

Federal Transition Agenda 2021

This agenda identifies policies that are immediately actionable through administrative policy change.

Provide COVID-19 Relief to Californians Whose Access to Food Has Been Limited

From school closures to loss of income, COVID-19 continues to dramatically decrease the resources Californians have available for food. In November of 2020, nearly one in six adults with children -- [more than 1.6 million Californians](#) -- reported that their household sometimes or often didn't have enough to eat. New policies are needed to mitigate the scope and scale of harm.

- Immediately issue Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) guidance for young children impacted by child care closures and limits on classroom size. Enable states to assume that all children under age six in SNAP-enrolled households are missing preschool or child care meals and are eligible for P-EBT.
- Update P-EBT guidance for school-aged children to optimize access. Allow states to: (a) exercise flexibility in using school, local educational agency, and/or county level data; and (b) issue P-EBT benefits to school-age children who were eligible for benefits in school year 2019-20 or who are income eligible based on direct certification, free & reduced-price school meal applications, or alternate income verification forms in school year 2020-21.
- Revise the guidance on SNAP Emergency Allotments to comply with *Gilliam v. USDA* and allow the poorest SNAP participants to benefit from the emergency allotment.
- Extend nationwide child nutrition waivers (Area Eligibility, Non-Congregate Feeding, Parent/Guardian Meal Pick Up, and Meal Times) that are necessary for meal programs to operate this summer during COVID-19 through September 30, 2021.
- Speed up the approval process for SNAP online purchasing retailers, explore available authority to waive the WIC in-person cashier signature requirement for online purchases indefinitely, and develop guidance that facilitates greater use of online ordering and purchasing.

All Californians deserve fair access to nutritious, affordable food.

Nourish California commits to working with the Biden Administration to help shape the programs and policies that should connect - but sometimes stand between - people and the food they need to thrive.

Our transition priorities call for inclusive policies that would meaningfully reduce hunger, hardship, and inequity among Californians.

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Take Urgent Action to Undo the Trump Administration's Harmful Attacks on SNAP and School Meals

The Trump Administration proposed multiple changes to federal nutrition programs. The individual and combined effects of the Administration's proposed SNAP rules would strip [625,000](#) Californians of an estimated [\\$801 million dollars in benefits](#) and proposed school meal rollbacks pose a long-term threat to children's health. These proposed changes should immediately be recalled.

- Recall the SNAP Able Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Final Rule and no longer allow federal attorneys to defend against D.C. v. USDA.
- Recall the SNAP Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility Proposed Rule.
- Recall the SNAP Standardization of State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances Proposed Rule.
- Restore the science-based, healthy school meal nutrition standards that were undermined by the Trump Administration.



Reclaim our Values as a Nation of Immigrants and Remove Unjust Federal Policies Limiting Immigrants' Access to Food

Immigrants are integral members of California's communities. Nearly [half](#) of all children in our state have immigrant parents. Our collective well being depends on their prosperity, yet racist policies prevent many immigrants from meeting their most basic needs, including food. The Biden Administration should take urgent action that removes unjust barriers to accessing food.

- Immediately reverse the Trump Administration's public charge rule which has led [1 in 6](#) California families to avoid or disenroll from public benefit programs, including SNAP and WIC.
- Consult with diverse stakeholders, including organizations representing immigrant communities, to redesign USDA's confusing, jargon heavy school meal application prototype. To better inform families and to combat fears of impact to immigration status, a redesigned prototype should clearly communicate what information is required, why, and how it will be used.



Remove Obstacles that Stand Between Older Adults Access to Federal Nutrition Assistance

Everyone deserves access to the basic resources necessary to live with dignity, regardless of their financial circumstance. Yet a growing number of older Californians, particularly Black and Latinx elders are struggling to get by, and face obstacles to accessing nutrition support. The Administration should enact policies to ensure Federal Nutrition Programs are accessible to older adults and that they meet their nutritional needs.

- Resurrect Combined Application Projects, which simplify the SNAP application process for older adults and persons with disabilities and enable them to apply for the program while applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Take steps to better disseminate existing information that could help state and local entities involved in providing meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program meet the complex nutritional needs of older adult participants, as well as continue to develop best practices and other information on meal accommodations to share with program providers.



Help Connect Children with the Food They Need to Learn, Grow, and Achieve at their Fullest Potential

Millions of children across our state rely on publicly funded nutrition programs operated by schools, community organizations, and child care providers. These programs are a lifeline for the more than 2 million California kids living in households that struggle with food insecurity.

- Use all available authority and funds to bring the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program to more low-income children who miss out on school meals when their schools close for summer break by expanding the program to more states, including California.
- Make eligibility for the Child and Adult Care Food Program easier to document and explore all available options to increase the use of direct certification for the program in schools, child care centers, and within adult care.
- Encourage more child and adult care providers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program by removing unnecessary burdens for operating the program and implementing paperwork reduction [modifications](#).
- Make [improvements](#) to the serious deficiency process for the Child and Adult Care Food Program and make the determination appealable so that children are not harmed by unjust program rules.