

Farm Bill and CalFresh Fact Sheet

36th Congressional District
Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-Palm Desert)



CalFresh should be protected and strengthened in the next Farm Bill to ensure access to #Food4All



The Farm Bill is federal legislation that determines what foods are accessible and affordable for all. As Congress renews the Farm Bill, which expires on September 2018, we need to protect and strengthen support for CalFresh, which helps thousands of residents in your district buy the food they need from farmers and local grocers.

14% of residents in your district depend on CalFresh to put food on the table



CalFresh helps 1 in 10 Californians. CalFresh benefits are modest—averaging just \$1.52 per meal. Yet, every month, they help 107,000 residents in your district feed themselves and their families.

Cuts to CalFresh would harm low-income children and seniors in your district



Did you know that, in your district:

- 1 in 4 CalFresh households have seniors (60+)
- 68% of CalFresh households have children

If CalFresh were cut, poverty and hunger would worsen in your district

Cuts to CalFresh would make it harder for 19,500 working CalFresh families to put food on the table



Most CalFresh recipients in your district are working, but rely on CalFresh to make ends meet. They are cashiers, personal care aids, cooks, agricultural workers, and retail salespersons who work in low-paying jobs with few or no benefits and irregular hours.

We shouldn't cut CalFresh when over 29,200 residents in your district are already struggling to find work



The economic recovery hasn't reached many parts of our state, and there just aren't enough good paying jobs available in some communities. 9.3% of residents in your district were unemployed in 2016, compared to 6.5% statewide.

Without CalFresh, 21,000 additional residents in your district will fall into poverty



Compared to 1 in 7 residents statewide, 1 in 5 residents (148,100) in your district live in poverty, including:

- 27,800 seniors (aged 60+)
- 29% of children below age 18

We shouldn't cut CalFresh when 94,000 residents struggle to put food on their tables



Residents in your district are already struggling to make ends meet. Compared to 1 in 8 residents statewide, 1 in 8 residents in your district cannot consistently afford or access enough food.

Cuts to CalFresh could harm 493 local retailers



California food retailers brought in an additional \$7.2 billion from CalFresh in 2016. Cuts to the program would hurt the bottom lines of 493 retailers in your district, which brought in \$174,400,000 in 2017-18. They are also where CalFresh participants shop for food, and include supermarkets, grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers markets.