

Los Angeles Food Policy Council



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





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LOS ANGELES FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

INTRODUCTIONS



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WHAT WE DO

The LAFPC serves as a backbone organization for a vast network of over 400 organizations and agencies that work towards healthy, sustainable, and fair food.



CULTIVATE

Connect changemakers across the food system through events, working groups & civic engagement

COORDINATE

Guide & align efforts through research, policy, and training to maximize impact

CATALYZE

Drive policy change & launch innovative initiatives tackling food insecurity & sustainability



AGENDA

- Step 1: Identifying the Data Gap
 - Example: State of Good Food 2025
- Step 2: Translating Research to Practice
 - Example: Good Food for All Agenda
- Step 3: Translating Insights into Advocacy
 - Example: Calfresh Healthy Living
 - Example: Calfresh College Edition







"DATA WITHOUT PRACTICE IS POTENTIAL; PRACTICE WITHOUT DATA IS GUESSWORK."



TRANSLATING DATA INTO PRACTICE

Step 1: Identifying the Data Gap

- Use regional food data to reveal inequities and underrepresented groups
- Identify opportunities for targeted intervention or program design
- Ground analysis in lived experiences and local context



THE STATE OF GOOD FOOD IN LA

Goals:

- Evaluate Progress & Gaps: Assess the regional food system's evolution over the past decade
- Inform Action: Guide policymakers and stakeholders with data-driven insights for equitable food policies



VALUES

The State of Good Food in Los
Angeles: A Decade in Review is
organized into unique sections
based on the five Good Food values,
policy tracking and network
research.

















METHODS

Comprehensive 10-Year Review of LA's food system, building on the 2013 Food System Snapshot:

- Reliable Data Sources: Government databases, business records, research studies, and partner organizations
- Beyond the Numbers: Includes expert insights & case studies to add context to data

Not an Impact Report: A tool for understanding shifting food system conditions, not causal relationships



