



# Federal Spotlight: Ensuring a Farm Bill That Works for California

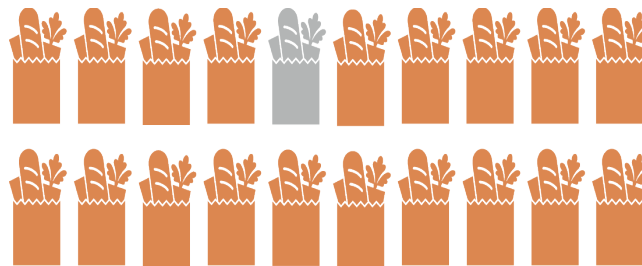
Rachel Tucker  
Senior Policy Associate  
California Association of Food Banks

# Why the Farm Bill Matters for California

- Key investments in nutrition and agriculture
  - SNAP/CalFresh
  - Set to expire 10/2018
- Vital food and funding stream for core programs
  - The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
  - Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)



# The Economic Value of SNAP



- Over 4M Californians receive SNAP
- \$6.5B in annual benefits
- \$11.7B in total economic activity
- Supports over 65,000 jobs

# Take Action: Strategies to Protect and Strengthen SNAP



# Highlight the Value of SNAP in the Media

## Trump's food-stamp plan: Government picks the meals for poor people

By Joe Garofoli | February 14, 2018 | Updated: February 15, 2018 6:00am



Photo: Michael Macor, The Chronicle



IMAGE 1 OF 4

Steven Summers sits down to enjoy his evening meal in his apartment in Oakland. Summers relies on the benefits of the Federal governments Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program to buy the fresh pork to ... [more](#)

# Show SNAP's Value in Every Community



Daniel Torres, owner of Mercey Springs Produce on Highway 152 in Dos Palos, packages oranges on Thursday Feb. 15, 2017. Major funding cuts to the Supplemental Food Nutrition Program, known as CalFresh in California, in the Trump administration's proposed budget for next year could negatively impact food assistance organizations in Merced County and people's access to fresh fruits and vegetables. **Monica Velez** - [mvelez@mercedsun-star.com](mailto:mvelez@mercedsun-star.com)

HEALTH & FITNESS

## Merced SNAP recipients won't benefit under Trump proposal, officials say.



BY MONICA VELEZ  
[mvelez@mercedsun-star.com](mailto:mvelez@mercedsun-star.com)



February 16, 2018 03:09 PM



The Trump administration's proposed budget for next year could bring major slashes in funding and tighter regulations to one of the largest food assistance programs in the country that tens of thousands in Merced County depend on.





# Highlight the Local Impact of Program Cuts



Friday, May 26, 2017

Rep. Jim Costa  
2222 M St, Suite 305  
Merced, CA 95340

Rep. Jeff Denham  
4701 Sisk Road, Suite 202  
Modesto, CA 95356

Rep. Jimmy Panetta  
100 W Alisal St  
Salinas, CA 93901

Rep. Doug Lamalfa  
2399 Rickenbacker Way  
Auburn, CA 95602

## RE: Defend SNAP/CalFresh

Dear Reps. Costa, Denham, Lamalfa, and Panetta:

The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are currently considering making drastic cuts to, and changes to the structure of the benefit entitlements provided by the SNAP program, through either the 2018 Farm Bill re-authorization or the 2017 Budget Reconciliation process. We are writing to you, as Representatives from California on the House Agriculture Committee, to express our strong support for SNAP/CalFresh, and opposition to any cuts to benefits, limits on eligibility, and efforts to block grant the SNAP program.

**SNAP is our nation's first line of defense against hunger**, which is a condition of poverty that affects Alameda County and all regions throughout the state, with 12.6% of Californians facing food insecurity, which is defined as the "inability to procure a sufficient amount of healthy food on a regular basis."

SNAP, known as CalFresh in California, is targeted to the most vulnerable households in our county and state, annually **keeping 806,000 Californians out of poverty, including 417,000 children**, during the last recession; 74% of SNAP participants are in families with children, 6% are in families with members who are elderly or have disabilities, and fully 50% are in working families.

