

An Overview of Our 2025 Policy Priorities



ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK



Alameda County Community Food Bank is working to alleviate hunger *and* to end hunger *for good*. That's why, for decades, we've been advocating for policies that address the deeper reasons why community members are experiencing hunger. This has led to historic victories, such as making universally-free school meals permanent throughout California and expanding access to CalFresh for older adults and people living with disabilities.

We believe that we can achieve lasting change by **building community power** through trusting and centering people who are *most impacted* by hunger and poverty, **holding government accountable**, and **transforming systemic hunger, poverty, and racism**.

2025 presents us with both challenges and opportunities for advancing the fight to end hunger. Below, check out a **broad overview of our top policy priorities we'll be advocating for when we meet with our elected officials in Sacramento and Washington, DC**. These priorities were shaped through countless conversations with community members who are directly impacted by hunger and poverty and with the valuable help of our Agency Partners.

We are in this together and remain committed to strengthening our unity and solidarity for change. This change includes you! **Join us** by signing up for our action alerts at accfb.org/advocacy.

FOOD BANK FUNDING

Did you know: a significant portion of the food in our warehouse that we distribute to the community every day comes from government funding? **Support from the federal and state governments helps make food banking possible.** That's why we're working to ensure that food banks can continue responding to record rates of hunger, by:

- Urging California to invest \$60 million annually in the **CalFood** program, which supports the state's food banks in purchasing fresh, locally grown produce. A *third* of the food ACCFB distributes comes from CalFood, and this program is more important than ever, amidst uncertainty about federal support for food banks.
- Opposing any cuts to **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**, which provides federal support to food banks nationwide and accounts for around 10% of ACCFB's food distribution.

ACCESS TO CALFRESH/SNAP

CalFresh, known nationwide as SNAP (formerly known as “food stamps”), is the nation’s most effective anti-hunger program. For every meal that food banks provide, CalFresh/SNAP provides *nine*! We continue to urge our elected leaders to **protect, strengthen, and expand equitable access to CalFresh/SNAP** as our first line of defense against hunger and poverty.

This includes:

- **Opposing cuts to SNAP/CalFresh** that would throw millions of people into poverty and cause economic harm to everyone.
- **Raising the minimum CalFresh benefit level** from the current \$23 to \$60 per month.
- Ending the ban on using CalFresh/SNAP benefits to purchase **hot and prepared foods** and **protecting food choice for CalFresh/SNAP Recipients**.
- **Improving and simplifying CalFresh/SNAP access**, particularly for immigrants, older adults, college students and other people who face eligibility and enrollment barriers.
- **Rolling-back unjust federal time limits for SNAP** that disproportionately hurt people of color and immigrants experiencing poverty.

“[Max] walked into our office to seek assistance with the CalFresh application for himself and his wife.... Soon after, Max began receiving CalFresh benefits, which brought joy to his wife as they could finally afford nutritious food.... As he shared his journey, Max opened up about his wife’s health struggles, including her frequent hospital visits while waiting for a liver transplant for thirteen long years.... With the help of his CalFresh benefits, SSI, and Social Security, he is able to meet his essential needs.”

– Courtesy of Maria Gutierrez, ACCFB Outreach Associate (client name has been changed)

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

At ACCFB, we believe that *everyone belongs in the community*, regardless of one’s immigration status. **We steadfastly oppose any policies and actions that threaten immigrants and deny access to basic nutrition programs.** We are especially concerned that these actions are instilling fear in immigrant communities, causing many to stop visiting food distribution sites or applying for nutrition benefits for which they are perfectly eligible.

In response, we support state legislation that:

- Protects immigrants by **banning or limiting collaboration with federal immigration enforcement officials** by schools (**Assembly Bill 49/Senate Bill 48**), local governments (**Senate Bill 635**), and local law enforcement (**Assembly Bill 421**).

We also support federal legislation that:

- **Bans immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations**, including places providing social services including disaster or emergency response relief, such as food banks, pantries, and shelters (**Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**).

And we continue to work to ensure that critical nutrition programs are accessible to all who need them, regardless of immigration status, by advocating for:

- Expanding eligibility for CalFresh-equivalent California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) nutrition benefits to all Californians currently ineligible for CalFresh solely due to their immigration status, as part of the statewide **Food4All Campaign**.

All are welcome at ACCFB and our partner pantries. We will continue to provide food to residents of Alameda County **regardless of citizenship or immigration status**. ACCFB is not a government agency. We do not collect, nor will we share information about immigration status. We protect participants’ personal information and keep it secure.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the advocacy work our team, together with countless community advocates, will engage in this year. Want to dive even deeper into our work on agriculture, child nutrition, health, housing and homelessness, support for older adults and people living with disabilities, racial justice, and tax policy? Check out our full **2025 Policy Agenda** by visiting accfb.org/policy-agenda.