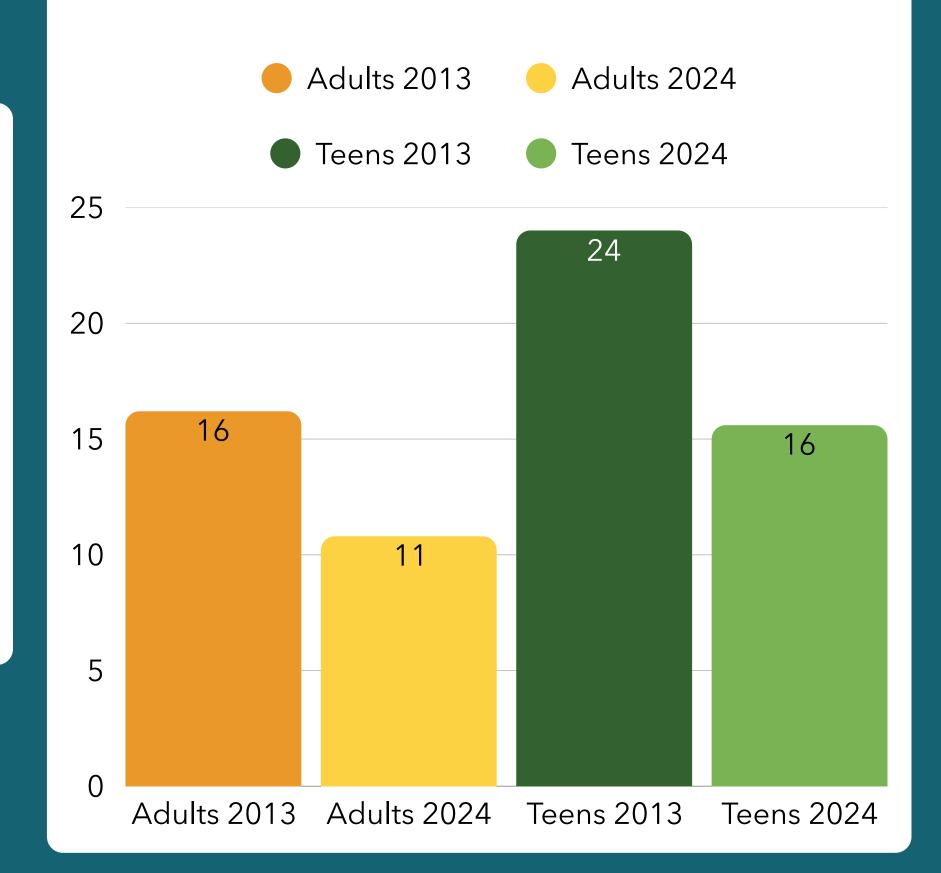


Health Disparities Persist

- Low-income communities & communities of color face higher rates of diet-related health conditions
 - Chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol remain prevalent.

Shifting Dietary Habits

Fruit & veggie intake in percentages:







DATA HIGHIS

INDICATOR 2013 2017 2020 2024

FOOD CONSUMPTION IN LA COUNTY

Adults who consume 5+ servings of fruit and vegetables/day	16.2%	14.7%	12.1%	10.8%
Teens who consume 5+ servings of fruit and vegetables/day	24.1%	26.7%	32.4%	15.6%
Children (2-11) who consume 5+ servings of fruit and vegetables/day	25.8%	31.2%	24.6%	26.2%
Adults and children who consume fast food at least once/week	68.5%	71.5%	72.5%	not updated
Adults who drink at least one soda or sweetened drink/day	35.5%	31.4%	not updated	35.1%
Children who drink at least one soda or sweetened drink/day	38.3%	39.2%	37.2%	34.6%



Food Affordability & Safety Net Programs

66% in 2013



74% in 2024

LA County adults report fruits and vegetables are more affordable

Programs like CalFresh (SNAP) & WIC support millions



48%

of low-income households struggle to afford enough food

OVER 50%

of families living below the poverty line report not being able to afford enough food in 2024, compared to 40% of families just above the poverty line



DATA HIGHLIGHTS

INDICATOR	2013	2017	2020	2024		
FOOD INSECURITY						
All households (LA County)	30.6%	29.2%	26.8%	25.4%		
Households living at 0- 99% Federal Poverty Line	40.8%	41.1%	37.1%	52.8%		
Households living at 100- 199% Federal Poverty Line	28.7%	25.4%	25.9%	41.4%		
Households living at 200- 299% Federal Poverty Line	15.2%	13.7%	13.0%	27.5%		
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE AFFORDABILITY						
Adults living at 0-199% Federal Poverty Line	65.9%	66.5%	70.1%	74.2%		
All Adults	76.5%	75.7%	79.2%	80.8%		
CALFRESH PARTICIPATION						
LA County's CalFresh participation rate as a proportion of the total participation across all California counties	21.0%	27.3%	18.7%	18.0%		
INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN WIC						
Total Women, Infant, and Children	521,614	387,389	279,178	268,073		

STEP 2: RESEARCH TO PRACTICE GOALS

- Demonstrate measurable outcomes of data-informed advocacy
- Inform decision-making at city, county, and state levels through evidence-based recommendations
- Strengthen local infrastructure to ensure equitable food access and distribution





GOOD FOOD FOR ALL AGENDA

Embracing the future of food



2017: Building the Foundation

- Collected county-wide and community-based data on food access, environment, and equity
- Identified shared priorities: healthy food for all, fair jobs, environmental stewardship
- Co-created the original Good Food for All Agenda (2010) with diverse partners and advocates

2025: From Data to Action

- Translate findings into actionable recommendations for city, county, and state policy
- Engage communities and coalitions to refresh priorities and advance equitable food systems
- Inform measurable outcomes through data-driven advocacy and systems change



