



California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) 2025 Policy Agenda Bite Back Against Hunger, Act Now!

No one should go hungry in the Golden State, which is proudly the fourth-largest economy in the world. Yet hunger remains at critical levels, with Food banks struggling to meet ongoing demand. At the same time, the federal government has canceled key food bank funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance and has threatened cuts to the safety net, including CalFresh, school meals, Medi-Cal, and income supports like SSI/SSP. In the face of these federal challenges, the California Legislature must take action to protect and strengthen our state's anti-hunger programs. With more than 1 in 5 California households facing hunger, now is the time to ensure our most vulnerable communities are supported.

2025 Priorities to Protect Progress in Ending Hunger

Bolster the Emergency Food Network:

- **Budget:** Appropriate \$60M in 2025-26 and ongoing to sustain the CalFood program at \$60M annually.

Maximize the Hunger-Fighting Power of CalFresh:

- **Budget:** Protect the Food4All expansion of the California Food Assistance Program to Californians aged 55+ regardless of immigration status and Expand Food4All to all ages by October 2027.
- **Budget:** Include CNIP (California Nutrition Incentives Program, which funds Market Match) as a permanent part of California's annual budget.
- **AB 936 (Lee) / Budget:** Restart and sustain the Fruit & Vegetable EBT program for 12 months, move the program towards expansion and permanency, and help make groceries more affordable for California families on CalFresh.
- **AB 1211 (Sharp-Collins) / Budget:** Protect and Increase benefit adequacy to reflect the high cost of living in California and inadequate federal benefit levels.
- **AB 79 (Arambula):** Build on the success of AB 1326 (Arambula) to ensure collaboration and information sharing between higher education liaisons and stakeholders.
- **AB 777 (C. Rodriguez):** Improve California's ability to provide Disaster CalFresh and other disaster-related CalFresh provisions during natural disasters.
- **AB 1049 (C. Rodriguez):** Remove discriminatory rule called "sponsor deeming" from the California Food Assistance Program.



Ensure Children are Nourished During and Out of School:

- **Budget:** Protect our nation-leading School Meals for All by supporting the Governor's proposals for participation and the Kitchen Infrastructure & Training Grants that support healthy scratch cooking.
- **SB 225 (McNerney) / Budget:** Allow summer meal sites to offer meals to parents and caregivers so that they can share a meal with their children.
- **SB 411 (Pérez) / Budget:** Fight child hunger by creating a statewide online application for SUN Bucks and establishing nutrition benefits to provide food support during school breaks and emergencies.

Strengthen the Anti-Poverty Safety Net:

- **Budget:** Support SSI/SSP recipients by providing an ongoing COLA for SSP grants, establishing grants above the Federal Poverty Level, and reviving an Emergency Grant Program.
- **Budget:** Reimagine CalWORKs to be anti-racist and deliver real pathways to work and education for children and families facing the deepest poverty-related hunger.
- **Budget:** 16.5M to sustain the distribution of diapers through CA's successful Diaper Bank Program.
- **AB 636 (Ortega):** Expand access to prescription diapers for Medi-Cal recipients.

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For 30 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 right.