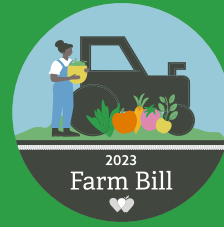


THE 2023 FARM BILL

The Farm Bill is federal legislation that sets our nation's food and farm priorities for the next 5 years. It drives funding for critical nutrition safety net programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, CalFresh in California). In fact, nutrition assistance made up 80% of the spending from the last Farm Bill.

The 2023 Farm Bill is the federal government's best opportunity to strengthen our supply chain and ensure low-income people across the country can put food on the table. The San Francisco-Marín Food Bank is advocating for continued support for the proven, reliable, and effective anti-hunger tools our community needs.



Farm Bill Timeline



2022:

Farm Bill hearings began



2023:

Committees vote on specific proposals for the Bill



2024:

Farm Bill enacted

Our Priorities: The Farm Bill and Food Security



SNAP puts money for food directly into people's pockets. For every 1 meal provided by a food bank, SNAP provides 9.

- **Increase benefit allotments:** current allotments just aren't enough for most recipients. 40% of people receiving SNAP also rely on food banks to stock their fridges.
- **Expand overall access** by repealing restrictions like time limits on benefits and making communities currently locked out eligible for assistance.
- **Make pandemic-era flexibilities permanent** so people in need of food support don't have to jump through unnecessary administrative hoops to get it.



The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program where the USDA purchases produce and other food from American farmers and distributes it to food banks across the nation.

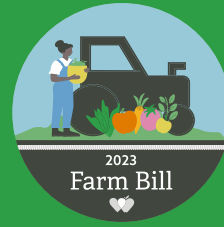
- **Increase TEFAP funding**, which peaked in October 2020, providing 3.9 million pounds of food to the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank and has since dwindled to an average of 531,000 pounds per month – an 86% decrease.
- **Continue funding programs** that support Black, Indigenous, and other socially disadvantaged farmers, while meeting local needs and investing in local food economies.



The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) supplements the diets of people age 60+ with shelf-stable foods purchased by the USDA, improving seniors' health and overall wellbeing.

- **Raise income guidelines** beyond the current threshold of 130% of the federal poverty level so more seniors can access nutritious food.
- **Reauthorize and expand access** so people with disabilities who are under 60 years old are eligible to receive CSFP, and ensure that this vital assistance program will continue for another 5 years.

THE IMPACT OF FUNDING FOOD ASSISTANCE



“ I get CalFresh every month. The great thing is they increased the benefits during the pandemic, so I could set myself up better. And I can make the money go further if I shop at a farmer's market, where they'll match your food stamp money. I still go to the food bank, but it's a huge help.

- Scott, SoMa resident and CalFresh recipient

“ I pick up groceries from the food pantry in San Rafael on Tuesdays, and the rest I buy with my food stamps. In February [before the end of pandemic-era emergency allotments], I received \$211 in CalFresh benefits. Now, I'll receive at most \$29. Everything is so expensive: beef, chicken, eggs. We won't have food – it's an injustice.

- Gladys, senior living in Marin County and CalFresh recipient

Funding these programs is absolutely essential to ensuring our communities thrive, rather than just survive.

- Every **\$1** spent on SNAP generates as much as **\$1.80** during an economic downturn, according to a [USDA study](#)
- **1 in 9** Californians rely on SNAP/CalFresh to put food on the table
- **10,000** older adults rely on CSFP in San Francisco and Marin
- **500 K** meals are distributed to San Francisco and Marin families every month thanks to TEFAP

“ SNAP and other safety net programs are incredible, but inadequate to combat the high levels of food insecurity in our communities. It's essential that we don't make these programs even weaker. **Reducing barriers during the pandemic made it easier for people to access these critical programs. We know what works – let's not go backwards.**

- Meg Davidson, Dir. of Policy and Advocacy, San Francisco-Marin Food Bank

Our Priorities: The Farm Bill and Food Security

- **Learn more** about the Farm Bill
- **Share stories** about how Farm Bill-funded programs impact you, your family, or those you serve
- **Stay tuned** for advocacy opportunities as the Farm Bill is developed

TOGETHER, WE CAN END HUNGER IN SAN FRANCISCO AND MARIN

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