Legislation

- » **Improving Access to Nutrition Act** (H.R. 1753) – Rep. Lee
 - › Repeals SNAP’s three-month time limit for out-of-work Americans.
- » **Enhance Access To SNAP Act (EATS Act)** (H.R. 1919/S. 2515) – Reps. Gomez, Harder, Panetta
 - › Eliminates the outdated SNAP restrictions for college students.
- » **Allowing Steady Savings by Eliminating Tests Act (ASSET Act)** – Rep. Gomez (H.R. 3822)
 - › Eliminates asset tests in SNAP and LIHEAP eligibility, and raises SSI asset limits.
- » **Closing the Meal Gap Act** (H.R. 4077/S. 2192) – Rep. Adams
 - › Makes numerous improvements to SNAP benefit adequacy.
- » **Lift the Bar Act** (H.R. 5227) Rep. Jayapal
 - › Expands program access to immigrants by eliminating the five-year bar.





California FY 2023 Budget & Appropriations

ANTI-HUNGER PRIORITIES

- » **Summer Meals: \$100 million** to continue the current and expanded Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Demonstration Projects to ensure that children in rural and underserved areas have access to nutrition during the summer.
- » **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) food purchases: \$400 million** to meet record, ongoing community demand and prevent a federal food cliff; **\$100 million** as authorized in the Farm Bill for TEFAP Storage and Distribution.
- » **Commodity Supplemental Food Program:** Maintain the current **\$375 million**, or as USDA deems necessary to support the national caseload.
- » **School Meals: \$10 million** for school meals direct certification grants to reduce paperwork for schools, and **\$100 million** in school equipment grants to enable school districts to build their capacity to prepare healthier and more cost-efficient meals on site.
- » **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC):** Fund WIC at **\$6.3 billion** to serve anticipated caseloads while accounting for the rising costs of delivering high-quality nutrition services. Included in the WIC appropriation should be set-asides for WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (**\$90 million**), infrastructure and technical assistance (**\$14 million**), and management information systems (**\$75 million**).
- » **Child Care Meals: \$10 million** for the Child and Adult Care Food Program's (CACFP) nutrition and wellness education and program efforts. These funds are crucial for supporting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) important role in providing materials, training, and support to state agencies and program operators to bolster nutrition knowledge among child care providers.
- » **21st Century Community Learning Centers: \$2.5 billion** for the program, which is the largest source of funding for afterschool and summer programs.
- » **WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program: \$30 million** for FMNP which provides fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants.
- » **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: \$200 million** for administration and food purchase, **\$5 million** for demonstration projects to enter into self-determination contracts to procure foods, and **\$5 million** for traditional foods market development, as well as authorization and funding to allow participants to receive both FDIPIR and SNAP at the same time.
- » **Nutrition Assistance Program:** Authorization and funding for Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to transition from NAP to full participation in SNAP. The choice of and path toward transition should be approved by the territories' leadership.

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