California Food Banks

CALFRESH BRINGS FOOD & JOBS TO AD-21

As costs for groceries, housing, gas and other essentials continue to rise throughout the state, SNAP (CalFresh) California's largest and most important anti-hunger program —helps low-wage workers and families put food on their tables. **One in three households (more than 3.8 million families) in California do not earn enough to meet their basic needs. Of these families, about 97% have at least one working adult.**[1]

In 2025 Congress passed the largest cuts to CalFresh in the program's 62 year history. **Almost 1 million Californians**—including veterans, older adults, families with children, refugees, survivors of trafficking and abuse, and unhoused individuals—are estimated to lose critical food assistance they rely on to purchase groceries.[2]

Cuts have already begun to take effect. Starting April 1, 2026, humanitarian immigrants began losing benefits, and starting June 1, 2026, individuals newly subject to CalFresh time limits—which restrict them to just 3 months of benefits in a 3-year period—began facing those restrictions.

Often, it is not the requirement to work but the paperwork to document these activities results in a loss of benefits.

These challenges come as food insecurity remains high: **Nearly one-third of working-age adults reported food insecurity in 2025, even before the imposition of these new time limits.**[3]



of California households struggling with affordability have **at least one working adult**

As we face H.R.1's impact**, we urge the CA Legislature and Administration to fund CalFood, protect the CalFresh Outreach Network, and expand the California Food Assistance Program** for individuals cut off from CalFresh, including for humanitarian immigrants and time-limited individuals.

The Value of CalFresh

1% drop in hunger = 600M saved in healthcare costs[4]

Each $1 in CalFresh generated $1.80 in economic activity[5]

Lifts ~800,000+ people out of poverty each year[6]

Yet, because CalFresh benefits are inadequate, more than 3 in 10 CalFresh households still rely on food banks.[7]



CalFood helps our food banks keep up with demand.

CalFresh Delivered to the District:

$87,804,000
in total economic activity

$48,780,000
in food benefits

660 jobs

CalFresh is crucial to the local economy.

Last year, **20,500 constituents** — received CalFresh, ranking #78 among California districts.[8] CalFresh benefits are spent & generate economic stimulus at approximately 224 **authorized EBT retailers across all zip codes in District 21.**[12]

"[Having CalFresh] 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."

— Former CalFresh Recipient



California Food Banks

Citations: cafoodbanks.org/citations Questions? policy@cafoodbanks.org