

TALKING POINTS: FOOD4ALL 2021

- **FOOD IS ESSENTIAL.** Nutrition is an essential part of a full and healthy life. Regardless of income, immigration status, race or ethnicity, every child, adult and family should be able to access food that they need.
- **IMMIGRANTS ARE ESSENTIAL.** Despite working essential jobs and contributing an annual \$3.2 billion in tax revenue for the state, undocumented Californians are unjustly excluded from CalFresh, CFAP, and other forms of assistance. Nearly 1 in 10 California workers is undocumented, and immigrants compose 36% of California's essential workforce.
- **IMMIGRANT JUSTICE IS FOOD JUSTICE.** Immigrants in California face discrimination and other barriers that make it difficult to make ends meet and put food on the table. And because many immigrants (especially undocumented workers) hold underpaid jobs, children with working immigrant parents are twice as likely to live in poverty than children with non-immigrant parents.
- **IMMIGRANTS ARE SEVERELY IMPACTED BY COVID-19.** The pandemic has worsened hardships across California, particularly among underpaid undocumented immigrant workers and their families. Even though less than 25% of California's immigrant population is undocumented, 42% of immigrants who suffered pandemic job loss in Spring 2020 were undocumented.
- **HEALTHY FOOD CREATES HEALTHY FAMILIES.** Hunger has serious consequences for health, financial security, and children's long-term success. Nearly 1 in 6 California children live with at least one undocumented parent. Children who receive CalFresh do better academically, which improves long-term health and economic outcomes.
- **INVESTING IN FOOD4ALL IS INVESTING IN CALIFORNIA.** Research shows that access to CalFresh improves overall health outcomes of low-income participants and lowers health care costs over the long-term. For example, increased access to CalFresh delivers \$2,100 in annual health care savings per senior enrolled.
- **INCLUSION CREATES A STRONGER CALIFORNIA.** CalFresh has lifted nearly 700,000 Californians out of poverty and provided food access to 4.1 million Californians. Yet, many low-income Californians remain excluded from food benefits due to immigration status requirements. When every Californian has access to food assistance when they need it, our state becomes stronger and more resilient to future economic downturns. **NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCLUSIONS!**

