

Opportunity

All Californians deserve the opportunity to thrive and the resources to be well nourished.

The COVID-19 crisis is dramatically decreasing Californians access to food. From school and child care closures to layoffs and social distancing, Californians are facing new hardships that make it more difficult to access the food necessary for good health. These new hardships exacerbate existing struggles. Even during a time of economic growth and record employment, too many Californians are financially strained by stagnating wages, high housing costs, exorbitant student loan payments, and unaffordable child care. At the same time, systemic injustices related to race, gender, immigration status, and other factors have shut out many Californians from fair access to prosperity. We need bold solutions to these urgent problems. We look to federal policymakers to advance policies that mitigate the scope and scale of harm from the COVID-19 crisis, even after the immediate emergency has passed. Let's commit to building a better future for all Californians to call home.

Call to Action

Expand financial relief for low- and moderate-income households.

Californians who work hard and play by the rules shouldn't be left behind. Taxpayer money should be used to share prosperity with everyone, not just the few and the wealthy. Direct financial supports must be strengthened to reach all Californians experiencing need.

As COVID-19 takes an economic toll, increase investments in SNAP, WIC, and the greater safety net.

Safety-net programs improve economic security, health, and nutrition for millions of Californians. Unfortunately, safety-net programs such as SNAP are constantly on the chopping block. Policymakers must suspend administrative actions that would eliminate or weaken SNAP's support during the economic downturn. Rather than weaken SNAP, Congress must enact policies to increase the program's maximum and minimum benefits for participating households. Policymakers should also advance policies that extend WIC eligibility and certification periods even further so the program can reach more families and for extended periods of need.

California Food Policy Advocates advances policies that prevent food insecurity, alleviate poverty, and eliminate the stark inequities that harm many of our fellow Californians.

Oppose policies that let hate dictate immigrants' right to food and opportunity.

The COVID-19 crisis is hitting low-wage workers the hardest, putting many immigrants out of work who were already struggling to make ends meet. No one should go hungry during this pandemic because of their immigration status. Everyone, regardless of income or place of birth, should have access to the health care and critical aid necessary to weather this crisis.

Strengthen investments and access to nutrition programs for older adults.

With stay at home orders in place, older adults are at increased risk of hunger. Senior nutrition programs help, but funding has not kept pace with demand. Additional investments in senior nutrition programs are needed and USDA must leverage their waiver authority to approve California's request for SNAP online purchasing.



Expand access to meals for young children, older adults, and other low-income households impacted by child care and adult day care closures.

Congress acted quickly to establish Pandemic-EBT for school-aged children, but children and older adults impacted by child and adult care closures were left out. Policymakers must advance policies to expand access to free meals for these particularly vulnerable populations.

Expand access to universally-free school meals.

COVID-19 has placed a spotlight on the critical role of free school meals. Effective solutions harnessed during the pandemic should continue as long-term efforts to mitigate hunger, including expanding access to universally free school meals and effective summer meal programs, such as Summer EBT.

