



California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) 2021 Policy Agenda — Virtual Hunger Action Lobby Week

COVID-19 Response & Recovery — Fight Hunger & Poverty!

Emergency Food Funding

- **Bolster the Emergency Food System in the COVID-19 Crisis & Beyond:** 1) \$110 million one-time: Emergency Food Boxes (Sen. Laird, Asm. Wicks); 2) \$32 million one-time: Climate & Disaster Resilience (Sen. Newman, Asm. Villapudua); and 3) \$150 million one-time: Capacity Enhancements
- **SB 240 (Eggman) Farm to Food Bank Tax Credit** - Support farmers and reduce food waste by extending the tax credit for donations to 2027 for healthy California grown foods (budget request by Sen. Eggman, Asm. Levine).

Immigrant Food Access

- **AB 221 (Santiago)** - Provide immediate, one-time Emergency Food Benefits for immigrants adversely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and excluded from federal aid because of immigration status. (also budget request).
- **SB 464 (Hurtado) Food for All Campaign** - Create an equitable nutrition safety net by providing permanent nutrition benefits for all those ineligible for CalFresh solely due to immigration status (also budget request).

Older Adults

- **Enact the vision outlined in the Master Plan for Aging to Prevent Poverty and Hunger for SSI recipients:** 1) Include SSI recipients in all future Golden State Stimulus payments; 2) Restore SSP grants so that they meet the Elder Economic Index; and 3) Fulfill the “hold harmless” goal of the Supplemental Nutrition Benefit and Transitional Nutrition Benefit by preventing recipients from churning off the program and by providing replacement benefits during disasters.
- **SB 107 (Wiener): CalFresh—Simpler for Seniors** - Simplify the CalFresh application for older adults and people with disabilities. Make it easier to complete the application and other forms by phone (also budget request).

End Child Hunger

- **SB 364 (Skinner) School Meals for All** – Make significant strides toward a hunger-free future for our children. Provide free school meals to all students without burdensome applications, shame, or stigma. Support farmers through grants for school nutrition workers to prepare fresh California foods. Establish the Better Out of School Time (BOOST) program to ensure children have food aid when schools are closed during breaks and disasters.

Increase CalFresh Benefit Adequacy

- **California Nutrition Incentive Program (Budget Request)** \$20 million in additional supplemental benefits for CalFresh participants purchasing fresh fruit and vegetables at Certified Farmers’ Markets.

For 27 years, California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) has been California’s premier anti-hunger coalition: a broad-based membership organization that unites the foremost statewide & regional anti-hunger groups.

CHAC believes access to adequate, nutritious and safe food is a fundamental human right.

STRENGTHEN OUR NUTRITION SAFETY NET

BUILD RESILIENCE THROUGH COVID-19 CRISIS



"During COVID, we distributed nearly three times the quantity of food as during any prior period in our history. Businesses are beginning to reopen and vaccines are more readily available, but the economic recovery from COVID will be long lasting. We need investments from the State of California to provide a hand up for economic victims of COVID." - **Orange County Food Bank**

"Thank you [legislators] for all you are doing behind the scenes to allow us to do what we do." - **Madera County Food Bank**

"We've had to quickly respond to an unprecedented and dramatic increase in need.

Even when shelter-in-place ends, this economic crisis will continue for much longer -- and we continue to need the state's help to serve our community and keep everyone healthy." - **Second Harvest of Silicon Valley**

"We are seeing a ten-fold increase in the number of calls to our CalFresh hotline. We're helping hundreds more people apply for the program every week, while advocating at the state and federal level to strengthen this vital nutrition safety net program." - **SF-Marin Food Bank**



DURING COVID-19

73%

INCREASE in DEMAND FOR FOOD at CA's FOOD BANKS

Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange Feeding America's Pulse 3.0 Survey.



DURING COVID-19

2X

INCREASE IN CALFRESH APPLICATIONS

compared to same week in April 2019

*CalSAWS & CalWIN Systems 5/7/20

"Since March 2020, the Food Bank has helped to feed an average of 260,000 people per month – an increase of 100,000 people each month on average. While some sense of normalcy is starting to return for many of us, the financial and social impacts of the pandemic

are expected to last well into the future. The Food Bank has served its neighbors for 45 years and will continue to be a reliable source of food and assistance for those who need it most." - **Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano**