



2018 POLICY AGENDA

Strengthen SNAP – America's Most Effective Hunger-Fighting Program

Federal

- Farm Bill Reauthorization 2018: Ensure funding for and defend against benefit cuts, eligibility restrictions, or structural changes for SNAP (CalFresh).
- Closing the Meal Gap Act: H.R. 1276 (Adams)
 would strengthen and expand SNAP (CalFresh),
 including (CalFresh) by raising the minimum
 benefit.

State

- Hunger Impact Act of 2018: AB 2297
 (Arambula) would add \$28/month in state
 funding for CalFresh, improve the CalWORKs
 special food benefit by converting it to CalFresh
 EBT and expand it to children with unsafe water
 or lead poisoning.
- Double the 'Fresh' in CalFresh: SB 900 (Wiener and Arambula) would establish the Fruit and Vegetable EBT pilot program at grocery stores and farmers' markets.

End Poverty in SSI

State cuts during the Great Recession have not been restored, forcing hardship & poverty on to the 1.3 million seniors and people with disabilities in California — 51,000 people in Alameda County — who rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for basic needs.

Federal

• Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act: H.R. 3307 (Grijalva) would update the program to meet the needs of vulnerable seniors and people with severe disabilities.

State

- Restore the SSI state grant (aka State Supplemental Payment or SSP) for individuals by raising it to \$100 per month to reach 100% of federal poverty level and permanently reinstate the state cost of living adjustment. Companion legislation AB 3200 (Kalra).
- Achieve an equitable end to SSI recipients being denied CalFresh (aka Cash Out), while holding harmless any household that would lose CalFresh benefits.

School Meals for Charter School Students

• AB 1871 (Bonta) would ensure that the 340,000 low-income, charter school students in California are guaranteed access to a free or low-cost school meal each school day, just like all other low-income students have been since 1975.

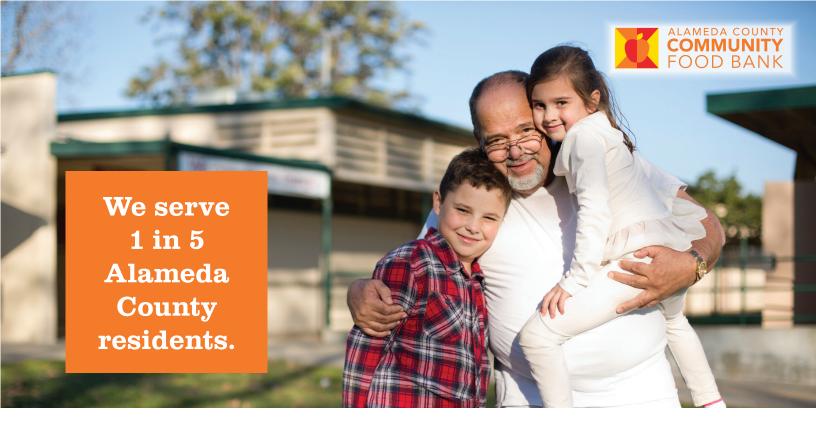
End Childhood Deep Poverty

• Protect children from the worst harms of chronically unmet basic needs by ensuring no CalWORKs grant falls below 50% of the federal poverty level & restore the 60-month clock. Companion legislation SB 982 (Mitchell).

Invest in Emergency Food Assistance

• Fund the CalFood Program at \$20.6 million to enable California food banks to purchase 103 million meals of California grown foods. Provide \$25 million one-time for food banks to update critical infrastructure.

Additional Policy Priorities: Address college student hunger — SB 1275 (Stern) and AB 1894 (Weber); build on expansion of the CalEITC program — AB 2066 (Stone/Reyes); reinstate the state supplemental child care meal reimbursement (CACFP); and the Envision a Hunger Free California Act to establish a long-term plan to end hunger in California and ensure a vibrant and sustainable food system — AB 1952 (Mayes, Arambula & Steinorth).





Our clients live in profound poverty.

65% have incomes below the poverty level (42% make < \$10,000 per year)



Food insecurity is costing the health of our community. 40% of Food Bank clients are in fair or poor health



Neighbors must choose between food and other necessities. 63% of clients employ extreme coping strategies to get enough food



Working households are outpaced by the cost of living. 54% of households have at least one member who is employed

FOOD IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

Alameda County Community Food Bank passionately pursues a hunger-free community. We support policies that address the root causes of hunger and poverty and urge our policymakers at every level of government to:

- + Prioritize the fight against poverty by investing in services that stabilize all children, adults and seniors
- + Protect and strengthen food and nutrition programs that help to end hunger
- + Ensure that full-time workers are able to feed, house and clothe themselves and their families