



**CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF
FOOD BANKS**

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)
BRINGS FOOD & JOBS TO CA-26



Recent successful Congressional interventions have underscored SNAP as our nation’s largest and most important anti-hunger program. But the end of Emergency Allotments and other public supports like the Child Tax Credit created an unprecedented hunger cliff that requires urgent action to support the District.

Several temporary SNAP improvements mitigated food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis, but have now ended. This has resulted in a significant hunger cliff for the 5 million Californians who rely on SNAP to eat: a loss of \$500 million per month statewide — an average monthly loss of \$180 per household.

SNAP (CalFresh) provides nine meals to every one provided by food banks — a gap that private charity could never fill.¹



Yet, because SNAP benefits are inadequate, nearly three in 10 SNAP households still rely on food banks.²

The Value of SNAP

SNAP is crucial to the local economy. Last year, 65,500 participants — 9% of the District — received SNAP, ranking #40 in California.³

SNAP delivered to the District:^{4,5,6}



SNAP benefits are spent in and generate this economic stimulus at 23,874 authorized EBT retailers across California.⁷

In FY24 Appropriations, the Farm Bill, and all opportunities, we call on the CA Congressional Delegation to improve SNAP benefit adequacy, provide equitable access, and preserve choice for all low-income Californians.

SNAP Benefits are Vital but Inadequate

This year, SNAP will help more than 5 million Californians fight hunger and escape poverty, but the benefits stop short of what is really needed.⁸ **In California:**^{9,10,11,12}



\$5.93

Allocated per person per day.



3 IN 10

Rely on supplemental food from food banks



\$180

Loss in SNAP, per household per month, after end of Emergency Allotments



27%

Increase in nutrition-related hospitalization risk at month's end

Historic Hunger

Right now, Californians are facing historic and devastating levels of hunger.

8.4 Million

Californians are food insecure. That's more than one in five households (22%), which is more than double pre-pandemic levels (10%).^{13,14}

Deep Disparities

Compared to White households (15%), food insecurity is far higher among Black (35%) and Latine (32%) households.¹⁵

Unprecedented Harm¹⁶

Food Insecurity Rates for Californians since 2020



Impact of SNAP

"And that was a very good chance for me to take good care of my kids and myself too, and also be able to catch [up on] bills that I had to pay and ... not worry about where to get rent or how to take care of the kids, and how to put up some small meals."¹⁷

— SNAP Recipient

California food banks urge members of Congress to fight the hunger cliff: strengthen SNAP's proven record as our nation's most important anti-hunger program in the 2024 Farm Bill and any legislative vehicle in this Congress.



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