COVID-19 has underscored SNAP as our nation’s largest and most important anti-hunger program, and the urgent need for continued investments to support the District.

Several temporary SNAP improvements have mitigated food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis, but will expire when the federal Public Health Emergency ends. This will result in a significant hunger cliff for millions of people.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (CalFresh in California) provides nine meals to every one provided by food banks — a gap that private charity could never fill.

Yet, because SNAP benefits are inadequate, nearly 4 in 10 SNAP households still rely on food banks.

We call on the CA Congressional Delegation to continue the federal response to historic hunger from COVID-19: improve SNAP benefit adequacy, expand access for all low-income Californians, and prevent any benefits cliff.
SNAP Benefits are Vital but Inadequate

This year, SNAP will help 4.4 million Californians fight hunger and escape poverty, but the benefits stop short of what is really needed. In California:

- **$1.44** historically allocated per person, per meal
- **4 IN 10** rely on supplemental food from food banks
- **$82** loss in SNAP, per person per month, when PHE ends
- **27%** increase in nutrition-related hospitalization risk at month’s end

Historic Hunger

Right now, Californians are facing historic and devastating levels of hunger.

10 Million

Californians are food insecure. That’s nearly one in five households (18%), almost double pre-pandemic (9.9%).

Deep Disparities

Compared to white households (12.9%), food insecurity is far higher among Black (23.1%) and nearly double in Latinx households (25.5%).

Impact of SNAP

"I just wanted to say thank you for this program. I was feeling so ashamed to have to ask for help but now, after finding the application very easy to complete, I feel grateful knowing I will receive help soon and be able to get back on my feet again, thrive, and be able to help others again. With gratitude." 

California food banks urge members of Congress to fully leverage SNAP’s proven record as our nation’s most important anti-hunger program for the duration of the economic downturn caused by COVID-19.

CAFB's 2022 factsheet citations: http://cafoodbanks.org/citations