

Help us Fund CalFood & Feed Our Neighbors



“With a drop in CalFood funding, our food bank network will have to provide a fraction of the resources to distribution sites with lines that are now twice as long as they were last year.”

– Community Action Partnership of Kern

What is CalFood?

The CalFood Program allocates State funding to food banks for purchasing, storing, and distributing food grown and/or produced in California. CalFood is a lifeline for:



Farmers



Food Banks



Families

Advantages of the CalFood Program

- Food banks can meet diverse dietary and cultural needs and buy essential items like eggs and meat
- Each dollar enables food banks to provide about five meals
- Food banks reduce hunger while supporting California’s farmers and food producers

Why CalFood Matters

The CalFood Program is projected to lose \$72 million in average annual funding when current support ends in June 2026. As of September 2024, **22% of California households and 27% of households with children are experiencing food insecurity**.^{*} Our request of \$60 million in ongoing funding and \$50 million in one-time funding in 2026–27 is critical for food banks to serve the mounting hunger cliff.^{*}

Less Funds Means Less Essentials

With lower CalFood funding, California food banks won’t be able to purchase & distribute essential items:



Eggs



Produce



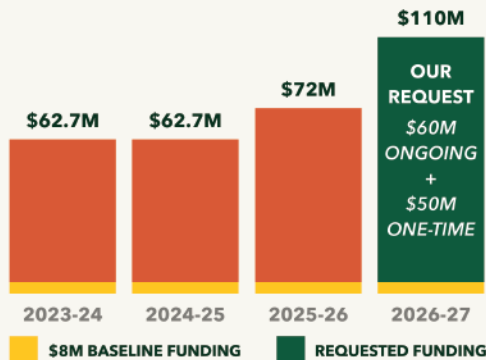
Meat



Dairy

TOTAL CALFOOD FUNDING

ANNUAL AVERAGE PER FISCAL YEAR



1% DROP IN HUNGER → **\$600M** SAVED IN HEALTHCARE COSTS

OVER 1 IN 5 HOUSEHOLDS IN CALIFORNIA ARE CURRENTLY FACING FOOD INSECURITY



6M PEOPLE PER MONTH WERE HELPED BY CA FOOD BANKS LAST YEAR



^{*}CalFood has been funded with an annual \$8M baseline, with additional multi-year funding of \$54.7M in 2023–24, \$54.7M in 2024–25, and \$72M in 2025–26. It reverts to \$8M baseline after this fiscal year. We’re requesting a permanent increase of \$52M to the baseline, starting in 2026–27 (for a total of \$60M annually) in addition to the \$50M in additional one-time funding.

^{*}Northwestern Institute for Policy Studies of the Census Household Pulse Survey

Questions?

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