

Fund CalFood at \$20.6 million

Fight Hunger in California

California faces a hunger crisis affecting 1 in 8 statewide —

including 1 in 4 kids — compounded by:



the extraordinary cost of housing that is forcing families to choose between food and rent;



the most destructive Wildfires in state history that has disrupted families' ability to find housing and work;



the effects from 5 years of punishing drought which disrupted agricultural communities that face high unemployment even in good economic times. It is a sad irony that two of America's hungriest cities, Bakersfield #1 & Fresno #5, sit in our great Central Valley that feeds the world.

CalFresh should be our first defense against hunger, but its ability to meet the need is diminished by the current climate of fear that drives families away from the program.

Food banks are the only source of food with no questions asked. **Even among CalFresh recipients, nearly one-third visit food banks due to inadequate benefits.**

The 2016-17 budget provided \$2M for CalFood and \$18.6M through the Drought Food Assistance Program. Today, if anything the demand for emergency food is even greater as food banks struggle to meet the need.

We request the 2018-19 Budget fund CalFood at \$20.6 million to simply maintain current support for emergency food – anything less is a cut during a time of intense need.

Peer State Investments in Emergency Food Assistance

	Annual State Emergency Food Funding ¹	Food Inse- cure Persons ²	Annual Expenditure Per Person	SNAP Participation Rate ³
Massachusetts	\$17.7 million	701,630	\$25.16	85%
New York	\$34.5 million	2,502,250	\$13.79	86%
Pennsylvania	\$18.2 million	1,674,420	\$10.86	88%
Ohio	\$19.6 million	1,852,870	\$10.55	87%
Washington	\$6.3 million	915,550	\$6.88	100%
New Jersey	\$6.8 million	971,920	\$7.00	75%
Texas	\$4.8 million	4,320,050	\$1.11	73%
California	\$8 million	4,855,020	\$1.64	66%

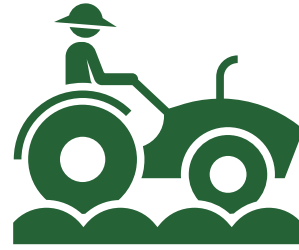


For more information, contact andrew@cafoodbanks.org

Fight hunger & support farmers

CalFood can only purchase foods produced in California, like healthy fresh produce, dairy and proteins, benefiting our farmers.

Californians miss 1 billion meals every year, and it would cost food banks about \$325M annually to meet that need.² Our ask of \$20.6M would provide some 103 million meals statewide – a meaningful step to close that gap.



Prioritize ending hunger in the California budget

Funding CalFood at \$20.6M would only provide some \$4.25 per Californian in need of food – far less than our peer states that have fewer people facing hunger and much higher SNAP (CalFresh) participation.



Fight hunger & support our farmers by investing \$20.6M in CalFood



For more information, contact andrew@cafoodbanks.org

1. Compiled from each state's emergency food funding data.

2. Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap. <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

3. USDA, Reaching Those in Need. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ops/Reaching2014.pdf>