

# 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

- **Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2019:** H.R. 1368 would strengthen and expand SNAP (CalFresh), including by raising the minimum benefit.
- Oppose time limits, public charge, and any other federal attacks on the human right to food.

### 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).**

## 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 1593 (Reyes).**

## End Child Hunger and Poverty

- **Ensure that hunger doesn’t prevent our youngest learners from succeeding.** Require all public preschool and child care sites to provide at least one nutritious free or low-cost meal per day, and increase state funding for child care providers to serve healthy meals and ensure equal financial support with public schools – **AB 842 (Limón and Eggman).**
- **Create and sustain equitable, nutritious, hunger-free schools.** Provide a financial incentive for purchasing California-grown fresh fruits and vegetables when school districts serve **universally free breakfast in all K-12 schools, and free breakfast and lunch at very high poverty schools** – **SB 499 (McGuire).**

## Fund the CalFood Program

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



### 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. Many factors contribute to poverty, and we recognize racial disparities are chief among them. Public policy created inequitable institutions and structures; and it can be leveraged to correct this legacy. **We will improve the lives of those we serve by supporting policies that advance racial equity and opportunity for all. We are proud to support more just criminal justice policy that does not rely on stripping wealth from communities of color and low-income communities.**

- **The Families Over Fees Act SB 144 (Mitchell)** will end the assessment and collection of administrative fees imposed against people in the criminal justice system for costs related to legal representation, incarceration, and probation. People of color are grossly overrepresented in the criminal legal system and fees add up to thousands of dollars for a single person, making reentry harder and prolonging and exacerbating poverty. Ending fees will reduce the suffering caused by court-ordered debt and enhance the economic security of system-involved people.