

2019 POLICY AGENDA

Raise the Wage Act of 2019

- **S. 150/H.R. 582:** Gradually raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 by 2024 and index future minimum wage increases to median wage growth.

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

Federal

- Oppose time limits, public charge, and any other **federal attacks on the human right to food**
- Support legislation to **expand SNAP and raise the minimum benefit**

State

- **Protect adults harmed by the federal 3-month time limit to SNAP by providing a state benefit — AB 1022 (Wicks) Co-sponsored by ACCFB** with Western Center on Law and Poverty, California Association of Food Banks, and Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.
- **Ensure all eligible Californians have efficient, equitable access to CalFresh** by phone, online, and in person through dignified means and within an integrated safety net that supports health and well-being — **SB 285 (Wiener) Co-sponsored by ACCFB** with California Food Policy Advocates and other partners.

End Poverty for Seniors and People with Disabilities

- State cuts to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) during the Great Recession forced hardship and poverty on 1.2 million Californians – 49,000 people in Alameda County – most of whom are women and women of color. **Restore state SSI funding so that the grant for an individual reaches 100% of federal poverty and permanently reinstate the cost of living adjustment. Companion legislation AB 1434 (Kalra).**

Expand the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC)


- **Expand CalEITC so that it is inclusive of all working and taxpaying Californians, including immigrant workers with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected (TPS) status.** Provide on-going funding for outreach and free tax preparation programs. Companion legislation AB XXX (Gomes-Reyes).

End Child Hunger and Poverty

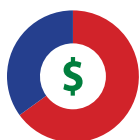
- **AB 842 (Limón and Eggman)** ensures that low-income children in public pre-K have access to nutritious, free meals, and provide state funding for child care centers to serve nutritious meals to low-income children.
- **SB 499 (McGuire)** increases K-12 school's capacity to provide healthy school meals – made with California grown fruits and vegetables – free to all students.

Fund the CalFood Program

- **Fund the program at \$24.5 million** on-going to enable food banks to meet emergency needs.



**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