



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FOOD BANKS



CHIRLA Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL



Fullwell



CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP TO End Domestic Violence



October 27, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O. St Suite
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Tempore
1021 O St., Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-002

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem McGuire, and Speaker Rivas,

Thank you for your leadership to prevent poverty-related hunger for Californians, including for food banks and other essential services during this federal government shutdown. As you have warned, October 23rd was the last day to prevent unprecedented harm from delays and/or disruptions to the 5 million Californians, including 2 million children, who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, known as CalFresh) benefits to eat.^[1]

We continue to press the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to uphold the clear legal obligation that SNAP benefits are federally entitled, and to immediately direct states to issue full November benefits. As well, for our Congressional leaders to end the shutdown with the passage of a continuing resolution that does not include sunseting important healthcare funding for middle class and working Californians. At this time, however, the USDA and Congressional leaders have made clear that [the federal government is prepared to abandon its obligation](#).

This situation requires your continued leadership, by investing state resources to prevent an unprecedented hunger and economic crisis. Our 71 organizations urge you to provide state-funded CalFresh benefits as soon as possible, including whatever authorities are necessary, and replace the full \$1.1 billion^[2] in November SNAP benefits. If that amount is not possible, to replace benefits on an equitable basis.^[3] We would request the USDA to reimburse California for these benefits that are clearly a federal responsibility, and investments must not affect state commitments to continuing other vital programs.

Other states, such as Governor Youngkin of Virginia,^[4] and the Vermont House of Representatives,^[5] have announced state plans to invest in November SNAP benefits.

Families are already struggling to afford food, and the loss of \$1.1 billion in food benefits would transform that into a crisis of unthinkable magnitude. Your action will prevent irrevocable harms to children, families, and our economy:

- Even a short-term period of hunger has lifelong consequences for children’s growth and development.^[6] Children simply do not get back the days that they go hungry.
- Each \$1 in SNAP benefits creates as much as \$1.80 as benefits are spent at retailers, and each \$1 billion in SNAP benefits creates 13,560 jobs across our food economy including farmworkers, trucking and logistics, grocery, and other sectors.

We again thank you for your committed leadership that no Californian go hungry, and your national leadership to maximize CalFresh and the federal nutrition programs as our first and best line of defense against hunger and poor nutrition.

We look forward to working with you on this request and stand ready to support the Administration and Legislature to support California through the crisis caused by the federal government shutdown.

Sincerely,

AAPIs for Civic Empowerment (AAPI FORCE)
 Agricultural Community Events Farmers' Markets
 Agricultural Institute of Marin
 Alchemist CDC
 Allstar Organics
 Black Women for Wellness Action Project
 California Association of Food Banks
 California Child Care Resource & Referral Network
 California Competes
 California Grocers Association
 California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
 California Retailer’s Association
 California Women’s Law Center
 Center for Healthy Communities
 Central California Food Bank
 Child Care Law Center
 The Children’s Partnership
 Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
 Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, CHIRLA
 Coastside Farmers' Markets

COOK Alliance
 Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK)
 Community Action Partnership of Orange County
 Community Food Bank of San Benito County
 Community Services Unlimited
 Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
 Courage California
 Disability Rights California
 Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
 End Child Poverty California powered by GRACE
 End Poverty in California (EPIC)
 Equal Rights Advocates
 ExtraFood
 Family Services Alliance
 Feeding San Diego
 Food Access LA
 Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
 Food for People, the Food Bank for Humboldt County
 Food Share of Ventura County
 Foodbank of Santa Barbara County
 Foodlink For Tulare County

Foxy Treats Farm
Fullwell
GLIDE
Healthcare For US
Hollywood Food Coalition
Hunger Action Los Angeles Inc
Imperial Valley Food Bank
Interfaith Sustainable Food
Collaborative
Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food
Bank
The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Mar Vista Farmers' Market Association
Marin County Board of Supervisors
Orange County Equity Partnership
Parent Voices California
Petaluma Bounty
Public Interest Law Project

Redwood Empire Food Bank
The Resource Connection Food Bank
Rising Communities
Sacramento Food Bank & Family
Services
San Geronimo Valley Community
Center
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange
County
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz
County
Services, Immigrant Rights and
Education Network (SIREN)
Smart Justice
SF-Marin Food Bank
SLO Food Bank
The Social Impact Center
West Marin Food Systems Group
Westside Food Bank

CC: Director Joe Stephenshaw, Department of Finance
Secretary Kim Johson, Health & Human Services Agency
Director Jennifer Troia, Department of Social Services
Assembly Budget Committee Chair Jesse Gabriel
Senate Budget Committee Chair Scott Wiener
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 Dr. Corey Jackson
Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 Dr. Akilah Weber
Assembly Human Services Chair Alex Lee
Senate Human Services Chair Jesse Arreguín
Assembly CalFresh & Nutrition Select Committee Co-Chair Mia Bonta
Assembly CalFresh & Nutrition Select Committee Co-Chair Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins
Senate Pro Tem Designee Monique Limón

[1] Governor Newsom. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/10/20/trump-shutdown-could-soon-halt-food-support-for-millions-in-california-cal-fresh-cards-face-possibility-of-no-new-funds-in-november/>.

[2] California Department of Social Services. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/california.department.of.social.services/viz/CFdashboard-PUBLIC/Home>.

[3] Should the USDA direct states to issue partial benefits, such as by only using the SNAP contingency fund, we would urge the state to replace the unpaid benefits.

[4] Governor Youngkin. <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2025/october/name-1066131-en.html>.

[5] Vermont Biz. <https://vermontbiz.com/news/2025/october/23/vermont-house-intends-fund-snap-benefits>.

[6] Gallegos, D. et al. "Food Insecurity and Child Development: A State-of-the-Art Review." <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8431639/>