GOOD FOOD FOR ALL AGENDA

Embracing the future of food

PROMOTE A GOOD FOOD ECONOMY FOR ALL

CREATE A
CULTURE SHIFT
FOR GOOD FOOD

ELIMINATE FOOD
WASTE AND
RECLAIM THE
RESOURCE

ELIMINATE HUNGER

STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY AND REGENERATION DEEPEN THE
IMPACT OF THE
GOOD FOOD
MOVEMENT





STEP 3: TRANSLATING INSIGHTS INTO ADVOCACY

- •Use findings to develop clear, actionable recommendations
- •Translate complex data into accessible storytelling
- Partner with organizations and community leaders to amplify impact





TRANSLATING INSIGHT INTO ADVOCACY: SAVING SNAP-ED IN LA

The Research

Calfresh Healthy Living - evidenced-based health promotion programming

- Fruit and veggie consumption
- sugary beverage consumption

\$1 of SNAP = \$10 saved in future health care cost

The Advocacy

- Data (USDA/DPH)+ Storytelling (Partners)+ Coordinated engagement strategy (LAFPC)
- Centering lived experience
 - 18 organizations
 - Program participants

\$10M of local Care First Community Investment funding approved on 10/16!

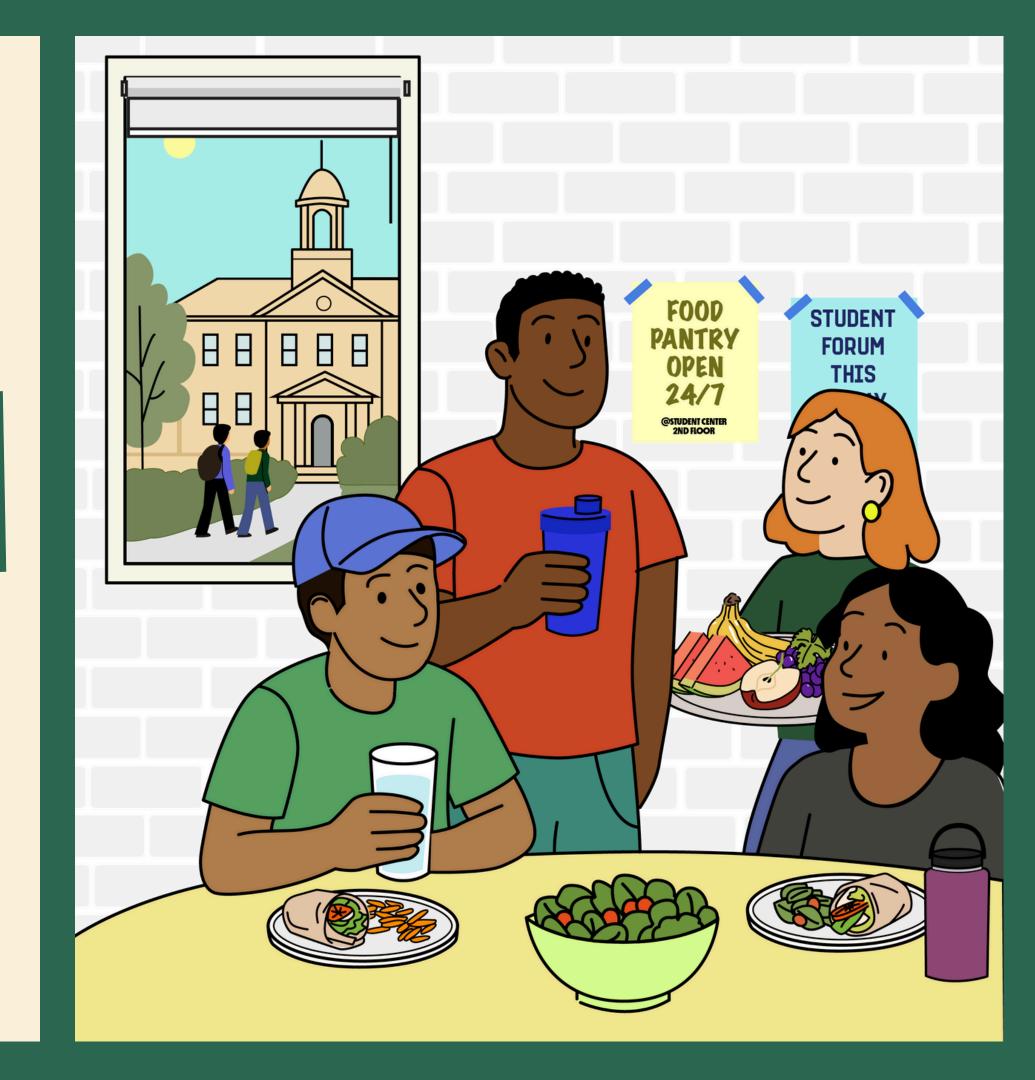




FRESHIDEAS

FOR CALFRESH:

College Edition



PRIMARY DATA

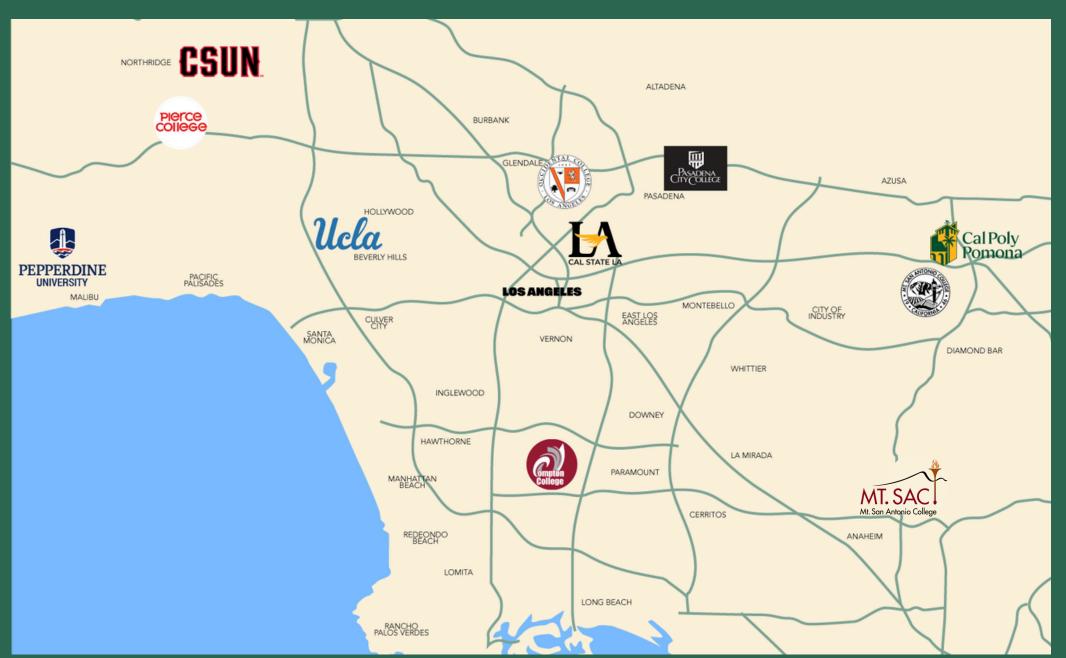
Sample: CalFresh Data Gathered from Students Across 10 Universities

LAFPC collaborated with ten higher education institutions across three categories:

- 4 Community colleges
- 2 Private institutions
- 4- Public institutions

Trained 34 Calfresh College Champions

Champions reached 346 students







CalFresh Champion: Corina Iredale Major: Deaf Studies School: California State University, Northridge





