From Our CEO

An interesting phenomenon happened over the course of the pandemic: while the demand for food and food assistance skyrocketed, food insecurity rates initially spiked and then began to decline in 2021.

That’s because state and federal governments bolstered our social safety net by boosting CalFresh benefits, expanding child tax credits, and bolstering housing subsidies and protections. Coupled with historic support from the public, the philanthropic community, and dozens of food banks and food bankers across the state stepping up to meet our community needs, we held the line on hunger.

As we enter 2024, pandemic-era safety net enhancements have ended, food insecurity rates are on the rise, and food banks are stretched thin. Today more than one in five Californian households overall are food insecure, which is comparable to the height of the pandemic, while food banks are serving more people with less resources.

We know how to increase food security. Together we did it just a few years back.

Join us as we strive to win back critical anti-hunger resources through advocacy, outreach, and ensuring that all of California’s communities can access fresh, healthy foods.

Together, we can turn the curve again!

STACIA LEVENFELD

MISSION
To end hunger in California

VISION
A well-nourished & hunger-free California, where all people have enough food to lead a healthy life.

VALUES
Dedication • Inclusion • Collaboration
Transparency • Accountability

THEORY OF CHANGE

We can end hunger in California if we:

- Build a diverse & sustainable charitable food system,
- Create robust & equitable pathways that connect food-insecure neighbors to food, &
- Prevent hunger from happening in the first place
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From Farms to Families

The Farm to Family program has increased its volume by 65% over the past four years, distributing more than 271 million pounds of food — 265 million pounds of fresh produce and about 6 million pounds of proteins and pantry staples — this past year. Farm to Family has continued to forge essential partnerships with farms across California, recovering high-quality produce for donation to food banks that would be tilled under or otherwise lost.

“Thanks to our partnership with CAFB’s Farm to Family program, we’ve received tangerines, oranges, garlic, celery, and more. It’s so amazing for us to be able to offer this kind of variety. It means everything to us.”

— Beth Stanton
Executive Director,
Interfaith Food Bank of Amador County

What’s Next

Many small and remotely located food banks lack funds or space to purchase and store large amounts of produce at once. In 2023, CAFB began a $1 million pilot program to better understand these barriers in order to help food banks distribute more fresh foods. CAFB will continue to evaluate the success of a “mixing center” for repacking and delivering mixed-produce loads, allowing 15 of our food banks — who had previously been unable — to receive fresh, regular produce shipments for their communities.
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By raising awareness and providing guidance, our outreach efforts ensured that vulnerable individuals and families received timely support to address their immediate nutritional needs in the wake of disasters.

We remain steadfast in our advocacy to expand benefits eligibility and adequacy so that all Californians can access foods aligned with their dietary, cultural, and nutritional preferences and needs. Simultaneously, we will continue supporting our outreach partners in their invaluable work connecting Californians to the benefits they are eligible for. In May 2024, the Food ACCESS Conference, hosted biennially by CAFB, will gather individuals in Sacramento to address hunger, emphasizing the exploration of the root causes of food insecurity and strategies for a hunger-free California.
Building robust & equitable pathways that connect food-insecure neighbors to food

Supporting CalFresh Access

This year, CAFB played a key role supporting 28 Disaster CalFresh implementations across the state. By hosting timely trainings, distributing key information, and collaborating on outreach strategies, we were able to quickly activate our network of partners. Additionally, we maintained support for our extensive network of over 50 outreach partners, who assisted eligible Californians in both applying for and retaining their CalFresh benefits. As a result, Californians were successfully connected to an essential nutrition program when they needed it the most.

Nearly 140,000 households pre-screened for potential CalFresh eligibility
Nearly 30,000 households assisted in applying for CalFresh
More than 7,000 households helped in keeping their CalFresh
Through the work of more than 50 partner organizations throughout the state of California

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– Rigoberto Morales Mendoza
Food Connections Resource Center
Supervisor, Redwood Empire Food Bank
Preventing hunger from happening in the first place

Addressing Hunger Directly

With the ending of CalFresh Emergency Allotments (EAs) and many other COVID-era public supports like the Child Tax Credit, hunger is again on the rise. CAFB successfully secured $60 million in the State budget for CalFood funding this year so food banks can purchase California-grown and produced food, helping maintain well-stocked warehouses with valuable items like eggs and culturally relevant products.

