



# Why is SNAP (CalFresh) important to Marin?

SNAP, known as CalFresh in California, is our nation's first line of defense against hunger. With the other federal programs including the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs, TEFAP, WIC and others, the nutrition safety net reduces hunger and poverty, improves health and learning, increases productivity, creates jobs, and invests in the future of our communities.

**1 in 8 Californians** suffers from food insecurity,<sup>1</sup> and **23% of California children** live in food insecure households.<sup>2</sup>

**We ask every California Member of Congress to protect and strengthen the federal nutrition programs. Every Californian should have access to the food they need to live healthy and productive lives.**

## SNAP Benefits

SNAP brought **\$16,810,000** in 100% federally funded benefits to Marin County in 2016.<sup>3</sup>

As those benefits circulated in the County, they created approximately **\$30 million in total economic activity**.<sup>4</sup>

These benefits support some **168 jobs** by providing markets for farmers and customers for retailers.<sup>4</sup>

## SNAP Participation

SNAP benefits go to **9,800 people** in Marin - 4 percent of everyone who lives in the County.<sup>3</sup>

**59%** of all Marin SNAP recipients are children, and **16%** are seniors.<sup>5</sup>

## Lost Dollars

In 2016, SNAP reached just **45% of everyone eligible** in Marin.<sup>5</sup>

If SNAP reached 100% of those eligible, Marin would annually see an additional **\$22 million** in benefits, and **\$39 million** in total economic activity.<sup>6</sup>

Nationwide, federal nutrition programs provide **19 of every 20 emergency meals** - private charity could never address the need for food.

**1 in 20 bags of groceries comes from a charitable organization. Federal nutrition programs provide the rest.**<sup>7</sup>



<sup>1</sup> USDA Economic Research Service, 2013-15 average. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/err215/err-215.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Kids Data, Lucile Packard Foundation, 2014. <http://www.kidsdata.org/topic/764/food-insecurity/bar#fmt=1168&loc=1,2&tf=79&sort=loc>

<sup>3</sup> California Budget & Policy Center. <http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/calfresh-reduces-hunger-every-county-california-changes-federal-level-cut-benefits/>

<sup>4</sup> USDA Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>

<sup>5</sup> California Department of Social Services. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/res/pdf/Dashboard/2016/CountyDashboardApr-Jun16.xls>

<sup>6</sup> California Food Policy Advocates. <http://cfpa.net/CalFresh/CFPAPublications/LDEP-FullReport-2016.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Bread for the World Institute. <http://www.bread.org/library/infographic-1-20-grocery-bags>