The current justice system makes successful transitions back to community more difficult, which has long-term effects on both the individual and their community. Those who are formerly incarcerated or with a household member who has been incarcerated are more likely to experience hunger. SB 1254 establishes pre-enrollment of incarcerated people in CalFresh, helping reduce food insecurity during reentry.

More than four in five of those who have been incarcerated, or have a household member who has been, say they often or sometimes worried about running out of food in the past year.

84% worry about running out of food compared to 76% of respondents overall. 78% have actually run out of food compared to 67% of respondents overall.

Those who have been incarcerated, or have a household member who has been incarcerated, rank support paying for food, housing and utilities as very helpful.

- 86% said that support paying for food would be extremely or very helpful
- 81% say the same for support paying for utilities
- 80% say assistance with their rent or mortgage would be extremely or very helpful.

“The majority of Californians who have been impacted by the legal system, including myself, have felt a lot of shame as we’ve returned to our communities without a clear plan…

An essential element of reducing this destructive cycle is access to the food individuals need to thrive.”

Alissa Moore, Policy and Community Advocate

One-third of this population say they have experienced discrimination when applying for CalFresh. This decreases how likely they are to apply for public benefits in the future, or even finish their current application.

Transitions are hard. Food helps. Support SB 1254!

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Read the full memo here