

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.

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.

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.

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).



**We serve
1 in 5
Alameda
County
residents.**



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