



**SF-MARIN**  
FOOD BANK

## SNAP/CalFresh and Covid-19

The San Francisco-Marín Food Bank and our partners will continue to need additional food and funds from the government to help meet increased need, but the single most important thing we can do to put money into the hands of people who need to purchase food is to increase the SNAP maximum benefit by 15 percent for the duration of the economic downturn.

According to a recent analysis by Feeding America, the pandemic has the potential to drive an additional 17.1 million Americans into food insecurity, many for the first time. This represents a 46 percent increase from the 37 million who were food insecure prior to the outbreak of the pandemic. For every meal provided by our food banks, SNAP provides nine — there is simply no way that our network can make up for the unparalleled strength of SNAP to increase food security and stimulate local economies.

## Food Insecurity in California and Covid-19

In California alone, 6,362,000 Californians are projected to face hunger this year, many for the first time — an increase of 2,070,000 people because of the pandemic. This would increase the rate of food insecurity by 48 percent raising the rate of food insecurity in California to 16.1 percent.

## Increase SNAP Benefits to Help Californians

Every dollar spent in SNAP benefits helps generate between **\$1.50 and \$1.80** in economic activity. Increasing the SNAP maximum benefit by **15 percent** would stimulate California's economy and ensure Californians facing hunger have access to the meals they need.

## Support California Food Banks

The 41 food banks serving CA communities are seeing historic increases in demand for our services, even as donations wane and supply chain challenges impact our operations. To continue to serve Californians as this crisis continues, we expect to need additional TEFAP food and administrative funding.

### As Congress works on additional legislation to help families weather this crisis, we recommend:

- **Increasing SNAP benefits for all recipients** by increasing the thrifty food plan by at least 15 percent for as long as the economy is weak to help promote economic stimulus and push against the economic downturn.
- **Increasing the SNAP minimum benefit** from \$16 to \$30 to help individuals impacted by COVID19, particularly seniors, for the duration of the economic downturn.
- **Increase TEFAP food and administrative funding.**