**SNAP not only benefits low-income families, it stimulates local economies and businesses** in California that serve our low and moderate-income rural and urban communities. Moody's Analytics estimates that every \$1 in federal SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in local economies; \$7.6 billion are issued in federal SNAP benefits annually to California (2014-15), generating about \$12.92 billion per year for California's economy.



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July 24, 2017

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1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

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Merced, CA 95340

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Rep. Doug LaMalfa  
2399 Rickenbacker Way  
Auburn, CA 95602

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT  
Kathrin Sears  
3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

RE: **Defend SNAP/CalFresh**

Dear Reps. Costa, Denham, LaMalfa, and Panetta:

Dennis Rodoni  
4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

On behalf of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, I write to you, as Representatives from California on the House Agriculture Committee, to express our strong support for SNAP — the nation's first line of defense against hunger. Hunger touches every corner of California and SNAP (known as CalFresh in California) provides life-saving benefits that help working families, children and seniors afford food and make ends meet. Over 6 million people live in poverty in the Golden state and 4 million Californians (including two million children) are food insecure. SNAP benefits are designed to target those most in need when they need it most. In California, three-quarters of SNAP participants are families with children and nearly half are working families. In Marin County, SNAP helped lift 9,800 people out of poverty, including 5,782 children and 1,568 seniors.

PRESIDENT  
Judy Arnold  
5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

As the nation's most effective federal stimulus, SNAP supports our state's robust agricultural and retail sectors—linking low-income customers to much needed nutrition and driving local economic growth. Last year, SNAP pumped \$16,810,000 in 100% federally funded benefits to Marin County, generating \$30,000,000 in local economic activity—supporting retailers, workers and economic growth in our county; In fact, if SNAP reached 100% of those eligible in Marin County, we would see \$22,000,000 in additional benefits, and \$39,000,000 in local economic activity.

Matthew H. Hymel  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

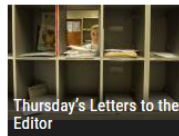
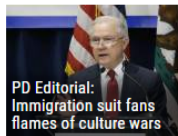
California's anti-hunger network assists Californians in need through voluntary participation of members of the food industry, faith-based, tribal, public and non-profit organizations, and private citizens often partnered with state and federal governments. This informal network collects donations, distributes food, and provides relief to hungry Californians every day — but it is not enough to close the hunger gap in California without the SNAP Program.

Marin County Civic Center  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 329  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415 473 7331 T  
415 473 3645 F  
415 473 6172 TTY  
[www.marincounty.org/bos](http://www.marincounty.org/bos)

We urge you to defend and strengthen SNAP because every community in California deserves to be hunger-free.

# The Value of SNAP in Times of Disaster

## The Press Democrat



We provide a complimentary review of your current mortgage statement.



## Close to Home: Disaster food programs at risk under GOP budget plan



We provide a complimentary review of your current mortgage statement.

Exchange Bank is a full service mortgage lender offering a wide variety of home financing options to fit your needs.

### Most Popular Stories



Bones are Amelia Earhart's, analysis finds



Suspect at-large in Santa Rosa after man shot 4 times



# Organize and Attend Events in Your Community (Don't Forget to Invite Your Member of Congress!)

CAFB @CAFoodBanks · 5 Aug 2017  
We're here in Modesto for the Farm Bill listening session to talk about how #SNAPMatters in CA w/ @ACCFB, @SHFBSantaCruz @SSCCC\_OFFICIAL



CAFB @CAFoodBanks · 10 Aug 2017  
.@RepJimCosta: the richest nation with Ag abundance should not have hunger; SNAP WIC & nutrition programs are crucial. #HouseAgListens



# Organize and Attend Events in Your Community (Don't Forget to Invite Your Member of Congress!)



# Engage Food Bank Staff, Volunteers and Board members on SNAP and the Farm Bill



CAFB @CAFoodBanks · 29 Sep 2017

Replying to @emv52 @fractweets and 5 others

We asked and we received over 300 postcards from Californians telling us why #SNAPmatters to them & their communities #SNAPsince77





