

**The San Francisco-Marín Food Bank knows that hunger is a solvable problem. To truly end hunger, we can't just manage it. It requires meaningful policy change and innovative solutions to address food insecurity.**

Our Legislative Priorities are a key element of our commitment to advocating for just, equitable public policies that address the root causes of hunger. We continue to center our work in the community, drawing on the expertise of the Food Community Advocacy, Resilience, & Equity (CARE) Council, a Food Bank community-led advocacy group, which helped develop our 2026 Policy Priorities Survey and Legislative Priorities.

The policies and budget investments we support address harmful policies at the federal level, as well as state and local issues raised by our community in our [2026 Policy Priorities Survey](#). These concerns include increasing food access for seniors, children, and immigrant neighbors; reforming CalFresh to improve efficiency; and working with government leaders to strengthen the social safety net.



## Creating an Equitable and Robust Food System

- **The Count Hunger Act and Budget Ask AB-1734 (Asm. Stefani)** – Funds and expands screening to include all households at or below 400% of FPL for two survey years (2027–2028) within the existing California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), administered by UCLA. This would close a critical data gap in measuring food insecurity statewide.
- **LFPA/Farms Together (Budget Request)** – Urges the state to fund the Farms Together program, which was previously supported through the federal Local Food Purchasing Agreement (LFPA). With federal LFPA funding terminated by USDA, state investment is essential to preserve a supply chain that connects local farms to food banks statewide.
- **Office of Food Security and Affordability SB-1025 (Sen. Hurtado)** – Establishes the Office of Food Security and Affordability as an independent entity led by a governor-appointed director. The office would coordinate statewide outreach, operate a 24-hour hunger hotline, support food banks in reducing waste and distributing fresh food, identify underserved areas, and lead emergency food response.

- **Farmer Equity: Advisory Committees AB-52 (Asm. Aguiar – Curry)** – Establishes two advisory committees, known as the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Producer Advisory Committee and the Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committee. The committees would advise the Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on programs, policies, education, outreach, technical assistance, and the overall needs of small-scale producers, medium-scale producers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
- **California Nutrition Incentives Program (CNIP)** – Secures an ongoing \$60 million appropriation for CNIP, which funds the Market Match program, and an additional \$50 million in one-time funding to help food banks meet increased demand driven by federal cuts to SNAP and other nutrition programs under H.R. 1.
- **Food4All (Budget Request)** – Seeks \$398.7 million in FY27-28 and \$558 million in FY28-29 to expand access for California residents losing benefits due to H.R. 1. It would extend the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to all California immigrants currently ineligible for CalFresh because of their immigration status. An additional \$133 million requested would restore benefits for about 74,000 Californians losing coverage under H.R. 1 and fund necessary system updates.
- **Healthy Aging Community Partnerships Program SB-971 (Sen. Choi)** – Authorizes local health departments to create older adult education programs in partnership with local agencies and school districts, with required components including communal meals and targeted instruction. The program would strengthen the nutritional safety net for aging Californians by embedding food access into community-based education.
- **Unlawfully restrictive covenants: grocery stores and supermarkets AB-1857 (Asm. Aguilar-Curry)** – Removes private land use barriers such as restrictive covenants, deed conditions, and lease provisions – that prevent grocery stores from opening in underserved locations.
- **California Healthy Food Financing Initiative AB-2213 (Asm. Lee)** – Re-establishes the California Healthy Food Financing Initiative (CHFFI) Council within the State Treasurer’s office to expand access to nutritious food and eliminate food deserts in underserved urban, suburban, tribal, and rural communities. The bill also creates a dedicated fund supported by federal, state, philanthropic, and private sources to finance these efforts.
- **California Coordinated Neighborhood and Community Services Grant Program AB-1969 (Asm. Bonta)** – Establishes a grant to fund community-based efforts to reduce child poverty and promote economic mobility for families disproportionately impacted by intergenerational poverty. Food is included as an eligible service area, making food banks and hunger-related nonprofits eligible recipients.

## Bolster Emergency Food and Disaster Response System

- **CalFood Funding (Budget Request)** – Appropriate \$60 million in ongoing baseline funding, as well as an additional \$50 million in one-time funding to help food banks meet increased demand driven by federal cuts to SNAP and other nutrition programs under H.R. 1.



