



SF-MARIN
FOOD BANK

2025 State Policy Agenda



We believe that hunger is a solvable problem. Our State Policy Agenda is rooted in community concerns and reflects our commitment to advocating for just, equitable public policies that address the root causes of hunger. This year, we centered our work in the community with the expertise of the Food Bank's first-ever community-led advocacy group, the Food Policy and Advocacy Coalition (Food PAC), which helped develop our [2025 Policy Priorities Survey](#) and Policy Agenda.

We asked our network of community-based partners, staff, the Food PAC, and supporters to describe hunger in their community and how we should combat it. The message was clear: address the root causes and support our most vulnerable community members.

The policies and budget investments we're supporting address the concerns raised by our community in our 2025 policy priority 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 in advancing sound public policy — 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.

Bolster Emergency Food, the Food System, and Disaster Response System

Food Insecurity Officer (Budget Ask): Require California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to develop new methods for estimating CalFresh and California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) participation rates and identifying Californians eligible for program benefits by 2026, and submit a Legislature report with budgetary and policy recommendations to combat food insecurity and improve state and federal food and nutrition programs enrollment rates.

CalFood Funding (Budget Ask): Appropriate \$60M in 2025–26 and sustain the CalFood program at \$60M annually

AB 262 – California Individual Assistance Act (Asm. Caloza): Enact the California Individual Assistance Act to provide financial assistance to local agencies, community-based organizations, and individuals for specified costs related to disasters such as, a fire, flood, storm, tidal wave or tsunami, earthquake, act of terrorism, epidemic, extreme heat or cold event, or similar calamities the Governor determines is a threat to public safety.

SB 739 Disaster CalFresh – county resources: status (Sen. Arreguin): Existing law requires the department to provide to an affected county, upon request, support necessary for out-stationed application intake locations to support timely, adequate, and safe access to Disaster CalFresh during or following a disaster. This bill would also require the department to inquire about each county facility's ability to serve CalFresh participants in impacted areas to provide timely and adequate service.

Strengthen CalFresh Benefits and Streamline Access to Food

AB 1049 – California Food Assistance Program, Food4All (Asm. Rodriguez): Protect our investment in Food4All by removing the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) sponsor deeming rules, requiring a citizen to sponsor a person who is not a citizen or national for benefits, and replacing them with new CFAP rules that exclude that provision.

AB 1211 – CalFresh: maintenance of benefit level (Asm Sharp-Collins): Requires CDSS to ensure that the level of CalFresh benefits remains the level that was in effect on January 20, 2025, under the Thrifty Food Plan to determine SNAP benefit amounts. It also requires a feasibility study, a report on CalFresh expansion and benefit adequacy, and would be triggered if the federal government reduces SNAP benefits to recipients.

AB 936 – CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Program (Asm. Lee): This bill would rename the pilot project as the CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Program, and would delete the repeal of the pilot provisions, thereby making the program operative indefinitely.

AB 1324 – CalWORKs (Asm. Sharp-Collins): Exempt as income in-kind gifts treated as exempt income in the CalFresh program and remove the requirements that a parent work a certain amount of hours per month and would instead disregard the number of hours that the child's parent works provided the family does not exceed the applicable gross or net income limits.

AB 661 – The California Guaranteed Income Statewide Feasibility Study Act (Asm. Rodriguez, Lee and Schultz): Require the State Department of Social Services to contract with one or more entities, subject to specified requirements, to develop and provide comprehensive recommendations on how to design, fund, and implement a permanent, statewide Guaranteed Income Program.

AB 553 – CalFresh Food Access (Asm. Caloza): Maximize all available food choices for CalFresh recipients, including, but not limited to, hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption.



SB 18 – Food Access (Asm. Rubio): Create the Food Desert Elimination Grant Program under the department’s administration to expand access to healthy foods in food deserts, as defined, in the state and areas at risk of becoming food deserts by providing grants to grocery store operators, as specified.

End Deep Child Poverty: Lift CalWORKS grants above deep poverty (earning less than 50% of the federal poverty line) for all households, including those with family members who are ineligible due to immigration status, receipt of Social Security Income/ Supplemental Security Income, or sanction.

California Nutrition Incentives Program (CNIP): Include CNIP (California Nutrition Incentives Program, which funds Market Match) as a permanent part of California’s annual budget.

Supporting Student Learners and Families

AB 1264 – Pupil nutrition: ultraprocessed food (Asm. Gabriel): Require the state to define “particularly harmful ultraprocessed food” by 2026, begin school phaseout by 2028, and ban school sales by 2032.

SB 225 – School nutrition guardian meal reimbursement (Sen. McNerney): Require the State Department of Education to establish a process for state reimbursement by applying for federal waivers for meals served to guardians of eligible students receiving a meal pursuant to a summer meal program.

SB 411 – Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025 (Sen. Perez): Establish the Better Out of School Time (BOOST) Nutrition EBT Program, create a standardized internet application, per federal guidelines, and issue benefits to an eligible student, in a specified amount.

SB 33 – Homeless Pupils: California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program (Cortese): Require the State Department of Social Services to establish the California Success, Opportunity, and Academic Resilience (SOAR) Guaranteed Income Program. The program would award public school pupils who are in grade 12 and are homeless children or youths.

AB 79 – Public Social Services: Higher Education (Asm. Arambula): This bill would create better coordination between county higher education liaisons so that more college students have access to public benefits.

Access to Affordable Housing

AB 11 – The Social Housing Act (Asm. Lee): Create the California Housing Authority as an independent state body to ensure that the social housing developments produced and acquired align with the goals of eliminating the gap between housing production regionally, while preserving and creating affordable housing.

Tax Credit

SB 353 Income tax – credits: food banks (Sen. Alvarado-Gil): The Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law will allow qualified taxpayers to claim a credit equal to 15% of the qualified value of fresh fruits or vegetables and specified raw agricultural products or processed foods donated to a food bank.

Support Older Adults & People with Disabilities

Support Older Adults & People with Disabilities by 1) Providing an ongoing Cost of Living increase for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) grants; 2) Lifting SSI/SSP grants to at least the Federal Poverty Line; 3) Providing financial support to SSI/SSP recipients when emergencies arise.