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.¹

The Value of SNAP

SNAP is crucial to the local economy. Last year, 117,400 participants – 17% of the District – received SNAP, ranking #8 in California.³

SNAP delivered to the District:⁴,⁵,⁶

- $299M in food benefits
- $539M in economic activity
- 7,319 jobs

SNAP benefits are spent in and generate this economic stimulus at 581 authorized EBT retailers across the District.⁷

Yet, because SNAP benefits are inadequate, nearly 4 in 10 SNAP households still rely on food banks.²

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.

Learn more: http://cafoodbanks.org
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.¹⁸ In California:⁹,¹⁰,¹¹,¹²

- SNAP Benefits are Vital but Inadequate
  - $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%).¹³,¹⁴

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%).¹⁵

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."¹⁷

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