



2024 State Administrative Agenda

Food4All: CFAP Expansion

Many immigrants are excluded from CalFresh and the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) due solely to their immigration status. In 2022, state funding was secured to [expand the CFAP](#) to income-eligible California immigrants aged 55 and older, regardless of immigration status, beginning October 2025. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) CFAP Bureau is leading the implementation of this expansion and is facilitating three ongoing advisory workgroups, where advocates and community members can share feedback on implementation deliverables and processes. This policy change, championed by the [Food4All Campaign](#), will make California the first state in the nation to establish food benefits for undocumented people.

ACTION: In partnership with the California Immigrant Policy Center and the Food4All Coalition, work with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) CFAP Bureau to ensure an inclusive implementation of expanded CFAP eligibility that equitably serves and reaches all income-eligible California immigrants ages 55 and older.

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All Californians deserve access to nutritious food and other basic needs.

Our team at Nourish California is working with the state legislature, the Newsom administration, partners, and community members to secure bold actions that tackle the alarming, persistent rates of hunger and hardship across our state.

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Summer EBT

The Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer EBT) helps ensure continued access to nutritional support typically provided through school meals when school is out during the summer months.. Summer EBT was established as a new permanent federal program in 2023. California has opted to participate during the summer of 2024, the earliest permissible date. This new program can help fight [higher rates](#) of food insecurity in children experienced during the summer. Nourish California's priority is to collaborate with partners, community members,



and state agencies, to ensure the prompt, effective, and equitable implementation of Summer EBT in 2024 and beyond. In addition, Nourish California supports the development of an effective statewide application or alternative forms that provide access to Summer EBT to all eligible children who are not automatically enrolled in the program. This will ensure that 4.8 million eligible children in California have access to nutrition support during the summer months.

ACTION: In partnership with state and local partners and community members, work with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the California Department of Education (CDE) to support the full implementation of Summer EBT in California.

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ESAP Waiver for Minor Children

The rate of food insecurity for grandparent-headed households is at [25 percent](#), which is 60 percent higher than the rate for all households with children. The [ESAP demonstration project waivers](#) have helped simplify CalFresh access for older adults and people with disabilities with no earned income. However, our state can go further, as other states have, and also include households with children in the ESAP, which would expand the number of ESAP-eligible households. The inclusion of children allows households headed by older adults or people with disabilities that have minor dependents to enroll under ESAP, significantly expanding the number of households that have a lower administrative burden, and lowering state and county administrative costs per Non-Assistance CalFresh case.

ACTION: Work with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to amend the state's ESAP waivers to include households with minor children so that many more households can experience an easier process to apply for and stay connected to CalFresh.

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CalFresh Monthly Income Multiplier

California ranks third from last among all states in connecting the working poor with SNAP/CalFresh at a [59 percent participation rate](#). California can do more as residents continue to struggle with the lingering impacts of the pandemic and higher cost of food. The state should explore every option to increase CalFresh participation by reducing barriers and boosting benefits. The current monthly income multiplier is an example of a client-unfriendly policy that does not center CalFresh participants. It is administratively complex and unfairly reduces monthly benefit amounts for CalFresh and CalWORKS participants. The state can make changes to the monthly income multiplier to significantly increase CalFresh benefits for many households, as well as provide higher grant amounts for some CalWORKS families. By using the most client-friendly option when calculating monthly income, a one or two person household working 20 hours per week at \$15 per hour would see their monthly benefit increase by \$24.

ACTION: Nourish California urges the state to exercise the most client-friendly option when calculating monthly income. Specifically, lower the CalWORKS/CalFresh monthly income multiplier from 4.33 weekly and 2.167 biweekly multipliers to a 4.0 weekly and 2.0 biweekly multiplier that would increase CalFresh benefits for many working households.

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Black/African American Task Force

The Black/African American Task Force addresses critical findings from our [statewide yearly survey and focus group](#) by highlighting the ways Black/African American Californians face bias and discrimination when applying for and staying connected to CalFresh. These barriers to access have lasting effects on how Black individuals interact with the state's safety net, profoundly affecting their health, food, and housing security.

Task Force goals include:

1. In-Depth Analysis of Black Immigrant Community

- a. By identifying nuanced experiences and challenges Black Californians face within the CalFresh system, we aim to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the Black diaspora which includes a diverse immigrant community, which is often multifaceted and under engaged. This presents an opportunity to delve deeper into their unique experiences in greater depth.

2. Recommendation for Policy Solutions

- a. Collaborative creation of policy solutions. Through collaborative partnerships, develop actionable strategies to address and mitigate identified biases and discriminatory practices. Craft recommendations aimed at fostering equitable access to essential resources that will inform the state's innovative approach to improvements in customer service and improving the overall CalFresh system.

ACTION: Work with the Task Force to identify and highlight barriers to access for Black/African American community. Together, produce recommendations for policy solutions to address bias and discrimination within our CalFresh system.

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