



Costs and Benefits of SB 1383

Food Bank Data and Perspectives
Expanded Recommendations

August 2026
California Food Banks™



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Prepared by California Food Banks™

With contributions from Feeding New York State



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This document is a companion to the report *Costs & Benefits of SB 1383: Food Bank Data & Perspectives* released by California Food Banks™ in March 2025, which evaluated the impacts of SB 1383 on food banks and provided high-level recommendations to a range of stakeholders. This document builds on those recommendations by providing more detail and offering case studies and examples, to better support decision-making by state-level stakeholders, including CalRecycle and members of the legislature, and local jurisdictions.

Recommendation 1: Generate funding for food banks.

Ongoing funding is essential to support the critical role food banks play as hubs for food recovery. The implementation of SB 1383 has greatly increased the work of food banks, which, in addition to having more food to recover directly, now also spend more time educating food generators, training partner agencies, reporting to jurisdictions, and performing other administrative tasks such as fielding food generator questions, developing contracts, and ensuring timely reporting by partner agencies. While one-time grants and infrastructure investments have helped, food banks cannot sustain this work without permanent funding.

One promising source of on-going funding is from waste management authorities. Several precedents for this exist, including in the City of Los Angeles, where the recycLA program requires waste service providers to partner with and fund local food recovery organizations (FROs), and in rural Yuba and Sutter counties, where Regional Waste Management Authority implemented a rate increase that provides ongoing funding to Yuba-Sutter Food Bank.

Case Study: Regional Waste Management Authority and Yuba-Sutter Food Bank

Regional Waste Management Authority (RWMA)—which covers multiple jurisdictions in Yuba and Sutter counties—recently implemented a rate increase of \$.98 per customer, earmarking \$400,000 annually of the new revenue for Yuba-Sutter Food Bank’s grocery recovery program. The food bank had significantly expanded their operations after SB 1383 was implemented, and because of this and other factors, was running at a substantial budget deficit, placing critical food recovery and hunger-relief programs at risk of reduction or possible elimination. According to Yuba-Sutter Food Bank, the implementation of the rate increase has been smooth so far, due to training provided to RWMA’s customer service representatives on responding to customer inquiries—customers have responded favorably when told the rate increase was to support the food bank and reduce food waste.

Continued from page 2.

One of RWMA's goals was to ensure the new surcharge structure complied with Proposition 26 and 218, which regulate increases in state and local fees. Specifically, RWMA worked with a consulting group whose analyses found that the surcharge qualified for an exemption under Proposition 26 because it is a regulatory fee, not a tax; the revenues are no more than necessary to fund RWMA's regulatory compliance responsibilities and there is a clear nexus between the fee charged and the services provided.

Other potential sources of funding include food generators and state and local grant programs. When creating new funding streams, food banks and other non-profit FROs need to be prioritized as recipients of funds generated, over for-profit organizations or organizations that are not local.

Recommendation 2: Facilitate one-on-one, recurring food generator engagement and education.

The most effective way to ensure consistent, safe, and high-quality donations is through ongoing, one-on-one, in-person education and engagement with food generators. These types of interactions build strong relationships between generators and FROs, which in turn improve the quality and consistency of donations, to the benefit of both parties. Food banks are well-positioned to do this education and engagement, but it is not sustainable without funding.

Case Study: Feeding New York State

In 2019, New York State enacted *Part 350, the Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law*, which went into effect January 1, 2022. The law requires businesses and institutions that generate an average of two tons or more of wasted food per week to donate excess edible food and recycle remaining food scraps when located within 25 miles of an organics recycling facility. Currently, 70% of generators required to donate are documented as participating. Since the law's inception, donated food distributed through Feeding New York State member food banks has increased by over 40%, with individual food banks experiencing growth ranging from 25% to 175%.

According to Feeding New York State, direct outreach—including calling food generators and scheduling in-person visits to assess existing donation programs—proved to be the most effective strategy for engaging food generators and critical to the law's success.

This food generator engagement was possible due to funding to support dedicated staffing. Initial funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Feeding America was awarded to establish a statewide Food Recovery Program at Feeding New York State, including hiring three staff to manage the program. As the program expanded, additional NYSDEC funding continued to support program personnel and provided pass through funds for Feeding New York State members (ten regional food banks). Between 2020-2026, NYSDEC provided a total of 6.5 million dollars to Feeding New York State and Feeding America provide an additional \$350,000 in funding.

As described above and further detailed in the Appendix, New York State successfully implemented a food recovery law in 2022, which it paired with funding to the statewide food bank network. This funding has been critical to facilitating food generator engagement by food bank staff and increasing the quality and quantity of donations to food banks.

Recommendation 3: Develop resources for food generators to use during new staff onboarding.

