

2024 State Policy Agenda

The Food Bank is energized by our shared vision for the future: a community where everyone has access to nutritious food of their choosing, is uplifted by a network of support, and all can thrive.

We advocate tenaciously for upstream policy solutions that address both the consequences and root causes of hunger, and our State Policy Agenda is a key element of our strategy to effect change.

The policies and budget investments we're supporting address the concerns raised by our community in our **2024 Policy Priorities Survey**, including supporting food access for seniors, children, and our immigrant neighbors, and advocating with our government leaders to strengthen the social safety net.

Everyone has a role to play in advancing our policy priorities — whether it be gaining new knowledge and understanding of an issue, mobilizing colleagues and friends to act, or raising your voice in support at legislative hearings.

Invest in Food Banks to Meet the Need Today?

CalFood — Provide increased ongoing funding beginning in the 2025-26 state budget to sustain the CalFood program at \$60 million annually.

Protect and Strengthen the Social Safety Net CALFRESH

AB 1967 (Jackson) Food Insecurity Officer: Improve coordination of government resources and outcomes by creating a Cabinet-level position to address food insecurity statewide.

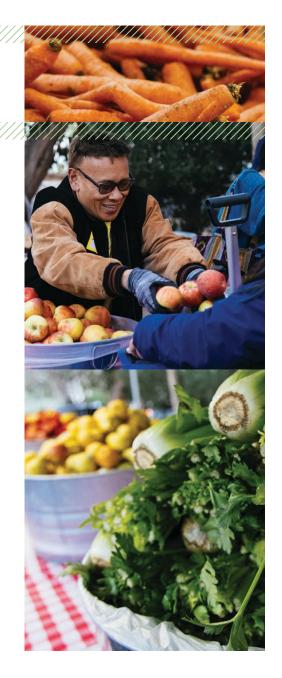
SB 245 (Hurtado) / **AB 311 (Santiago)** — **Food4All**: Expand CA Food Assistance Program to provide food benefits to all income-eligible people, regardless of immigration status.

SB 1254 (Becker) — **The F.R.E.S.H. Act**: Improve CalFresh access for people re-entering their communities after incarceration by requiring the Department of Social Services to partner with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

AB 2033 (Reyes) — EBT on College Campuses: Improve access and utilization of CalFresh for college students by requiring at least one store located on each campus of the California Community Colleges to accept EBT.

Ensure CalFresh Benefits are Adequate: Provide a permanent state supplement to raise the CalFresh minimum monthly benefit from the current \$23 to at least \$50.

End Exclusionary CalFresh Policies: Reduce administrative access barriers to CalFresh to ensure that all eligible Californians can enroll with ease and dignity. Protect Californians from the harsh Federal Able-Bodied Adults Without Disabilities time-limit through a supplemental state-funded benefit.



TAX CREDITS

AB 2191 (Santiago): Increase awareness and uptake of state and federal tax credits for low-income Californians by codifying the Outreach, Education, and Free Tax Preparation Assistance Grant Program.

SCHOOL & CHILDCARE MEALS

School Meals For All: Ensure continued, adequate funding to strengthen student nutrition programs including school breakfast and lunch.

Summer EBT: Boost Summer EBT benefits to \$120 per month to prevent child hunger while school is out of session.

Food with Care: End the discriminatory reimbursement rate gap that underpays and undervalues family childcare home providers serving healthy meals to kids in their care.

FOOD AS MEDICINE

AB 1975 (Bonta): Transition medically supportive food and nutrition interventions from optional services in healthcare to permanent Medi-Cal benefits.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)/ STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT (SSP)

Increase Assistance for Seniors and People with Disabilities: Address benefit adequacy for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) by ensuring annual grant increases and establish grants at the Elder Economic Index.

CALWORKS

End Child Poverty: Lift CalWORKs grants above deep poverty (50% of the Federal Poverty Level) for all households and eliminate punitive policies to maximize aid for families.

Promote Sustainable Food Systems ///////

Farmer's Market Nutrition incentives: Restore proposed cuts to ensure continued support of the California Nutrition Incentive Program, including programs like Market Match.

AB 408 (Wilson): Support the funding of climate-resilient farms, sustainable healthy food access, and farmworker protection via a state bond measure

Learn more about our advocacy priorities in our full <u>Policy Platform</u>. Join our advocacy work by signing up for <u>Action Alerts</u>.

Questions? Please contact Marchon Tatmon, Associate Director of Policy & Advocacy; mtatmon@sfmfoodbank.org

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