



# California Association of Food Banks

## 2023 STATE POLICY & BUDGET 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.

To add to this already stark reality, CalFresh Emergency Allotments ended on March 26, resulting in an average loss in benefits of \$82 per person per month, or over \$500M per month statewide. And with the end of the 2022-23 school year, the highly impactful Pandemic-EBT program will end. This is catastrophic for the millions of Californians who are experiencing hunger; California must invest in critically needed anti-hunger programs to mitigate harm.

### 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.

#### » 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.

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

Sustain and expand California's successful Diaper Bank Program and Menstrual Products Pilot.

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

#### » CalFresh:

- › **SB 600 (Menjivar):** Increase CalFresh minimum from current federally set \$23 to \$50 per month to ensure better benefit adequacy.
- › **AB 712 (Carrillo):** Allow CalFresh recipients to purchase hot and prepared foods with their food benefits year-round.
- › **AB 870 (Arambula):** Build on success of AB 1326 (Arambula) to ensure collaboration and information sharing between higher education liaisons and stakeholders.
- › **SB 245 (Hurtado & Rubio)/AB 311 (Santiago) — Food 4 All:** Provide state-funded food benefits to all Californians ineligible for CalFresh due to immigration status.
- › **Budget:** ABAWD CARE Benefits (\$3 Million One-Time) - Establish state-funded CARE benefits for CalFresh recipients who are subject to the federal ABAWD time-limit rules.

#### » School Meals:

- › **SB 348 (Skinner):** Strengthen California's first-in-the-nation School Meals For All and fight childhood hunger during summer.
- › **AB 1178 (L. Rivas):** Allow summer meal sites to offer meals to parents and caregivers so that they can share a meal with their children.

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

- › **Budget:** Address SSI/SSP benefit adequacy by ensuring grant increases are enacted, and establish grants at the Elder Economic Index. Revive the Special Circumstances Program to support recipients with emergency costs that arise. Fulfill CalFresh expansion to SSI recipients by ensuring parity for SNB/TNB recipients.

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