## Reforming and Strengthening CalFresh

- **California Food Assistance Program: Sponsor Deeming Rules AB-1049 (Asm. Rodriguez)** – Removes the ‘sponsor deeming’ rule from the CFAP, which requires that a non-citizen’s sponsor income be counted when determining food benefit eligibility, creating a significant barrier for immigrants seeking assistance.
- **CalFresh and WIC Contingency Fund AB-2072 (Asm. Solache)** – Creates a contingency fund that would maintain continuity of CalFresh or WIC benefits during a federal government shutdown or other appropriations lapse.
- **CalFresh Protection Act AB-2309 (Asm. Bains)** – Authorizes the California Department of Social Services to use General Funds to issue benefits for CalFresh during a federal funding lapse.
- **CalFresh: Veteran Eligibility SB-1201 (Sen. McNerney)** – Requires counties to provide veterans with referrals to CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) programs in response to H.R. 1 eligibility changes. E&T programs are federally reimbursed and can provide work experience or job training to help veterans fulfill new work requirements and maintain benefits.
- **California Anti-Hunger Response and Employment Training Act AB-2299 (Asm. Calderon)** – Establishes state-funded benefits for Californians who are cut off from federal CalFresh due to time limits. It will also ensure that individuals continue to have access to optional employment and training services.
- **CalFresh and CalWORKs: Childhood Hunger and Foster Youth AB-2765 (Asm. Ahrens)** – Mitigates harm from H.R. 1’s federal time limits, which increase hunger risk for foster youth and parents with children 14 and older. Requires California to pursue federal waivers maximizing exemptions, increases the CalWORKs special allowance, and imposes a state-mandated local program.
- **CalWORKs: immediate assistance AB-2567 (Asm. Rodriguez)** – Requires counties to determine if someone qualifies for emergency cash aid without requiring applicants to first apply for other income they may be eligible for but are not receiving. Families with than \$100 in liquid assets who are facing an emergency (such as eviction) would receive up to \$200 in advance aid while their eligibility is being confirmed.



## Centering on Health Equity

- **Medi-Cal: Community Supports AB-2348 (Asm. Bonta)** – Ensures Medi-Cal managed care plans can continue to cover medically supportive food and nutrition services (medically supportive groceries) as a community support benefit beyond the current CalAIM initiative, which expires at the end of 2026. Also requires the Department of Health Care Services to publish quarterly reports on community supports utilization, including medically supportive food services, and provide technical assistance to patients and providers.
- **California Health Access Fund SB-987 ( Sen. Pierson)** – Creates the California Health Access Fund, which would support Californians losing health care coverage due to work requirements and cost-sharing provisions imposed by H.R. 1.

- **Rural Farmworker Women's Health Act of 2026 AB-2082 (Asm. Gonzalez)** – Beginning July 1, 2027, establishes a program partnering with local nonprofit organizations that have a history of serving farmworker communities to provide free menstrual products in rural and agricultural communities. Requires the department to prioritize communities with the highest rates of poverty.

## 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) Revive the Emergency Grant Program to SSI/SSP recipients to help when emergencies arise.

## Supporting Student Learners

- **College Student Eligibility SB-961 (Sen. Ashby)** – Clarifies how college programs that enhance employability can qualify students for a federal exemption, enabling more students to access CalFresh while enrolled in school.
- **Office of Farm to Fork: California's Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program AB-1731 (Asm. Wilson)** – Mandates the Office of Farm to Fork to establish the Healthy Food Procurement Fund Program to support student nutrition and California agriculture by expanding healthy food purchases in schools pursuant to funding.

## Tax Credit

- **Personal Income Tax Law: Young Child Tax Credit AB-1690 (Asm. Ahrens)** – Extends the California Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) to include families with children up to age 18 (current cap is under 6 years old). These tax credit refunds are not counted as income for determining eligibility for CalFresh, CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, and other programs.
- **Income tax: credits: voluntary contributions, food bank donations SB- 881 (Sen. McNerney)** – Allows 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.

