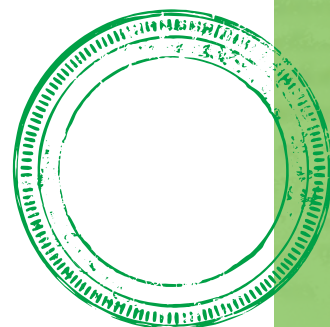


2025 CALFRESH FORUM AGENDA

- 8:00 am **Registration & continental breakfast**
- 9:30 am Welcome remarks
- 9:45 am **Freshy Award Ceremony**
- 10:45 am *Break*
- 11:05 am **Breakout Session, Round 1**
- 11:50 am *Break*
- 12:00 pm **Breakout Session, Round 2**
- 12:45 pm *Break*
- 12:55 pm **Lunch**
- 1:55 pm *Break*
- 2:05 pm **California at the Crossroads: Federal
Decisions, Local Impact**
- 2:50 pm Breakout Session, Round 3 + Office Hours
with Emmie: Turning Insight into Action
- 3:35 pm *Break*
- 3:45 pm Closing
- 4 pm **End**



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The Role of Promotoras and Community leaders in food justice (Spanish Session)

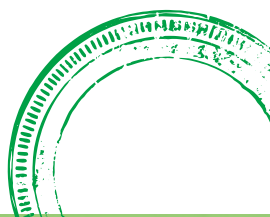
(Session will be offered in Spanish with English Interpretation) In this workshop, participants will engage in a conversation with promotoras in how to build trust in the community, while combating disinformation, fear and lack of trust to government entities after the proposed federal and state cuts and changes (including the exclusions) to social programs like Cal-Fresh and the recent personal data access.

From Trauma to Trust: Increasing CalFresh Enrollment and Rebuilding Communities through Schools

Schools across the nation are becoming one of the last trusted institutions in our society. Closer to home, schools are proving that they can be one-stop-shop for community and family resources and legislation is slowly paving a way to strengthen this system. In this session, you'll hear directly from three trailblazing program leaders who have pioneered creative ways to bridge the gap between CalFresh outreach and schools—from formal contracts with government agencies to technical assistance on application intakes. Each speaker will share the practical strategies, partnerships and best practices that has impacted their school nutrition program and overall community. You'll leave with new tools, peer-tested approaches and inspiration to strengthen and expand your own CalFresh outreach by going to school.

CalFresh, School Meals, and Hungry Kids

At this time when CalFresh benefits are being restricted, the school meal programs, which are offered in California without charge to every student, can help make up some of the nutritional loss and stretch family food budgets. How can we raise awareness of and participation in the school meal programs?



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Translating Regional Food Data into Action: Insights from the Los Angeles Food Policy Council

Join the Los Angeles Food Policy Council for an interactive session on translating regional food system data into actionable strategies. Using insights from our State of Good Food Report, we will explore how data can inform equitable CalFresh implementation, identify neighborhood-level gaps, and advance regional food justice. Participants will share their experiences with data, discuss challenges, and co-imagine new approaches to leverage data for meaningful systems change.

Voices from Campus: Strengthening CalFresh Access

This panel will center student voices and Basic Needs staff insights on navigating CalFresh access, highlighting effective outreach, county partnerships, and the CHC Resource Hub. Attendees will explore the LPIE exemption, real-world student scenarios, and strategies for student-centered implementation.

Breaking Bread, Building Power: Food Access with Dignity

Food is more than fuel-- it's identity, memory, and community. This session explores how food justice is tied to housing stability, migrant rights, and educational equity. Through storytelling, reflection, and hands-on activity, we'll explore how to create food systems that honor culture and uphold dignity—while feeding movements for change.

Rooted Rhythms: Movement, Joy, and Belonging for CalFresh Outreach

In this interactive session, participants will experience a dance- and movement-based workshop grounded in joy, cultural connection, and accessibility. Together, we'll explore how the rhythms of our bodies and communities can inspire nourishment and belonging and how we can carry that energy into our CalFresh outreach and organizing.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Survival in the Shadows: Homelessness, Food Insecurity, and the Role of Community Support

This panel will explore how homelessness, lack of resources, and food insecurity intersect to impact survival. It will feature two case workers and a client experiencing homelessness, providing first-hand insights into navigating government programs such as CalFresh, shelters, and food assistance initiatives.

Older Adults in Rural Communities: Nourishment With Dignity

Older adults living in rural communities face unique barriers to food security. Limited income, distance from grocery stores, and lack of access to affordable, culturally relevant foods all contribute to hunger and poor nutrition. This session will explore these challenges and invite discussion on why they matter — not only for the health and dignity of older adults, but also for the resilience of rural communities as a whole.

Breaking through cultural barriers, preconceptions, and challenges

Stigma and preconceptions around safety net programs unfortunately still play a huge part within people's experiences in accessing CalFresh and other similar benefits. In this joint panel, we'll talk about our perspectives of how societal barriers impact students, single parents, and broader groups in their abilities to access food. We will also share opportunities to promote awareness, normalize the conversation, and encourage communities to seek the help they need.

