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

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

SNAP is crucial to the local economy. Last year, 35,800 participants – 4% of the District – received SNAP, ranking #49 in California.³

SNAP delivered to the District:⁴,⁵,⁶

- $91M in food benefits
- $164M in economic activity
- 2,233 jobs

SNAP benefits are spent in and generate this economic stimulus at 233 authorized EBT retailers across the District.⁷

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.\textsuperscript{8} \textbf{In California:}\textsuperscript{9,10,11,12}

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

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%).\textsuperscript{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%).\textsuperscript{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."\textsuperscript{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