



# CalFood Program

## Fight Hunger in California—Fund Calfood at \$17.5 million!

**One in seven Californians – including more than 2 million children – faces hunger, for whom food banks are a critical source of nutrition. Even among CalFresh recipients, one-third visit food banks.**<sup>1</sup>

Established in 2011, the CalFood Program is currently funded at \$2M for 2016-17. CalFood strengthens our emergency food network by enabling California food banks to purchase California grown foods. This is vital support as our food banks experience high demand, complicated by the state’s severe drought emergency, and the uneven, low-wage economic recovery.

### Reduce Hunger Effectively

**Funding CalFood at \$17.5 million enables California food banks to provide roughly 50 million meals for those who need it most.** CalFood uses existing CDSS infrastructure which efficiently administers federal TEFAP food, disaster food, and tax check-off donations to the Emergency Food for Families Fund to each of the 58 counties.

Peer State Investments in Emergency Food Assistance				
State	Annual State Emergency Food Funding <sup>2</sup>	Food Insecure Persons <sup>3</sup>	Annual Expenditure Per Person	SNAP Participation Rate <sup>4</sup>
Massachusetts	\$15.03 million	767,550	\$19.59	95%
New York	\$34.5 million	2,739,920	\$12.59	86%
Ohio	\$19.2 million	1,951,880	\$9.84	96%
Pennsylvania	\$17.8 million	1,808,660	\$9.84	90%
New Jersey	\$6.8 million	1,101,750	\$6.17	76%
Washington	\$6.05 million	1,017,900	\$5.94	100%
Texas	\$2.9 million	4,653,290	\$0.62	77%
<b>California</b>	<b>\$2 million</b>	<b>5,731,740</b>	<b>\$.35</b>	<b>66%</b>

### Support California Agriculture & Local Economies

**CalFood funds must be used to purchase and distribute foods grown or produced in California, benefiting our agricultural sector.** CalFood funding also increases economic activity by providing food for families in need who are able to spend precious dollars on non-food items in our communities.

The national food bank network Feeding America estimates that at the retail cost for food, it would take \$3 billion annually to end hunger in California.<sup>2</sup> Food banks leverage tremendous economies of scale, however, and could provide these missing meals at a fraction of that cost, approximately \$325 million annually.

### We ask that California fight hunger & support our farmers by investing \$10M in CalFood

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<sup>1</sup> USDA Economic Research Service. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/detail.aspx?chartId=56777&ref=collection>.

<sup>2</sup> Compiled from each state’s EFAP funding data.

<sup>3</sup> Feeding America. Map the Meal Gap. <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> USDA. State SNAP Participation Rates in 2013. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/ops/Reaching2013.pdf>