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.