

## Fight Hunger & Build a Climate-Ready Emergency Food System

# FOOD BANK CAPACITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE: \$180M ONE-TIME

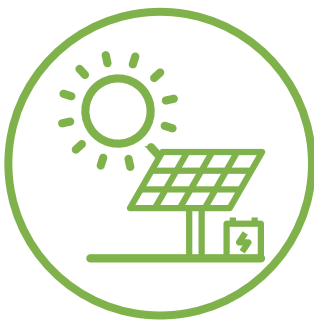
COVID-19 completely changed the reality of emergency food assistance in California, requiring one-time investment with long-term impact

In the fall of 2021 and 2022, CAFB surveyed members to assess their needs in light of the COVID-19 crisis, heightened levels of food insecurity with no end in sight, and natural disasters from fires to floods to earthquakes all across our state. The top barriers food banks cited were related to one-time capacity and climate needs that are necessary and currently unmet by prior State investments, totaling well over \$500M.

- » **Capacity:** The unmet capacity need has increased because of the unprecedented and sustained increase in demand on food banks since COVID-19. Most food banks are serving 1.5x to 3x the number of people they were serving pre-pandemic, and we know hunger will remain high long after the COVID-19 crisis ends: it took a decade after the 2008 downturn for food insecurity to return to pre-Great Recession levels. The extraordinary service during COVID-19 put an enormous strain on emergency food infrastructure, and revealed significant capacity constraints.
- » **Climate:** At the same time, disasters have become the new normal across the state and immigrants, farmworkers, and low-income Californians are facing disproportionate consequences. Whether natural disasters like recent storms and flooding, fires or earthquakes, or human-made crises like public safety power shutoffs (PSPS), food banks are on the frontlines, and remain long after to keep Californians healthy and well-fed.

A **\$180 million** one-time investment in the 2023-24 Budget is critical to meet these gaps, build the long-term ability of the state's emergency food network to meet communities' need for food, and to be resilient in a changing climate, ensuring food is available when communities need it most.

————— \$180M will enable food banks to purchase —————



Solar power & backup generators



Warehouse expansions



Clean energy vehicles and electric forklifts



We are grateful for the investment of \$182M in the 2021-22 State Budget, which has allowed many food banks to begin infrastructure projects to expand their capacity and improve resiliency in the face of disasters. The following examples highlight that the total need is still far greater than prior state investments, demonstrating the urgency of this \$180 million one-time support for California's 50 food banks and their 6,000+ local food distribution partners:

**Second Harvest of Silicon Valley Food Bank: \$150M** to consolidate four warehouses into two facilities to increase efficiency: a high-volume distribution facility to meet increased need, and another to support more volunteers and staff.

**San Diego Food Bank: \$97M** to replace their main facility and the North State Food Bank that require double current capacity, and for vehicles and energy-efficient warehouse improvements.

**Los Angeles Regional Food Bank: \$9.9M** to address capacity needs at the main facility and four satellite locations throughout LA County's Service Planning Areas, and to support capacity needs for agencies as they implement SB 1383.

**Central California Food Bank: \$20M** for a much-needed volunteer center to move out of the heat as well as onsite cold storage, enclosed docks, raising the roof to heighten food racks, and electric vehicles, electric infrastructure, and backup generators.

**SF-Marin Food Bank: \$12M** to replace diesel trucks with electric vehicles.

**Second Harvest of the Greater Valley: \$6.8M** for warehouse needs, solar power, clean air vehicles like refrigerated trucks and electric forklifts, and support for local agency partners.

**Second Harvest Orange County: \$6M** for clean energy vehicles, an exterior wildfire defense system, EV charging stations, a composter, two forklifts, a scissor lift, two light towers for parking safety, farm funding, key card entry system, IT improvements, permanent pantry upgrades and expansions, and support for local agencies implementing SB 1383 regulations.

**Food Bank of Santa Barbara: \$4M** to build kitchen infrastructure to cook meals, and to install solar power.

**Redwood Empire Food Bank: \$40M** to move from their current warehouse which they have outgrown, to a new and larger facility, in addition to transportation vehicles, waste management system, refrigeration upgrades, and technology upgrades.

**Community Action Partnership of Kern: \$4.7M** for expansion in progress including solar, walk-in refrigerator, three dock doors, rest/break rooms, warehouse equipment, and clean energy trucks and charging stations.