# Engage Food Bank Staff, Volunteers and Board members on SNAP and the Farm Bill



# Pivot to the Positive: SNAP New Year's Resolution Campaign



foodbankccs @foodbankccs · Jan 3

This is one resolution we know we won't be breaking this year. We resolve to protect and strengthen SNAP in 2018. What's your SNAP New Year's Resolution?  
#SNAPMatters #NYResolution @CarlyFinkle @CAFoodBanks



CAFB @CAFoodBanks · Jan 2

Our #NYResolution is to defend SNAP no matter what. What about you?  
#SNAPmatters

In 2018 I will...



Fight to protect SNAP!

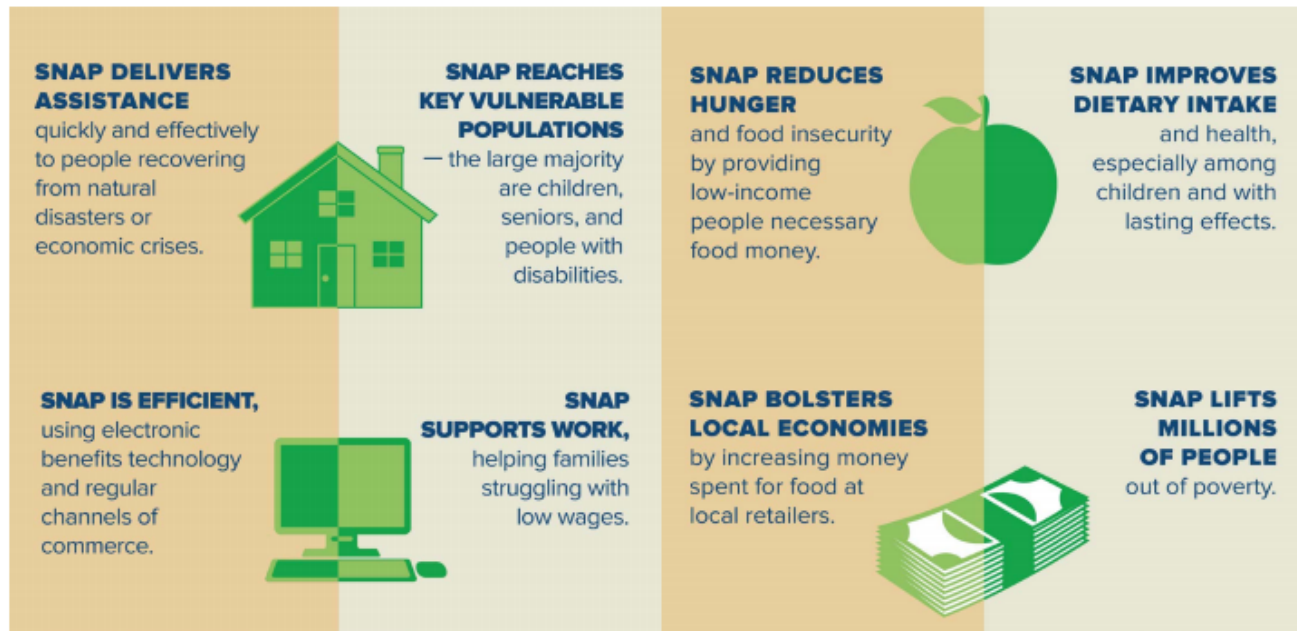


#SNAPmatters

Alameda CC Food Bank, Ellen Vollinger, Ellen and 6 others



# Advocate for Legislation that Strengthens SNAP



## H.R. 1276 – The Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2017

- A bill that seeks to improve and strengthen SNAP
- Addresses benefit adequacy and improves SNAP connections to work
- 26 co-sponsors from California!



