



California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) 2024 Policy Agenda Bite Back Against Hunger, Act Now!

With the ending of COVID-era anti-hunger supports like CalFresh Emergency Allotments and Pandemic EBT, combined with record spikes in food prices, hunger is again on the rise. Today, over one in five California households are faced with the toxic stress and health consequences of food insecurity, with shocking disparities for communities of color: 45% of Black and 32% of Latine families with children report food insecurity, compared to 16% of White families with children. We must protect against cuts to our most vulnerable Californians and continue to strengthen food bank and safety net programs children, families, and older adults rely on.

2024-25 Priorities to Protect Progress in Ending Hunger

Bolster the Emergency Food Network & Ensure Resiliency During Disasters:

- **Budget:** Appropriate \$3M one-time and establish permanent authorization for the State Emergency Food Bank Reserve to ensure that California is prepared and able to respond quickly when disaster strikes. ([Factsheet](#))

Establish a Comprehensive Plan to End Hunger:

- **AB 1961 (Wicks):** Convene the End Hunger in California Master Plan Task Force to develop whole of government, comprehensive recommendations to prevent hunger and ensure access to healthy, culturally relevant food for all. ([Factsheet](#))

Maximize the Hunger-Fighting Power of CalFresh:

- **Budget:** Ensure on-time implementation of the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit Pilot to boost benefits for elderly and disabled households who receive below \$50 per month.
- **Budget:** Extend the CalFresh Safe Drinking Water Pilot to ensure households without potable water do not see a cut in their CalFresh benefits.
- **Budget:** Extend the CalFresh Fruit & Vegetable EBT Pilot to ensure the pilot remains funded for at least 12 additional months to help participants afford more fresh fruits and vegetables.
- **Budget:** Ensure on-time implementation of the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) nutrition benefits expansion to Californians 55 or older.
- **AB 2150 (Arambula):** Build on the success of AB 1326 (Arambula) to ensure collaboration and information sharing between higher education liaisons and stakeholders. ([Factsheet](#))
- **SB 1254 (Becker):** Direct the state to seek federal waivers to allow for people leaving jails or prisons to pre-enroll in CalFresh up to 90 days in advance of release. Also recreates a state-level workgroup to design a comprehensive pre-enrollment process for Medi-Cal, SSI, and CalFresh. ([Factsheet](#))
- **SB 950 (Skinner):** Break the cycle of drug addiction and recidivism by helping to ensure that health care, supportive services, and the substance use treatment that many formerly incarcerated people rely on are continued after the person's release and as they re-enter the community. ([Factsheet](#))

Ensure Children are Nourished During and Out of School:

- **Budget:** Fully fund School Meals for All to ensure that all California children can continue to receive two nourishing meals at school each day. ([Factsheet](#))
- **Budget:** Support CDSS' administrative needs for Summer-EBT implementation, our nation's first anti-hunger entitlement program in a generation, which will help close the gap during the hungriest time of the year, summer.
- **Budget:** Bring equity to childcare nutrition programs by eliminating the supplemental State Meal Reimbursement rate gap for feeding younger children in family childcare settings.
- **AB 2595 (L. Rivas):** Establish a pilot at public libraries to allow summer meal sites to offer meals to parents and caregivers so that they can share a meal with their children. ([Factsheet](#))



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Strengthen the Anti-Poverty Safety Net:

- **Budget:** Reject the \$1.2 billion CalWORKs double cut: \$900M total withdrawal of the Safety Net Reserve meant to protect CalWORKs, and \$300M in ongoing program cuts that would worsen poverty-related hunger.
- **Budget:** Build on the Governor's proposal to pursue new TANF pilots to reimagine CalWORKs' ability to fight hunger by centering family choice, eliminating failed punitive policies, and maximizing aid needed to exit poverty. ([Factsheet](#))
- **Budget:** Reject proposed \$30M reversions that would defund the California Nutrition Incentive Program.
- **Budget:** Address SSI/SSP benefit adequacy by ensuring grant increases are enacted and establishing grants above the Federal Poverty Level. ([Factsheet](#))
- **Budget / AB 2446 (Ortega) / SB 953 (Menjivar):** Expand access to diapers and menstrual products through California's successful Diaper Bank Program (\$23M ongoing) and Menstrual Products Pilot (\$3.85M ongoing), and expand access through Medi-Cal to diapers (AB 2446 Ortega/[Factsheet](#)) and menstrual products (SB 953 Menjivar/[Factsheet](#)).

Envision a Hunger-Free Future for All Californians

- Appropriate \$52M General Fund in 2023-2024 and ongoing to sustain the total \$60 million General Fund amount that is already included in the 2023-24 baseline budget for CalFood. ([Factsheet](#))
- Appropriate \$3M one-time and \$165M ongoing to establish state-funded CARE benefits for CalFresh recipients who are subject to the punitive federal ABAWD time-limit rules. ([Factsheet](#))
- Expand and make permanent the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit Pilot to boost benefits and ensure no household is receiving below \$50 per month.
- Support Food4All to expand eligibility for California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) nutrition benefits to all Californians ineligible for CalFresh solely due to their immigration status. No exceptions, no exclusions, no delays. ([Factsheet](#))
- Revive and refund the Special Circumstances Program to support SSI recipients when emergency costs arise. ([Factsheet](#))

Contacts:

Becky Silva, California Association of Food Banks, becky@cafoodbanks.org

Jared Call, Nourish California, jared@nourishca.org

Andrew Cheyne, GRACE/End Child Poverty CA, andrewcheyne@grace-inc.org

For 29 years, California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) has been California's premier anti-hunger coalition: a broad-based membership organization that unites the foremost statewide and regional anti-hunger groups. CHAC believes access to adequate, nutritious, and safe food is a fundamental human right.

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