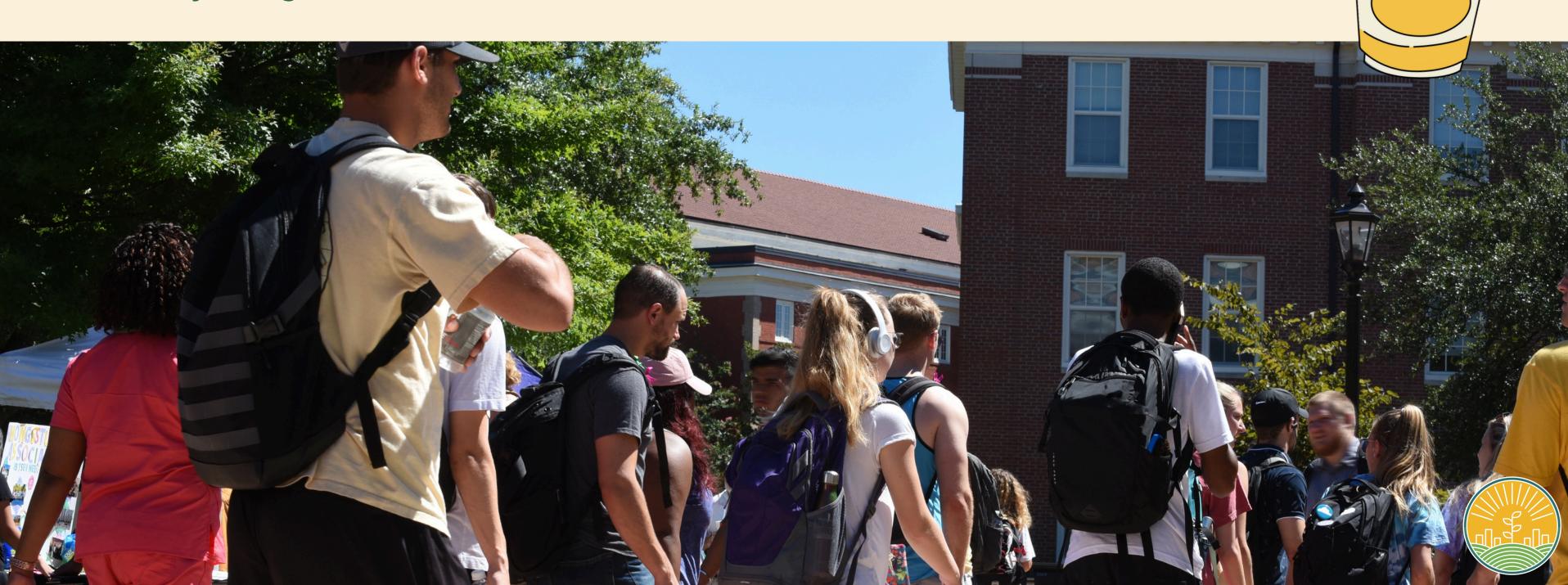
RECOMMENDATIONS

Food insecurity does not affect all college students in the same way. The structure, resources, and student demographics of different types of higher education institutions shape both the challenges students face and the best strategies for addressing them.

Community Colleges

Private Institutions

Public Universities



TRANSLATING INSIGHT INTO ADVOCACY: IMPROVING CALFRESH ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES - IMPLEMENTATION

The Research

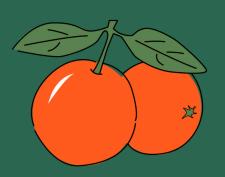
- 60.8% of surveyed students reported food insecurity
- Many have not applied for Calfresh due to perceived ineligibility (19%) or not knowing how to apply (11.4%)
- Disagregating by institutions type is important:
 - Calfresh helps meet my needs (74%) Community colleges (88.5%), Private (48.5%) Public (69.0%)]
 - 62.2% of students felt their college was doing a good or somewhat good job addressing food insecurity. Community colleges: 77.9%, Private institutions: 18.9%, Public institutions: 67.4%

The Advocacy

- Activate students similarly, devise improvement recommendations by institution type
 - Bridge CBO + Institution connections
 - Engage 15 student leaders across 5 LA colleges - research/advocacy
 - Implement at least 3 institutional policy or systems changes to improve Calfresh on campuses



TOOLS FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE



- Collaboration: Build cross-sector partnerships to share data and insight
- Data Equity: Ensure inclusivity and representation in datasets
- Storytelling: Communicate data through narratives that resonate with policymakers
- Continuous Learning: Track impact and iterate on data-driven strategies









THANKYOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR SUPPORT OF