In our evaluation, food bank staff pointed to employee turnover at grocery and other retail stores as a key reason they needed to return to these establishments to repeatedly educate staff members.

To supplement one-on-one visits, stand-alone materials can be provided to help ease the burden on food banks and other entities. Examples of materials include:

- Signage
- Flyers
- Short training videos that can be incorporated into new hire orientations

As with in-person visits, the content of these materials needs to convey what is desired and acceptable to donate as well as safe handling and storage of potential donations.



Figure 1. Example signage from Green Santa Clarita

Case Study: Green Santa Clarita

Green Santa Clarita worked with the consulting agency Recreate to develop a suite of materials to be used for new staff onboarding by food generators. These materials included signage for waste and compost bins, a training manual, and a video with segments directed toward grocery store and restaurant workers. Durable copies of the printed materials are provided during in-person visits by Green Santa Clarita staff and have prompted positive feedback from generators - many of whom have requested additional copies. The video was produced more recently and as of late 2025 had not generated much feedback yet, but Green Santa Clarita plans to mention this resource on upcoming visits. Santa Clarita noted that these materials are part of a comprehensive education strategy that includes events such as FRO-food generator "meet-and-greets" in addition to in-person visits to generators.

Appendix

Feeding New York State Expanded Case Study



As detailed above, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Feeding America provided funding to Feeding New York State (FNYS) and their food bank members to support implementation of the food recovery law, Part 350. Below is additional detail about how the funding was used and key successes and challenges.

Use of Funds by FNYS

The initial investment by NYSDEC and Feeding America enabled the hiring of a full-time statewide Food Recovery Manager, a Community Educator, and an Administrative Associate, as well as marketing and outreach efforts to engage food generators across the state. Funding also supported other FNYS staff members assisting with grant administration.

The Food Recovery Manager focused on connecting food generators to local food banks while supporting education efforts for generator personnel, member food banks, and the public. The Administrative Associate managed incoming inquiries from food generators and supported program data collection and tracking.

As the program expanded, additional NYSDEC funding strengthened FNYS's capacity by supporting program personnel: Director of Food Recovery; Food Recovery Coordinator; and Administrative Coordinator.

Pass-Through Funding Support to Food Banks and Partner Agencies

NYSDEC provided funding to FNYS to pass through to their 10 member food banks and agencies that partner with food banks, such as food pantries and meal programs.

At the food bank level, this funding supports expanded food recovery operations through increased driver capacity, additional routes, vehicle and fuel expenses, and partial salary coverage for Food Recovery Coordinators, including full-time positions at two food banks. At the partner agency level, funding enables food pantries and food programs to participate in direct store pickup programs by increasing driver capacity, vehicle and fuel expenses, essential equipment and supplies needed to safely handle and store donated food.

Enabled by this funding, each food bank will identify and onboard partner agencies as agency-enabled programs, assess equipment and supply needs, and report expenditures to FNYS. Supplies will be provided to partner agencies that commit to scheduled pickup of donated edible food from participating retailers. Food banks will also work closely with FNYS to expand store-level food recovery, increase pickup frequency, and maximize donation volumes.

Appendix

Key Lessons Learned from FNYS

Successes

- Direct outreach—calling food generators and scheduling in-person visits to assess existing donation programs—proved to be the most effective engagement strategy.
- Establishing initial relationships with generators and potential donors significantly increases the likelihood that food banks can successfully implement donation programs.
- Webinars were an effective educational tool for food banks that were able to participate.
- Food banks have experienced substantial success supporting partner agencies in food recovery efforts.
- Addressing categorical gaps in prepared food recovery presents a key opportunity, and efforts are underway to close these gaps across the state.
- Assistance from Center for EcoTechnology in supporting generators required to recycle has added meaningful value to program implementation.
- Robust data tracking and administrative support have been essential to managing and evaluating program outcomes.

Challenges

- Outreach to food generators via mailed communications was largely ineffective.
- The call center approach yielded minimal engagement, with very few generators proactively initiating contact.
- Webinars reached fewer generators than anticipated due to incomplete or inaccurate contact information for required businesses and organizations.
- Expanding food recovery efforts requires significant investment to increase partner agency capacity and manage additional pickups.
- Food banks need additional equipment to facilitate pickups and direct deliveries to agencies.
- Ongoing challenges remain in obtaining consistent end-of-year reporting from food programs to food banks or generators for NYSDEC compliance.

Program Impact

Overall, investment in the Food Recovery Program has strengthened relationships with food generators, increased compliance with Part 350, and significantly expanded the recovery and redistribution of edible food across New York State. As of December 2025, the Feeding New York State Food Recovery Program—working in partnership with 10-member food banks and more than 4,000 partner agencies—has recovered **over 84 million pounds of edible food**.