

## Help Feed Kids in Child Care

### State Legislative Agenda 2021

#### The Issue

More than [3 in 5](#) California families with young children have run out of food in the last twelve months. Keenly aware of need, child care programs continue to work on the front lines of the pandemic, trying to nourish our youngest learners. But California's subsidized child care programs [do not have enough funding to pay for food](#) and need additional support to continue meal service during the pandemic.

Even before 2020, most child care programs operated on razor-thin margins. When enrolment plunged at the start of the pandemic, many programs were forced to close. Those that remain open today are trying to make up the difference for income loss while facing increased costs, including the cost of food. Food prices have risen more this year than in any year since 2011.

#### The Opportunity

Funding child care meal service is a preventative measure to ensure that children's most basic needs are met during this crisis and to support the stability of our child care system.

#### Budget Action

- State leaders should make critical investments to support child care meal service as part of COVID-19 relief and ongoing efforts to help stabilize the state's child care infrastructure.

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