



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.<sup>1</sup>**



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

## The Value of SNAP

SNAP is crucial to the local economy. Last year, 144,200 participants – 20% of the District – received SNAP, ranking #4 in California.<sup>3</sup>

**SNAP delivered to the District:<sup>4,5,6</sup>**



SNAP benefits are spent in and generate this economic stimulus at 528 authorized EBT retailers across the District.<sup>7</sup>

**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.<sup>8</sup> **In California:**<sup>9,10,11,12</sup>



**\$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%).<sup>13,14</sup>

### 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%).<sup>15</sup>

## Unprecedented Harm<sup>16</sup>



## 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."*<sup>17</sup>

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.



**CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FOOD BANKS**