

Food banks play a critical role in ending hunger, but we can't do it alone. The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano strategically engages in advocacy work to raise awareness and mobilize support to end hunger, improve economic security, and promote health and well-being for our community. This includes educating the public and policymakers about food insecurity and encouraging partnerships to improve access to healthy food.

## Our Mission

Leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors in need.

## Our Advocacy Goal

By identifying the root causes of hunger in our community, and elevating the voices and experiences of our community members, we effectively advocate for sustainable change in our food systems that will eliminate food insecurity.



Our 2026 Legislative Agenda reflects a strong commitment to advancing policies and budget investments that help mitigate the harmful impacts of the H.R. 1 federal budget bill on the communities we serve. By prioritizing key bills and funding requests that strengthen food access and support California's safety net, this agenda is a proactive effort to protect households from deepening food insecurity. We are grateful to our state legislature for recognizing the urgency of this moment and for their leadership in advancing solutions that ensure Californians can continue to access the nutrition they need.

## Social Safety Net Programs

The social safety net is a crucial component in the daily lives and long-term outcomes of our community members. Advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels is needed to ensure these programs are robust, funded, promoted, and reliably accessible for those in need of support. The social safety net includes food assistance programs like CalFresh/SNAP, WIC, TEFAP, P-EBT, CFAP, just to name a few. It also encompasses other programs that contribute to the ability of individuals experiencing poverty to meet their needs.



## State Bills to Support

- **California Anti-Hunger Response and Employment Training Act (CARET)**
  - AB 2299 (Calderon)
- **College Student Eligibility**
  - SB 961 (Ashby)
- **Removal of Sponsor Deeming from California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**
  - AB 1049 (C. Rodriguez)

## Social Safety Net Programs (continued)



### State Bills to Oppose

- **SNAP Food Choice Restrictions**
  - AB 2171 (Patterson) [Bill Text: CA AB2171](#)
  - SB 1134 (Strickland) [Bill Text: CA SB1134](#)



### State Budget Asks

- **CARET Benefits for Time-Limited Individuals**
  - Employment and training supports for CalFresh recipients who are subject to federal Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limits under the H.R. 1 bill, including adults 64 and under, and parents with children at the age of 14 or older, who must now show they are working 80 hours per month.
- **CalFresh Outreach**
  - \$14 million one-time in 2026–27 to sustain CalFresh Outreach application assistance.
- **California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**
  - Protect and fully fund California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for Californians 55+.
- **SUN Bucks Online Application**
  - Create a statewide SUN Bucks online application while protecting student data privacy.
- **School Meals for All**
  - Maintain full funding for School Meals for All.
- **Prevent a Humanitarian Catastrophe**
  - \$Total \$1.75 billion to restore benefits to individuals cut off from CalFresh due to H.R.1 by including them in California Food Assistance Program (CFAP).
    - \$156.4 million general fund for fiscal year 2026-2027 for humanitarian immigrants losing CalFresh eligibility.
    - \$1.6 billion general fund for fiscal year 2026-2027 for individuals losing CalFresh benefits due to time limits.
- **Food4All**
  - Automation for the 55+ CFAP Expansion to continue as planned, to be ready to deliver benefits no later than October 1, 2027; and
  - \$117.3 million (GF) in FY 2027-28 and \$172.8 million (GF) in FY 2028-29 to uphold our state’s commitment to Californians aged 55+ regardless of immigration status.

## Social Safety Net Programs (continued)



### State Budget Asks

- **Food4All — All Ages**
  - Commit to \$465.9 million (GF) in FY 2027-28 and \$686.48 million (GF) in FY 2028-29 for a full CFAP expansion to all ages to remove exclusions to food assistance based on immigration status.
- **CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Program**
  - \$100 million (GF) for FY 2026-27 to boost benefits for a greater number of CalFresh households in more regions of the state.



## Strengthening Food Systems and Food Banks

Food Banks are a vital part of our interconnected food system. The uncertainty of the past few years has shown why our Food Bank must remain ready to respond to a myriad of needs in the community. Unfortunately, California has a wildfire season, and these annual events place a high responsibility on food banks to act as emergency food responders. Agriculture is another key aspect of our food system. We continually strive for deeper partnerships with our local food producers and legislative efforts to ensure the system as a whole has the funding and resources needed to meet the growing food insecurity.



### State Bills to Support

- **Count Hunger Act**
  - AB 1734 (Stefani)
- **Extend the Emergency Food for Families Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund**
  - SB 881 (McNerney)
- **California Food Assistance Program – Sponsor Deeming**
  - AB 1049 (Rodriguez)
- **Unlawfully Restrictive Covenants — Grocery Stores and Supermarkets**
  - AB 1857 (Aguiar-Curry) [Bill Text: AB-1857](#)



### State Budget Asks

- **CalFood — State Program That Allows Food Banks to Purchase California-grown Food**
  - \$110 million (\$52 million above the \$8 million baseline in ongoing funding beginning in 2026-2027 to when the current one-time funding expires, plus \$50 million one-time to address increased demand from federal CalFresh/SNAP cuts under H.R. 1.)

## Strengthening Food Systems and Food Banks (continued)



### State Budget Asks

- **Diaper Bank Program**
  - \$16.5 million to sustain the Diaper Bank Program.
- **Local Food Purchasing (LFPA)**
  - \$45 million for Local Food Purchase Assistance Program, locally known as Farms Together.
- **California Underserved and Small Producer Program**
  - \$15 million for climate disaster and emergency relief for small and underserved farmers.
- **Farm to Community Food Hub Program**
  - \$9 million to continue investments in community food hubs.



### Federal Bills to Support

- **Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act**
  - H.R. 6088 – This bill would repeal certain provisions relating to nutrition in the H.R. 1 bill.



### Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Ask

- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) — Federal Program That Distributes USDA Commodity Products to Food Banks**
  - \$100 million for food bank storage and distribution.
  - \$15 million to fully fund the TEFAP Rural Infrastructure Grants program.



### Federal Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Ask

- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) — Federal Program That Distributes USDA Commodity Products to Food Banks**
  - \$500 million to food banks nationwide.

## Policy Partnerships for Hunger Solutions

Effective policy solutions stem from strong partnerships. The focal point of our advocacy model is to center the lived experiences of our community advocates into each aspect of the legislative process. As a community organization focused on ending hunger in partnerships with our community, we strive to work closely alongside our elected officials, community-based organizations, coalitions, and community members to identify the root causes of food insecurity in our region and implement strategic solutions.



To get involved or for questions, please contact our Advocacy and Policy Manager Hailey Argueta-Solares at [hsolares@foodbankccs.org](mailto:hsolares@foodbankccs.org) or 925-917-6200.