

# 2021 Legislative Agenda

Since 1975, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano has led the fight to end hunger in our community. Through our advocacy, we educate and partner with the community, collaborate with elected officials, and conduct research to best engage with policies that strengthen emergency food assistance, promote food access that is equitable, affordable, dignified, and nutritious, and identifies regional solutions to hunger. Below are our main areas of policy & budget priorities for the 2021 local, state, and federal legislative cycles. Not in an order of prioritization.

## Food Bank Resilience

- A. **Storage & Capacity for California Food Banks** - Ensure Food Banks have the physical space and capacity to safely store all of the necessary product and equipment; including but not limited to refrigeration, back-up generators, adequate warehouse space, etc.
  - A. *SB 240: Eggman: Income Tax: Credits: Food Banks*
  - B. *AB 125: Rivas: Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms, and Worker Protection Bond Act of 2022*
- B. **Emergency & Disaster Preparedness** - Ensure that Food Banks have the monetary and physical resources to continue being emergency responders, especially during times of natural and public health disasters; including but not limited to fires, earthquakes, epidemics, etc.
  - A. *AB 221: Santiago: Emergency Food Assistance*

## Bolstering Food Assistance Resources

- A. **CalFresh/SNAP** - Ensure that the federally funded program, SNAP, is protected from cuts and that the state tailored version, CalFresh, is accessible to all those who qualify throughout the application process, distribution of benefits, and that CalFresh qualification guidelines match the needs of the food insecure, and vulnerable demographics, in our service area.
  - A. *SB 20: Dodd: Student nutrition: eligibility for CalFresh benefits*
  - B. *SB 107: Weiner: CalFresh*
  - C. *AB 396: Gabriel: CalFresh: educational programs*
  - D. *H.R. 1919 (EATS Act): Gomez: Enhanced Access to SNAP Act*
  - E. *SB 108: Hurtado: State Healthy Food Access Policy*
  - F. *SB 464: Hurtado: California Food Assistance Program: eligibility*
- B. **WIC** - Ensure that the Women, Infants and Children program is protected from cuts and is accessible to all those who qualify throughout the application process, distribution of benefits, and that WIC qualification guidelines match the needs of the food insecure, and vulnerable demographics, in our service area.
- C. **TEFAP** - Ensure the Federally funded program, TEFAP, is protected from cuts and that the state tailored version, CalWORKs, is accessible to all of those that qualify throughout the application process, distribution of benefits, and that CalWORKS qualification guidelines match the needs of poverty in our service area.
- D. **Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)**-Ensure that the federally funded and state directed program is operated throughout the guaranteed date and that it's accessible to those who qualify throughout the

Please contact Cassidie Bates at [cbates@foodbankccs.org](mailto:cbates@foodbankccs.org) for more information

application process, distribution of benefits, and that P-EBT qualification guidelines match the needs of the food insecure, and vulnerable demographics, in our service area

E. **School & Summer Meals** - Increase awareness, accessibility, and participation by school-aged children in breakfast, lunch, and summer meal programs; in addition to creative solutions that address the low school meal participation due to COVID.

A. ***SB 364: Skinner: Free School Meals for All Act of 2021***

F. **Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act** - Every five years, Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) provides Congress with an opportunity to improve and strengthen the child nutrition and school meal programs. Although the current law, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296), expired on September 30, 2015, the programs continue to operate.

G. **Farm Bill** - Ensure the continued successful implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill.

## COVID-19 Economic & Food Security Build-Back

A. **COVID Relief and Regional Hunger Solutions** - Given the unprecedented circumstances that have been present and amplified, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will engage in advocacy that mitigates the rates of food insecurity in our service area and increases specific initiatives, such as, 'food as medicine'. Although some subjects of our engagement may be outside of our typical policy scope of hunger relief, we intend to advocate for subjects that are directly impacting food security in our region, as we understand the multitude of factors that directly correlate to how many individuals are utilizing Food Bank services.

A. ***H.R. 1319 (American Rescue Plan): 117th Congress***

B. ***AB 368: Bonta: Food Prescriptions***

C. ***Master Plan on Aging (MPA): Goal 5: Affordable Aging, Strategy C: Protection from Poverty and Hunger***