



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FOOD BANKS



CHIRLA Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL FOOD BANK Fighting Hunger. Giving Hope.



October 24, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.<sup>[1]</sup>

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 70 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<sup>[2]</sup> in November SNAP benefits. If that amount is not possible, to replace benefits on an equitable basis.<sup>[3]</sup> 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,<sup>[4]</sup> and the Vermont House of Representatives,<sup>[5]</sup> 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.<sup>[6]</sup> 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 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-Marín 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

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[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/>