

Opportunity

All Californians deserve opportunities to thrive and the resources they need to be well nourished. Now is the time to advance bold solutions to urgent problems.

- Our youngest children deserve guaranteed access to nutritious food.
- Our students deserve school meals that support learning.
- Our elders deserve to age in place with dignity and support.
- Our immigrant families deserve safety, security, and stability.



Let's honor the promise of all Californians & commit to a better future for all who call California home.

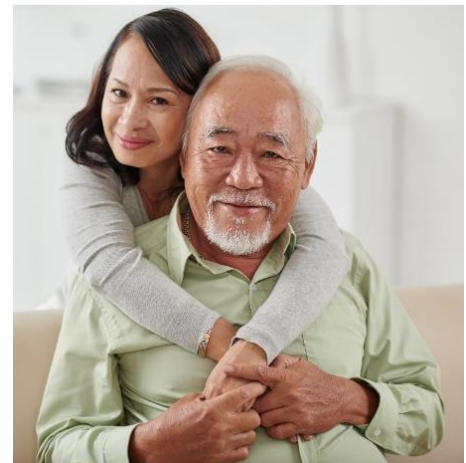
Call to Action

Simplify CalFresh for Older Adults

Across California, nearly forty percent of older adults with low income have limited, inconsistent, or uncertain access to enough food.

CalFresh helps to prevent food insecurity and mitigate poverty among participants. But, **CalFresh reaches only 19 percent of eligible older adults**, making us the lowest ranked state in the nation.

Easing the burden of CalFresh enrollment and decreasing the bureaucratic hurdles of maintaining benefits will **help older adults meet their basic needs and age with dignity**.



ACTION: Simplify the CalFresh application and reporting requirements for older adults and people with disabilities. Ensure that all applicants can complete the CalFresh interview process by phone.

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

Invest in School Meals for All



Offering school meals free of charge to all students helps protect kids from food insecurity, stigma, and the onslaught of federal policies aimed at eroding the availability and adequacy of other nutrition programs.

Federal eligibility criteria for school meal programs do not reflect true levels of need in our state. As a result, many schools can't afford to offer universally free meals despite substantial need among their students.

School meals are an educational tool that should be accessible to all students experiencing need. Increasing access to universally free meals will help **improve educational outcomes, prevent school meal debt, and give students the critical resources they need to learn, grow, and achieve at their fullest potential.**

ACTION: Make targeted State investments to allow for the implementation of universally free meals in schools where federal rules would otherwise make such programs fiscally unsustainable.

Restore Investments in Our Youngest Learners

As the cost of living in California relentlessly outpaces wages, one in four of our youngest children lives in poverty. Early deprivation can trigger a lifetime of harmful effects.

During the Great Recession, the State cut – and never restored – funding available to the vast majority of licensed child care facilities for the provision of nutritious meals. As the State considers expanding access to early learning programs, let's ensure that those programs **protect our youngest children from hunger and nourish their development.**

ACTION: Restore state funding for child care programs to serve nutritious meals to low-income children in their care.



Food for All

When everyone has the nutritious food they need, we will have a stronger and more productive California. **We believe in food for all -- no exceptions, no exclusions.** To help make this vision a reality, let's make sure our immigrant friends, families, and neighbors have the support they need to continue striving toward the California dream.

ACTION: Build a broad and diverse coalition of support for legislation in 2021 that will provide nutrition assistance to immigrant Californians who are struggling to make ends meet.