



CALFRESH EMERGENCY ALLOTMENTS & PANDEMIC-EBT ARE ENDING

California is facing a catastrophic hunger crisis in 2023. With the signing of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) of 2023 and [ending of the federal Public Health Emergency on May 11, 2023](#), two critical programs that helped to mitigate hunger over the last three years come to an end. CalFresh recipients will receive their [last Emergency Allotments on March 26, 2023](#), which have been boosting CalFresh benefits since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the highly effective [Pandemic-EBT](#) program that has been providing food benefits to children will end after the 2022–23 school year. This will intensify widespread hardship throughout California. With the skyrocketing cost of groceries and a stumbling economy, reducing people's ability to purchase food will not only cause hunger but place enormous pressure on California's food banks — which have already been stretched thin since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CalFresh Emergency Allotments Ending, Last Issuance March 26, 2023:

- » [5 million Californians](#) receiving CalFresh will see a dramatic and sudden drop in their food benefits, totaling more than [\\$500 million per month](#). This represents a loss of up to [\\$900 million in local economic activity](#) per month.
- » On average, each CalFresh participant will lose [\\$82](#) a month, with benefits dropping to a meager average of [\\$6](#) per person per day.
- » For some people like older adults who only qualify for the minimum, benefits will drop from [\\$281](#) to [\\$23](#) per month.



5 Million Californians
Affected



\$500 Million in Benefits
Lost



\$900 Million in Economic
Activity Lost

Pandemic-EBT Ending After 2022–23 School Year:

- » [P-EBT provides food benefits on an EBT card](#) to school-age and young children who would have received free or reduced price meals at school, but who lost access because of COVID-related school closures. With the [ending of the federal Public Health Emergency status](#) on May 11, 2023, states will no longer be able to implement this highly effective program.
- » In the 2020–21 school year alone, P-EBT reached nearly [4.2 million children](#) in California, with over [\\$6.1 billion](#) in benefits issued.
- » We are glad the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 authorized the national Summer-EBT program, but it will only provide a small fraction of the benefits that P-EBT has offered.



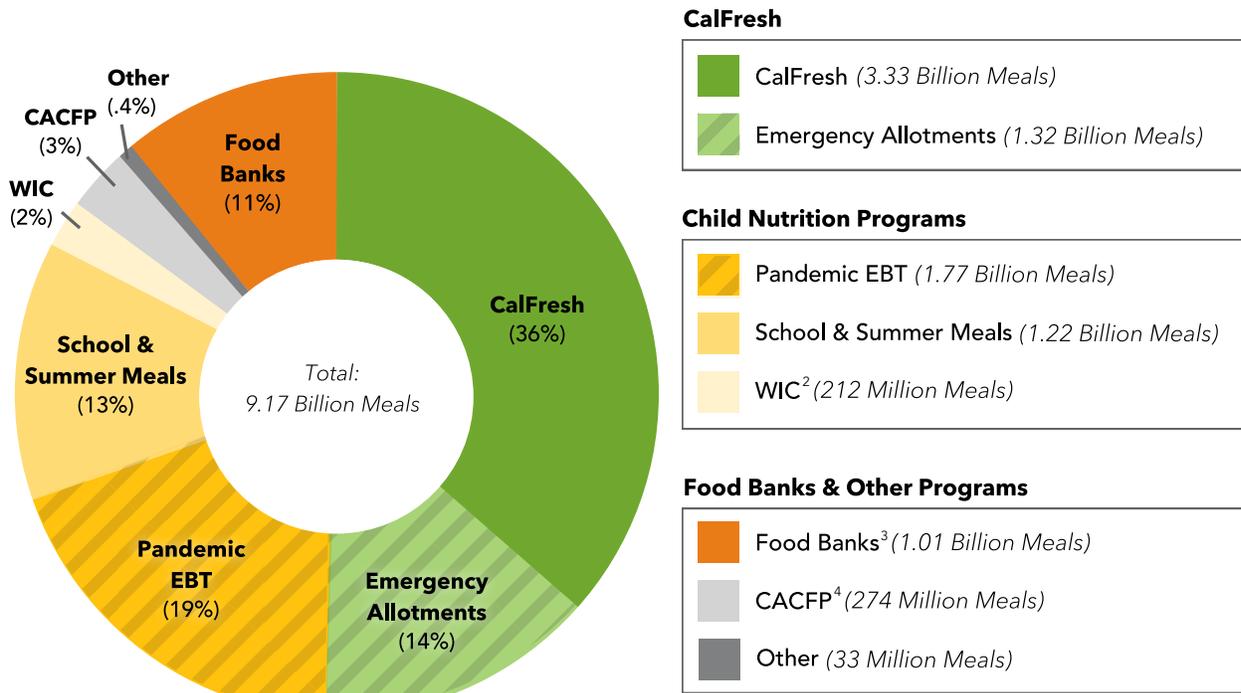
4.2 Million Children
Affected



\$6.1 Billion in Benefits
Lost

CalFresh Emergency Allotments and Pandemic-EBT represented one-third of the food safety net in 2021 — or more than 3 billion meals.

Food Assistance Sources for Californians¹



CalFresh

- CalFresh (3.33 Billion Meals)
- Emergency Allotments (1.32 Billion Meals)

Child Nutrition Programs

- Pandemic EBT (1.77 Billion Meals)
- School & Summer Meals (1.22 Billion Meals)
- WIC² (212 Million Meals)

Food Banks & Other Programs

- Food Banks³ (1.01 Billion Meals)
- CACFP⁴ (274 Million Meals)
- Other (33 Million Meals)

1. Data is from 2021, the most recent available data
 2. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
 3. Food banks, pantries, and other charitable food assistance programs
 4. The Child and Adult Care Food Program

Steps to Mitigate Harm:

While the loss of billions of meals per year represents an overwhelming gap in the food assistance safety net, there are key strategies to mitigate harm:

- » **SB 600 (Menjivar)** would raise the CalFresh minimum benefit from the current \$23 per month to \$50, improving benefit adequacy.
- » **SB 348 (Skinner)** would ensure access to School Meals for All and Summer EBT starting in 2024, making sure children have the nourishment they need when schools are closed during the summer.
- » **CalFood funding** will help food banks to continue providing free groceries to communities throughout California.

It is important to note that even with the highly effective CalFresh Emergency Allotments and Pandemic-EBT program, 20% of Californians faced food insecurity in 2021. The loss of these food assistance sources will likely cause that percentage to rapidly increase. It is critical that we continue seeking and implementing solutions to adequately support our communities in need.



SB 600 (Menjivar): Raise CalFresh Minimum to Improve Benefit Adequacy



SB 348 (Skinner): Ensure Access to Summer EBT & School Meals for All



CalFood Funding to Help Food Banks Feed Communities

