The Problem: Food Insecurity Harms Everyone
Food insecurity continues to harm the health and well-being of millions of Californians today. Recent public health and economic crises exacerbated food insecurity and hardship across the state, and immigrant communities are among the hardest hit. While CalFresh and the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) provide a critical lifeline for millions of Californians with low income, these programs exclude many Californians on the basis of their immigration status.

California immigrants experience high levels of food insecurity as a result of racial and economic disparities and xenophobic exclusions within our state’s safety net programs. Immigrants are more likely to live in poverty and children in immigrant families are three to four times more likely to struggle to meet their basic needs. Many immigrants will continue to experience poverty and food insecurity while these exclusions remain in place.

Solution: Provide Food Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status
CalFresh and CFAP have been proven to reduce hunger, improve health, and mitigate poverty. Between 2013 and 2017, CalFresh kept 828,000 people out of poverty in California, including 418,000 children, per year. By eliminating the exclusion of income-eligible undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and certain visa holders from CFAP, we will strengthen California’s food safety net and build upon California’s growing movement towards immigrant inclusion. California has the power to make our food safety net more equitable and inclusive. Now is the time for California to champion equitable policies that dismantle racist and xenophobic exclusions, and invest in bolstering healthy communities and families in our state.

Learn more at act.nourishca.org