

# FOOD4ALL SB 464 (HURTADO) & **BUDGET REQUEST (SANTIAGO)** No Exceptions. No Exclusions.

### 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.



#### **TAKE ACTION**

The 2021-22 state budget includes funding to prepare for implementation of Food4All by ensuring system readiness of the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP).

Join us in securing a longterm investment to provide CFAP nutrition benefits to all Californians who are ineligible for CalFresh due to their immigration status. By investing in Food4All, we can ensure that every Californian has the food they need.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS

Food fuels more than just our bodies; a long-term investment in Food4All will fuel healthy communities and our local economies across the state. When every person has the food they need, California can be a more resilient, thriving state.

## CONTACT

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