



California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) 2023 Policy Agenda

#HungerIsStillAnEmergency

In March, CalFresh recipients – 5 million Californians – received their last Emergency Allotment, which provided a critical boost to benefits throughout the COVID-19 crisis. This was an overwhelming \$500 million cut to CalFresh statewide per month. Many households now face the unbelievable cliff from \$281 a month to just \$23. This abrupt sunset of Emergency Allotments is causing a dramatic and unprecedented benefits cliff, resulting in hunger and hardship across our entire state. We must act now to mitigate this harm.

Bolster the Emergency Food System

- **Support California food banks:** **1)** Appropriate and set \$60 million as the ongoing base annual for CalFood to purchase CA-grown foods **2)** \$180 million one-time for Food Bank Capacity and Climate Resilience; **3)** Permanently authorize the State Disaster Food Assistance Program (SDFAP) to maximize CDSS' ability to respond in times of disaster.

Immigrant Food Access

- **SB 245 (Hurtado) & AB 311 (Santiago) Food4All:** Create an equitable nutrition assistance program by expanding the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to people of ALL ages who are ineligible for CalFresh solely due to immigration status, without delay.

Boost CalFresh Benefits and Streamline Access

- **AB 605 (Arambula) CalFresh Fruit & Vegetable Supplemental Benefits Expansion:** Expand Fruit and Vegetable EBT Supplement benefits to boost CalFresh benefits for a greater number of CalFresh households in more diverse regions of the state.
- **AB 870 (Arambula) Public Social Services for College Students:** Continue California's leadership to improve access for college students by creating an ongoing workgroup with stakeholders to increase awareness of safety net programs.
- **AB 712 (Carrillo) Hot and Prepared Meals for CalFresh recipients:** Allows CalFresh participants to purchase hot and prepared food with their EBT card.
- **SB 600 (Menjivar) CalFresh Minimum Benefit Adequacy Increase:** Increase benefit adequacy by raising the CalFresh minimum allotment from \$23 a month to \$50 a month.
- **Budget Proposal (Wiener and Wicks):** Protect under- and unemployed Californians from the harsh federal work for food ABAWD time limit for CalFresh.
- **Budget Proposal (Arambula):** Extend and expand the CalFresh Safe Drinking Water Pilot to boost benefits for a greater number of CalFresh households harmed by the lack of safe drinking water.



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Support Older Adults & People with Disabilities

- **Prevent Poverty and Hunger for SSI recipients: 1)** Appropriate a three-step increase to bring the SSI/SSP grants to 100% of the federal poverty level over three years and ensure that state COLA increases are provided going forward **2)** Revive and Refund the Special Circumstances Program **3)** Fulfill the hold harmless goal of Supplemental and Transitional Nutrition Benefits by ensuring parity with the updated Thrifty Food Plan for CalFresh.

School-Age Kids

- **SB 348 (Skinner) Pupil Meals:** Strengthen California's first-in-the-nation School Meals for All legislation and fight childhood hunger during summer.

End Deep Poverty for All

- **AB 679 (Wicks) Food with Care:** Bring equity to child care nutrition funding by finally eliminating the reimbursement gap that discriminates against providers serving healthy meals to kids in family child care (FCC) homes.
- **AB 1178 (L. Rivas) Summer Caregiver Meals:** Allows summer meal sites to offer meals to parents and caregivers, giving them the opportunity to eat a shared meal with their children.
- **AB 310 (Arambula) Reimagine CalWORKs:** Reimagines CalWORKs to ensure that the program puts families first and undoes the harm from racist and sexist federal and state law.

Sustain and Expand Access to Diapers and Menstrual Products

- **Support the basic needs of families and people who menstruate (Weber and Limón):** Appropriate \$60 million One-Time to Sustain and Expand the Diaper Bank Program and Menstrual Products Pilot.
- **SB 59 (Skinner) Menstrual Product Accessibility Act:** Ensure that all state-owned buildings and those administering state services provide free menstrual products in restrooms.

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For 29 years, California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) has been California's premier anti-hunger coalition: a broad-based membership organization that unites the foremost statewide and regional anti-hunger groups. CHAC believes access to adequate, nutritious, and safe food is a fundamental human right.

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