



2022 State Policy Priorities

An Equitable, Hunger-Free Future

Food Banks Continue to Face Near-Record Demand

We thank the Administration & Legislature for the critical investments made to prevent hunger throughout the pandemic. The unfortunate reality is that despite all interventions to date, the most recent data show that 31.2% of Latinx and 28.7% of Black families with children report food insecurity ([Schanzenbach, March 2022](#)).

Food banks continue to face near record demand, and saw firsthand that it took a decade for food insecurity to return to 2008 levels following the Great Recession. Hungry families cannot wait, and with the predicted budget condition, this is the moment to learn that lesson and build toward a more equitable, hunger-free future.

Bolster the Emergency Food Network & Drive an Equitable Recovery

» **\$120 Million: CalFood**

At least \$120M enabling California food banks to purchase California grown foods, a win-win to fight hunger and support farmers, including \$60 million ongoing, and \$60 million one-time.

» **\$180 Million One-Time: Food Bank Capacity & Climate Resilience**

Food banks and local partners face significant capacity constraints made worse by supply chain challenges and ongoing disasters. One-time investment also builds the emergency food network toward a zero-emission future.

» **State Disaster Food Assistance Program**

Improve the State Disaster Food Assistance Program (SDFAP) to maximize CDSS's ability to respond in times of disaster.

Strengthen the Anti-Hunger Safety Net

» **CalFresh:**

- › AB 1965 (Wicks): Protect under & unemployed Californians from harsh federal "work for food" ABAWD time-limit.
- › SB 641 (Skinner): Improve CalFresh access for college students.
- › SB 464 (Hurtado): Food for All - expand food assistance for all Californians regardless of immigration status.
- › SB 1304 (Kamlager): Support successful re-entry and prevent hunger for people returning from incarceration.

» **School Meals for All:**

- › SB 364 (Skinner): Build on California's historic School Meals for All victory by investing in child hunger prevention for periods when schools are closed (BOOST).
- › Update, modernize, and increase security and privacy protections for school income data collection, ensure adequate time to eat, and allow schools to provide one school meal on a half day if they do not receive a non-congregate meal waiver.

» **SSI/SSP & the SSI CalFresh Expansion:**

- › AB 1941 (Salas): provide SSP recipients with \$600 in benefits in any year that the state has a budget surplus.
- › Immediately provide part two of SSP grant cut reversal, and lift all grants above the Federal Poverty Level.
- › Ensure parity in Supplemental and Transitional Nutrition Benefits with the Thrifty Food Plan in CalFresh to fulfill their hold harmless goal.

» **Food with Care:**

- › SB 1481 (Becker): Lift the State Meal Reimbursement pay penalty for child care meals, and expand free child care meals to all kids by enabling all child care providers to receive the highest federal reimbursement rate for meals served under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

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