



## Media Statement

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 29, 2021

**Press Contact:**

Anna Ghosh, [anna@change-llc.com](mailto:anna@change-llc.com) 415-265-1568

Jared Call, [jared@nourishca.org](mailto:jared@nourishca.org) 3232-401-4972

### **Food4All Included in 2021-22 Budget Package**

**California becomes the first state to make a commitment to provide food assistance benefits to undocumented immigrants through a permanent state program**

**Sacramento, Calif**—Today California is a major step closer to being the first state in our nation to stop excluding immigrants from receiving critical food assistance. “We applaud Senator Melissa Hurtado for her leadership on SB 464, Food4All/ComidaParaTodos,” said **Nourish California’s Senior Advocate Jared Call**. “We also want to thank and applaud Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Senate Budget Committee Chair Nancy Skinner, Assembly Budget Committee Chair Phil Ting, and Governor Newsom for including funding in the final state budget package to begin the process of modernizing the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to include all eligible Californians, regardless of immigration status.”

“For over two decades, CIPC and Nourish California have fought for immigrant inclusion in our state’s nutrition safety net by introducing legislation, engaging community partners, and educating lawmakers on the need to address food insecurity among immigrant Californians,” said **Sarah Dar, Health & Public Benefits Policy Director at the California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)**. “We are joined by dozens of our Food4All coalition partners across the state in calling on our elected leaders to dismantle the discrimination built into our food assistance programs and reshape our institutions to ensure that every Californian has the food they need.”

The [2021-22 state budget](#) passed by the Legislature and set to be signed by Governor Newsom this week “funds programming and other costs to prepare to expand CFAP. This possible expansion would help meet the nutrition needs of those who, due to their immigration status, do not qualify for other California food programs.” California is now poised to lead the way by advancing bold policy solutions like Food4All that reject racism and xenophobia by creating an equitable nutrition safety net. We will continue to urge elected leaders in California to permanently remove the immigrant exclusions from our food safety net programs.



We are grateful to state leaders for seizing this historic opportunity to take tangible steps toward ensuring that undocumented immigrants—our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and important members of our California communities— are no longer denied basic food assistance. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, California children in families that include undocumented immigrants were approximately [three to four times more likely to be growing up in families struggling to meet their basic needs](#) than children in non-immigrant families. Food4All will build upon the state’s actions to support immigrant households during and beyond the pandemic by bringing equity to our state’s nutrition safety net.” said **Call**.

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### **About Nourish California**

Founded in 1992 and operating for over a quarter century as California Food Policy Advocates, Nourish California is a nonpartisan, statewide 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We engage in policy advocacy and research at the local, regional, and state levels in California and at the federal level. When our small team isn’t out meeting with communities, partners and policymakers, we can be found in our offices in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego.

### **About CIPC**

The California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) is a statewide immigrant rights organization that supports, promotes, and protects worker’s rights and economic justice, health and public benefits, and integration programs for immigrants. As an Immigrant Rights leader, CIPC successfully combines legislative and policy advocacy, strategic communications, statewide organizing, and regional coalition capacity building to pursue its mission of advocating for policies that uphold the humanity of immigrants and refugees while advancing racial, social, and economic justice.

### **About Food4All: Ensuring ALL California Immigrants Have the Food They Need**

**The Problem:** Adequate nutrition is vital for the health and wellbeing of all people, but many Californians struggle to make ends meet and put food on the table. COVID-19 and the resulting economic crisis have worsened hardship across the state, and our immigrant communities are among the hardest hit. CalFresh is a critical lifeline for millions of low-income Californians; but many immigrants are unjustly and explicitly excluded from CalFresh and our state-funded California Food Assistance Program (CFAP). Our State can only thrive when no one is left out.

**The Solution:** *No Exceptions. No Exclusions.* Access to CalFresh/CFAP means access to opportunity; it reduces hunger, improves health, and lifts people out of poverty. Federal laws exclude undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and certain visa holders from CalFresh, but California has a long history of recognizing that immigrants are an essential part of our state and has the power to make CFAP more inclusive. Now is the time for California to champion bold policies and put forth a different vision for our nation, one where all Californians—regardless of immigration status—have the food they need. Learn more at [bit.ly/f4a2021](https://bit.ly/f4a2021).