



## Reimagining Solutions to End Hunger

While it is heartening to see that **96% of our participants worry less about getting enough food thanks to the Food Bank**, as we look to the future, we know to truly end hunger we must not only address the hunger we see today but also its root causes. Together with our community, participants, partners, and supporters, we are co-creating, piloting, and evaluating equity-centered solutions that provide quality nutritious food, reduce barriers, and increase access and choice.

### This Year



#### Growing Community Capacity

Provide one-time funding to help partners who closed during the pandemic reopen and partners who remained open expand to serve even more neighbors.



#### Community Markets

Work with our partners to open community markets that provide dignified food choice and access to wrap around services.



#### Grassroots Advocacy

Test new ways of engaging in grassroots advocacy to amplify the voices of participants and partners in changing policies that contribute to hunger.

The Food Bank has been on the front lines of fighting hunger for decades. Which is precisely why we know that food banks alone cannot solve the hunger crisis. We need community, we need partnership, and we need fellow advocates.

**Together, we can end hunger.**



# Hunger Report 2023

“IT GIVES YOU A BENEFIT THAT’S GREATER THAN JUST FOOD—IT MAGNIFIES YOUR LIFE IN ALL THESE POSITIVE WAYS.

“Having food available for people gives them a chance to get their life back on track.

“FOOD MEANS NUTRITION. FOOD MEANS ENERGY, FOOD MEANS LOVE.

“I see that everything is **so expensive**: beef, chicken, eggs.

“THE KIDS ARE REALLY HUNGRY, SO WE NEED A LOT OF FOOD EVERY DAY.

“It’s hard to change your life when **nobody’s helping** you...

“FOOD MEANS SOMEONE’S LOOKING OUT FOR YOU AND TAKING CARE OF YOU.

“**People are struggling with jobs, housing and food.**

QUOTES FROM VARIOUS FOOD BANK PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND STAFF

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# Rising Prices & Declining Support

**Nearly 25% of American adults are food insecure**<sup>1</sup>, up five percentage points from a year earlier. In just one year we went from one in five to one in four people in this country worried about how they will feed their family. Inflation, a roll back of SNAP (CalFresh in CA) benefits, and the rising cost of housing and childcare have put a strain on families.

To learn more about how these challenges are affecting our community, the Food Bank surveyed more than 9,000 of our participants. For the first time, we also asked what other factors contributed to their challenges putting food on the table. Our community's responses reinforced that hunger is caused by structural inequities and the impacts of poverty are compounding.

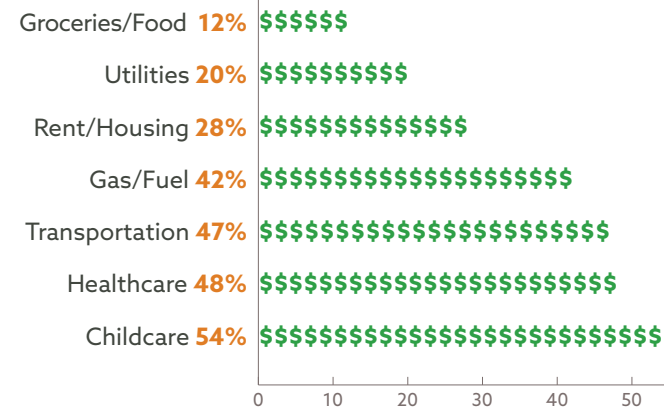
1. The Urban Institute <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/inflation-squeezed-family-budgets-food-insecurity-increased-between-2021-and-2022>



When asked how inflation was impacting their ability to buy groceries, our participants shared just how complex the situation was. For some, the rising cost of groceries alone forced them to buy less food. For others, utilities, housing costs, gas, and more forced them to cut back. Clearly, "the rent eats first."

We are seeing first-hand the tradeoffs those we serve make, crystalizing the need to invest in a network of support that strengthens the safety net and uplifts our entire community. We cannot achieve economic recovery if families can't make ends meet.

## Factors driving participants to buy less food



## Last Year

- Distributed enough food for **156,000** meals every day, totaling **68 million** pounds of food
- Facilitated **4,000+** CalFresh (food stamps) applications and recertifications, helping participants earn an estimated **11 million** in benefits
- Partnered with **345** community-based organizations
- Distributed food to **56,000** households weekly through nearly **240** pantries, primarily run by partners
- Provided home-delivered groceries to **12,000** seniors and people with disabilities

# Indicators of Inequity

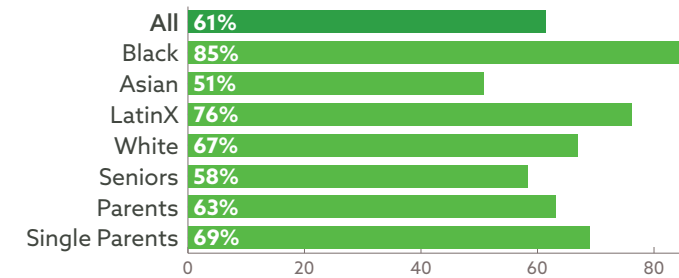
Structural inequality and systemic racism create even greater barriers for many in our community. National studies show Black and Latinx adults consistently at greater risk for food insecurity. And with the loss of pandemic-era supports, the Census reports child poverty more than doubled last year.<sup>2</sup>

We see that Black and Latinx participants are more worried about running out of food than white participants and less likely to be able to cover a \$400 emergency expense. We see families squeezed by a cost of living so high that it requires three full time minimum wage jobs just for a family of four to achieve economic security.<sup>3</sup>

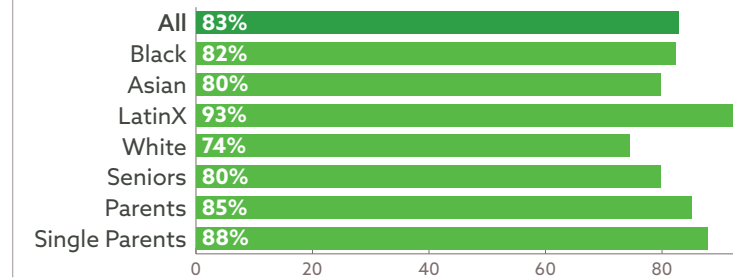
2. Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/income-poverty-health-insurance-coverage.html>

3. United Way's Real Cost Measure, [https://unitedwaysca.org/wvp-content/uploads/2023/05/san\\_francisco\\_county.pdf](https://unitedwaysca.org/wvp-content/uploads/2023/05/san_francisco_county.pdf)

## Inability to cover a \$400 emergency expense



## Worried about running out of food



## Our Participants

