

LETTUCE FUND CALFOOD & FEED OUR NEIGHBORS!

“ CalFood is essential for ensuring a consistent supply of California-grown food for those we serve.”

– Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

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
CALIFORNIA'S:**



FARMERS



FOOD BANKS



FAMILIES

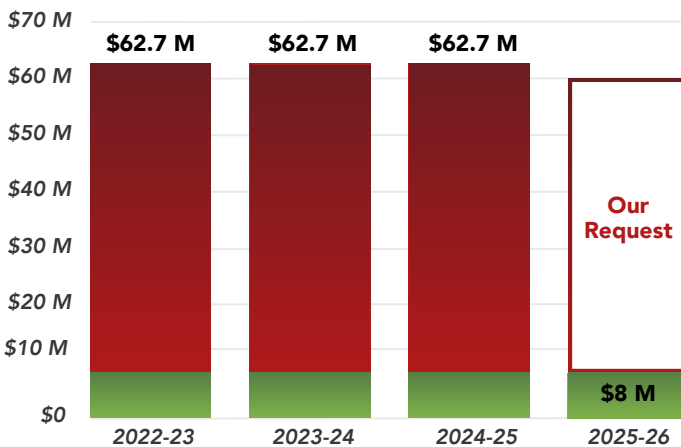
KEY ADVANTAGES OF THE CALFOOD PROGRAM

- Food banks can meet diverse dietary/cultural needs and purchase rarely-donated items like eggs and meat.
- Food banks leverage economies of scale — **each dollar enables food banks to provide about five meals.**
- Fights hunger while supporting the farmers and food producers critical to California's food economy.

WHY CALFOOD MATTERS

The CalFood Program is facing a ~\$54 million drop in average annual funding at the end of June 2025. Meanwhile, food insecurity in California is rising, with **22% of all households, and 27% of households with children experiencing hunger** as of September 2024.* **Our request of \$60 million ongoing funding is critical** for food banks to be able to address the continuing and mounting hunger cliff.

TOTAL CALFOOD FUNDING PER FISCAL YEAR, 2022–2026



■ Baseline Funding ■ One-time Funding (Annual Average, since 2022)

CalFood has been funded with an annual \$8M baseline, with additional multi-year funding (\$112M in 2022–23, \$52M in 2023–24), for a total of \$62.7M on average per year between July 2022 and June 2025. It reverts to \$8M baseline after this fiscal year. We're requesting a permanent increase of \$52M to the baseline, starting in 2025–26 (for a total of \$60M annually).

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

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



**HOUSEHOLDS
IN CALIFORNIA
ARE CURRENTLY FACING
FOOD INSECURITY**

LAST YEAR, CA FOOD BANKS SERVED MORE THAN

**6 MILLION
PEOPLE
PER MONTH**



LESS FUNDS, LESS ESSENTIALS

With lower CalFood funding, food banks won't be able to purchase / distribute essential items at current levels:



EGGS



PRODUCE



MEAT



CHEESE



MILK

“ 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

For more information, contact: policy@cafoodbanks.org