In addition to our work to expand CalFresh benefits, we secured $15 million in the State budget for a pilot program to increase the CalFresh minimum benefit from $23 to $50. We will continue to advocate to make $50 the permanent minimum for all CalFresh households.

"CAFB makes participating in advocacy events easy — with detailed information sheets and talking points about bills and relevant issues — so that we can speak with confidence on our visits with legislators."

– Genevieve Riutort
President & CEO,
Westside Food Bank

What’s Next

Looking ahead, we are advocating for the permanent establishment of CalFood funding at a minimum of $60 million annually and the reinstatement of the State Disaster Food Assistance Program as a critical resource for food banks during emergencies. Proactive solutions are crucial to ending hunger in California. In fall 2022, CAFB launched a Research & Strategic Initiatives department to enhance data-driven decision-making and advocacy. More studies and reports will be emerging from this department in the coming year on hunger in California and the impact of food banks on addressing food access needs.
Preventing hunger from happening in the first place

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Published in 2023:

- End of EAs: Policy Brief
- CA Food Insecurity: Data Dashboard
- 2024 State Policy Agenda

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CAFB Member Food Banks:

Did you know your generosity doesn’t just fill plates but also fuels innovation? Your contributions empower us to pioneer innovative ideas and swiftly support our network in times of need. Your gift, large or small, launches us towards a future where no Californian goes hungry.

With 41 food banks spanning from Humboldt County to the Imperial Valley, our collective strength empowers effective learning, best practice sharing, and advocacy — reinforcing California’s food safety net.

2023 CAFB Revenue Sources

- Farm to Family Net Revenue (29%)
- Grants (31%)
- Government Contracts (13%)
- Member Dues (8%)
- Contributions (4%)
- Pass Through/Subsidy (13%)
- Interest Income (2%)

DISTRIBUTED NEARLY 900 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD
OR AROUND 735 MILLION MEALS
SERVING AN ESTIMATED 7.2 MILLION PEOPLE

*2022 Data

106 Alameda County Community Food Bank
107 Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency
108 CAP of Kern Food Bank
109 CAP of San Bernardino County Food Bank
110 Community Action of Napa Valley Food Bank
111 Central California Food Bank
112 Community Food Bank of San Benito County
113 Dignity Health Connected Living Food Bank
114 Emergency Food Bank
115 Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino
116 Feeding San Diego
117 FIND Food Bank
118 Food Bank for Monterey County
119 Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano
120 Food Bank of El Dorado County
121 Food for People
122 Foodbank of Santa Barbara
123 FoodLink Tulare County
124 Food Share of Ventura County
125 Fort Bragg Food Bank
126 Imperial Valley Food Bank
127 Interfaith Food Bank of Amador County
128 Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
129 Kings Community Action Organization
130 Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
131 Merced County Food Bank
132 North State Food Bank
133 OC Food Bank
134 Placer Food Bank
135 Redwood Empire Food Bank
136 Resource Connection Food Bank
137 Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services
138 Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
139 Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
140 Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
141 Second Harvest Food of the Greater Valley
142 SLO Food Bank
143 SF-Marin Food Bank
144 Westside Food Bank
145 Yolo Food Bank
146 Yuba-Sutter Food Bank

*2022 Data

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Food Donors

Through the generous support and hard work of California’s farmers, packing houses, and shippers, the California Association of Food Banks was able to deliver more than **265 million pounds** of fresh fruits and vegetables to our network of 41 food banks and to those who need it most.

