



# California Association of Food Banks

## 2023 STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

We thank the Administration and 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 one in four families with children are food insecure, with deep disparities for communities of color: 31.2% of Latinx and 28.7% of Black families with children report food insecurity.

Food banks continue to face near-record demand, and most are still serving 1.5x more community members than they were pre-pandemic. We know that it took a decade for food insecurity to return to 2008 levels following the Great Recession. Hungry families cannot wait, and we must build back toward a more equitable, hunger-free future now.

### **Bolster the Emergency Food Network & Drive an Equitable Recovery**

#### » **CalFood: \$60 Million Ongoing**

Appropriate \$52 million General Fund in 2023-24 and on-going to sustain the total \$60 million General Fund amount that is already included in the 2023-24 baseline budget for CalFood (\$52 million was added to augment the original baseline amount of \$8 million General Fund), pursuant to the 2022 Budget agreement.

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

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

#### » **State Disaster Food Assistance Program (SDFAP)**

Establish permanent authorization for SDFAP to ensure that California is prepared and able to respond quickly when disaster strikes and communities need immediate food resources.

#### » **Diapers & Menstrual Products: \$60 Million One-Time**

Continue to build on California's successful Diaper Bank Program and Menstrual Products Pilot, and support the basic needs of families and people who menstruate.

### **Strengthen the Anti-Hunger & Anti-Poverty Safety Net**

#### » **CalFresh:**

- › Protect CalFresh recipients from a benefit cliff when the federal Public Health Emergency status ends and they lose federally funded Emergency Allotments.
- › Increase CalFresh benefit adequacy to reflect the high cost of living in California and inadequate federal benefit levels.
- › Protect un- and under-employed Californians from the harsh federal "work for food" ABAWD time limit.
- › Expand CalFresh to all Californians regardless of immigration status (Food for All).

#### » **School Meals for All:**

Build on California's historic success by continuing to invest in school meals, as well as make further investments to prevent child and adult hunger when schools are closed.

#### » **SSI/SSP & the CalFresh Expansion to SSI Recipients:**

Address SSI/SSP benefit adequacy by ensuring grant increases are enacted, and establish grants at the Elder Economic Index. Fulfill CalFresh expansion to SSI recipients by ensuring parity for SNB/TNB recipients.

For more information, contact: [policy@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:policy@cafoodbanks.org)

