



## Food4All: SB 245 (Hurtado)/AB 311 (Santiago) & Budget Request

*No exceptions. No exclusions. No delays.*

### **Problem:** Food Insecurity is an Urgent Issue

The COVID-19 pandemic and the rising cost of food due to inflation have worsened hardships across the state, particularly among undocumented immigrants with low incomes. According to data from the [California Health Interview Survey \(CHIS\)](#), 45% of undocumented Californians and 64% of undocumented children are currently affected by food insecurity. While CalFresh provides a critical lifeline for millions of Californians with low incomes, many immigrants in California continue to be excluded. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, these programs exclude between 580,000 to 670,000 Californians ages 0-54 on the basis of their immigration status.

The 2022-23 State Budget includes funding to end the exclusion of income-eligible immigrants ages 55+ from accessing CalFresh food benefits. However, the Governor's proposed 2023-2024 budget delays the implementation date to 2027, which would prevent this historic investment from reaching an [estimated 75,000 Californians](#) and their families who are currently in need of essential food benefits. While we appreciate this first step towards Food4All, immigrants are struggling right now and can't afford to wait to receive this assistance.

### **Solution:** Provide Food Benefits to All Californians, Regardless of Immigration Status

The Food4All proposal will expand access to CalFresh to income-eligible California immigrants, regardless of age or immigration status. CalFresh stimulates and stabilizes the economy. CalFresh has [been proven](#) to reduce hunger, improve health, and mitigate poverty. [Research](#) shows that access to CalFresh improves overall health outcomes of Californians with low incomes and lowers health care costs over the long term. Between 2013 and 2017, participating in CalFresh kept 828,000 people out of poverty in California, including 418,000 children, per year.

Our state leaders have the power to make our food safety net more equitable and inclusive. However, undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and certain visa holders are currently excluded from CalFresh, due to their immigration status. By removing immigrant exclusions, we can strengthen California's food safety net and build upon California's growing movement towards immigrant inclusion. Delaying the expansion of CalFresh for immigrant adults ages 55+ only exacerbates hunger and deepens hardships. **By investing in Food4All immediately, we can ensure that every Californian has the food they urgently need.**



### **TAKE ACTION**

Join us in securing a long-term investment to provide food benefits to all income-eligible Californians who are ineligible for CalFresh due to their immigration status, with a timely implementation date.

### **WHY THIS MATTERS**

Nobody should experience hunger because of their immigration status. No exceptions! No exclusions! No delays!

### **CONTACT**

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