

## Support Californians & Mitigate H.R.1 Harm

\$14 million one-time investment to sustain CalFresh Outreach

**California's CalFresh outreach program launched in 2003 to help residents resolve challenges with the application process and navigate the public benefits system.**

It is funded by community-based nonprofits and local entities, with federal matching funds through SNAP State Administrative Expenses.



Beginning October 1, H.R.1 will cut the federal SNAP State Administrative Expense Reimbursement from 50% to 25%. Without additional state investment, this reduction will force many community organizations to halt CalFresh outreach services, leaving vulnerable Californians without help navigating an increasingly complex system under H.R.1.

Securing \$14 million in the 2026-27 budget is critical to sustaining the CalFresh Outreach network and preserving essential services for Californians who rely on them.

### CalFresh Outreach: A Lifeline for Families and the Economy

- Many Californians face significant barriers when applying for or keeping CalFresh benefits, including misinformation, low digital literacy, long county call-center wait times, and a complex eligibility process.
- About 19% of eligible Californians (roughly 1 million people) are not enrolled in CalFresh.
- CalFresh Outreach workers partner with colleges, senior living facilities, counties, faith-based groups, and other community organizations to reach vulnerable residents, including children, families, older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, college students, and English language learners.
- Outreach staff help people overcome the barriers that prevent them from applying for and managing their benefits on their own.
- Support helps close the gap for the nearly one-third of Californians who do not complete the initial public-benefits application within a week on [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com)

*"Having an outreach worker assist me in my CalFresh application process made it so much simpler, and accessible, especially as someone who has ADHD. Now with my CalFresh I can eat healthier and focus on school."*

CalFresh Recipient

## 2025 Community Impact

- 161** Organizations in the CalFresh Outreach Network across 58 counties helped
- ~1,438,000** individuals learn about CalFresh to see if they may be eligible and interested in applying
- ~331,000** households apply for benefits
- ~33,700** submit their 6-month or yearly renewal paperwork to continue receiving CalFresh

Bringing in a total of:

**\$1.32 billion** in federal food benefits  **\$2.36 billion** in local economic activity

## Sustain the CalFresh Outreach Network

We urge policymakers to support a one-time \$14 million investment to keep CalFresh Outreach partners serving Californians in need.



*"CalFresh is a lifeline for families facing hunger and uncertainty. At Imperial Valley Food Bank, this program helps families bridge the gap between need and stability. If funding for CalFresh outreach is reduced we may no longer be able to sustain this work leaving eligible families disconnected from benefits they rely on to avoid hunger."*

Sara Griffen, Imperial Valley Food Bank

Questions? Contact [gabriela.davidson@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:gabriela.davidson@cafoodbanks.org)