



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
FOOD BANK

## 2020 Policy Agenda

### FEDERAL

- **Raise the Wage Act 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, helping to advance racial and gender wage equity.

### STATE

- **End Poverty for Seniors and People with Disabilities** — most of whom are women and people of color. **Restore state SSI funding so that the grant for an individual reaches 100% of federal poverty.**
- **Make the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) inclusive of all working Californians,** including immigrant workers who file taxes.
- **End Child Hunger and Poverty**
  - ✧ **Hunger-Free Child Care.** Restore state funding for nutritious meals to low-income children in child care.
  - ✧ **Provide free, healthy school meals to all students — SB 1417 (McGuire)**
  - ✧ **Continue fighting college student hunger,** including creating the Foster Youth College Meal Plan.
- **Help food banks to reach everyone in need.** Fund the CalFood Program at **\$20 million on-going to enable food banks to respond to increased hunger from federal attacks** on the safety net and immigrant families, and provide **\$32 million one-time to boost food bank resilience** in facing unrelenting natural and man-made disasters.
- **End Wealth-Stripping in the Criminal Law System — The Families Over Fees Act** will end the collection of incarceration-related fees imposed against people in the criminal justice system. Black and brown people are grossly overrepresented in the criminal legal system and fees add up to thousands of dollars for a single person, exacerbating poverty - SB 144 (Mitchell).

# FOOD IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT



**1 in 5  
Alameda County  
residents  
experiences hunger**

Alameda County Community Food Bank passionately pursues a hunger-free community. Many factors contribute to poverty, and we recognize that structural racism is 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 economic equity.



## **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

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

### **FEDERAL**

- **Closing the Meal Gap Act:** H.R. 1368 would strengthen and expand SNAP (CalFresh), including raising the minimum benefit.
- **Vigorously oppose federal proposals to SNAP** that will increase hunger.

### **STATE**

- **Protect against harmful federal attacks on the safety net.** – **AB 1022 (Wicks)**, co-sponsored by **ACCFB** would provide state-funded CalFresh cut as a result of the federal ABAWD time limit rule, if not stopped in court.
- **Ensure all eligible Californians have efficient, equitable access to CalFresh** by simplifying the application for older adults and people with disabilities – **SB 882 (Weiner)**
- **End Hunger Among Unhoused Californians** — Remove barriers to CalFresh for the 150,000 unhoused Californians.