## H.R. 1276 – 11 Key Targets Still Left

- District 7 – Ami Bera (D)
- District 9 – Jerry McNerney (D)
- District 12 – Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D)
- District 16 – Rep. Jim Costa (D)
- District 20 – Jimmy Panetta (D)
- District 35 – Rep. Norma Torres (D)
- District 36 – Rep. Raul Ruiz (D)
- District 43 – Rep. Maxine Waters (D)
- District 44 – Rep. Nanette Barragán (D)
- District 46 – Rep. J. Louis Correa (D)
- District 52 – Rep. Scott Peters (D)

# Materials and Resources

## Visit CAFB's [Federal Policy Resource Page](#)



Why is SNAP important to Sacramento County?

SNAP, known as CalFresh in California, is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. With the other federal programs including the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs, TEFAP, WIC and others, the nutrition safety net reduces hunger and poverty, improves health and learning, increases productivity, creates jobs, and invests in the future of our communities.

1 in 8 Californians suffers from food insecurity.<sup>1</sup> 23 percent of California children live in food insecure households.<sup>2</sup>

**We ask every California Member of Congress to protect and strengthen the federal nutrition programs. Every California should have access to the food they need to live healthy and productive lives.**

#### SNAP benefits

- SNAP brought \$360,240,000 in 100% federally funded benefits to Sacramento County last year.<sup>3</sup>
- As those benefits circulate in Sacramento, they created approximately \$645 million in total economic activity.<sup>4</sup>
- These benefits support some 3500 Sacramento County jobs by providing markets for farmers and customers for retailers.<sup>4</sup>

#### SNAP participation

- SNAP benefits go to 209,300 people in Sacramento – more than 1 in 10 of everyone who lives in the County.<sup>5</sup>
- 57 percent of all Sacramento SNAP recipients are children, and 6 percent are seniors.<sup>6</sup>

#### Lost dollars

- In 2016, SNAP reached 83% of everyone eligible in Sacramento.<sup>7</sup>
- If SNAP reached 100% of those eligible, Sacramento County would annually see an additional \$93 million in benefits, and \$166 million in total economic activity.<sup>8</sup>
- Nationwide, federal nutrition programs provide 19 of every 20 emergency meals – private charity could never address the need for food.



<sup>1</sup>USDA Economic Research Service, 2013-15 average. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/225/enr-225.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Kids Data, Lucile Packard Foundation, 2014. [http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/76/food-insecurity/tab#f1=1588&row=1\\_2&f=76&sort=loc](http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/76/food-insecurity/tab#f1=1588&row=1_2&f=76&sort=loc)

<sup>3</sup>California Budget & Policy Center. <http://budgetcenter.org/newsroom/call-with-reduce-hunger-emergency-county-california-changes-federal-level-cut-benefits/>

<sup>4</sup>USDA Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-detail/?pubid=6479>

<sup>5</sup>California Department of Social Services. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/researchdetail.aspx?detailid=2016CountyDesireBoardApr-Jun16.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>California Food Policy Advocates. <http://cfaa.net/california-policy-advocates/2016-report-2016.pdf>



WHY SNAP MATTERS TO CA-06

The District needs SNAP & charitable food providers to fight hunger and support families who fall on hard times. Food banks do everything they can to fight hunger, yet they alone can never meet the need.

If SNAP or other nutrition programs were cut, food banks would simply be overwhelmed.

135,710 – 18.1% of District residents – suffer from food insecurity.<sup>1</sup>

Nationwide, federal nutrition programs provide 19 of every 20 emergency meals — private charity could never fill this gap.<sup>2</sup>



Yet because SNAP benefits are inadequate to last the entire month, nearly 1 in 3 SNAP households still rely on food banks.<sup>3</sup>

### The Value of SNAP

SNAP is crucial to the local economy. Last year 131,984 participants – 17.3% of the District<sup>4</sup> – received SNAP, delivering:<sup>5,6,7</sup>



**In the Farm Bill or any other proposal, we ask all California members of Congress to protect and strengthen SNAP, rejecting any block grants, structural changes, or cuts that would increase hunger and cause economic hardship.**



Thank You!

Rachel Tucker

Senior Policy Associate

California Association of Food Banks

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