**Supporters**

- Albertsons
- BeatBox Beverages
- David and Lucille Packard Foundation
- Feeding America
- Food Research & Action Center - Wellspring
- Guiness Gives Back Program
- Hearst Foundations
- Interpublic Group
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital Fund for Community Benefits Programs at The East Bay Community Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente Southern California
- Kaiser Permanente Southern California Community Benefits Programs at The East Bay Community Foundation
- L.A. Care Health Plan
- Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co.
- Stupski Foundation
- Sunlight Giving

**Individual Donors**

- A J Global Foods
- A V Thomas Produce
- Access Organics
- All State Packers
- Altar Produce
- Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce
- Avery B Ltd
- Beachside Produce
- Bee Sweet Citrus
- Bella Vista Produce, Inc.
- Billingsley Produce Sales, Inc.
- Bluebird Mountain Organics
- Bonita Packing Co., Inc.
- Boskovich Farms
- BP Packing Company
- C & E Produce
- Cafe Produce
- Califa Farms LLC
- Catalaan Farm
- Challenge Dairy Products, Inc
- Channel Islands Logistics
- Chestnut Hill Farms, LLC
- Chiquita Channel Island Classic Fruit Company
- Compass Foods Inc
- Crown Jewels Produce Co.
- Curation Foods, Inc.
- David J Elliot & Sons
- Deardorff Family Farms
- David J Elliot & Sons
- Delta Fresh Sales LLC
- DFI Marketing
- DJ& A PTY LTD
- Dole Packaged Foods, LLC
- Driscoll’s
- Dulcinea
- Dunbar Distributing Inc.
- Dweary Farms
- EpicVeg
- Equifruit Inc
- ERC Trade LP
- Farm2People Inc
- Five Crowns
- FiveStar Gourmet Foods, Inc
- Foodshed Cooperative Inc.
- Foredel Marketing, LLC
- Foster Farms
- Fowler Packing Company
- Fresh Innovations
- Fresh Prep, LLC
- Glauw Egg Ranch LP
- Grapeamn Farms L.P.
- Green Life Farms
- Greene & Hemly
- Grimmway Enterprises
- Harris Fresh
- Harvest Tek, Inc
- HATCH, Inc.
- HMC Farms
- Hungenstein Produce
- Index Fresh
- JAS Family Farm Organic
- Johnson Farm Family
- Keystone Fruit & Vegetable Co., Inc.
- Kings River Packing
- Kirschenman Enterprises
- Laguna Produce Sales
- Lakeside Organic Gardens
- Loomis Distributing Inc
- Lundberg Family Farms
- Maple Ridge Food, LLC
- Marin Sun Farms, LLC
- Mission Produce Inc
- Morada Produce
- Mucho Produce
- Neil Basseti Farms LLC
- North Coast Growers Assoc.
- Ojai Orchards LLC
- Orions ETC
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- Pinos Produce
- Pleasant Valley Farms Inc.
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- Prestige Produce
- Prima Frutta
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- Producers Dairy
- Project FoodBox
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- Scully Packing Company LLC
- Sequoia Produce Sales
- Southland Cooling
- Sunkist Growers, Inc
- Sunrise Kiwi Packing
- SunTerra
- T D Produce Sales
- Talley Farms, Inc.
- Taylor Farms Retail, Inc.
- The Flavor Tree Fruit Company LLC
- The HMC Marketing Group Inc.
- The Vegboss, LLC
- V&H Fresh, LLC Inc
- Van Groningen & Sons
- Vanguard Direct LLC
- Varsity Produce Sales, Inc
- Venida Packing Company
- Vessey & Company
- Western Onion Sales
- Western Produce Sales
- Western Veg-Produce
- Wilson Produce LLC
- Windset Farms
- WM Bolthouse Farms Inc
- WMD
- Wonderful Citrus Cooperative
- Zada Fresh Farms
- Zuckermans

**Ways to Give**

Thank you for your support!

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Give today at [cafoodbanks.org/give](cafoodbanks.org/give)
THANK YOU

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- Celeste Williamson
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Give today at caffoodbanks.org/give

Donate Online
- Stocks
- Donor Advised Funds
- Cryptocurrency
- IRA Charitable Rollovers
- Planned Giving

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Contact Emme Buczko at emme.buczko@cafoodbanks.org for more information.
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