

# Federal Policy Agenda 2019



## Opportunity

### It's time to put California values into action.

It's time for Californians to unite, as we have before, to lead the fight for federal policies that improve circumstances for all. We can advance our shared priorities to break down systems and structures that perpetuate inequities in health, education, poverty, and hunger.

Across California, 4.7 million adults with low income<sup>1</sup> face food

insecurity and 2.0 million children live in low-income households affected by food insecurity. In a land of such great abundance and opportunity, no family should go hungry, without shelter, without health care or struggle to make ends meet because of where they live or where they come from.

CFPA is committed to engaging our state and national partners to implement policies that promote economic security for all. We will work to maximize the positive health and poverty-reduction impacts of the federal nutrition programs and the broader social safety net.

We reject proposals that seek to divide and force us backward, and we will continue to work together to lead the way forward to a more equitable and prosperous future.

**We call on all members of the California Congressional Delegation** to put California values into action by advancing policies that support a better life for all, and strengthen human rights, justice, and equity throughout the state and nation.



<sup>1</sup> "Low income" is defined here as income below 200% of the federal poverty level. Food insecurity can also occur in households with higher incomes. In many California communities, the high cost of living means the official federal poverty measure does not reflect true levels need.

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## Federal Policy Priorities

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### **Invest in the nation's most effective anti-hunger program, SNAP (CalFresh).**

- Oppose efforts to side-step Congressional intent expressed in the 2018 Farm Bill by restricting SNAP eligibility and benefits through administrative regulation and rulemaking.
- Increase benefit allotments by switching from the outdated Thrifty Food plan to the more generous and realistic Low-Cost Food Plan.
- Reject any proposals to cut benefit levels or restrict eligibility.

### **Expand access to child nutrition programs and support hunger-free schools.**

- Require all public schools, including charter schools, to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and provide at least one meal to low-income students.
- Better align eligibility with low-income households' circumstances and simplify administration in school meal programs by preserving the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).
- Increase resources for school meals by extending the USDA Commodities program to the School Breakfast Program.
- Reduce red tape in the Child and Adult Care Food Program by streamlining and simplifying administration for providers.
- Reduce food insecurity during out of school time by expanding the Summer EBT pilot projects through SNAP/CalFresh.
- Support healthy new moms and children in their earliest years by maintaining federal funding levels for the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC).

### **Address the root causes of hunger by enacting solutions that support low-income households.**

- Ensure that all Californians, regardless of immigration status, can safely maintain access to all programs and services to which they are entitled.
- Increase funding for programs that have a proven track record of improving participants' economic security and mobility including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit, child care subsidies, paid family and medical leave, and college financial aid.
- Increase the purchasing power of low-income households by raising the minimum wage.



**California must lead the way by putting into action our values of equity, diversity, inclusion and justice.**