



CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
FOOD BANKS



2023

# IMPACT REPORT



## From Our CEO

An interesting phenomenon happened over the course of the pandemic: while the demand for food and food assistance skyrocketed, food insecurity rates initially spiked and then began to decline in 2021.

That's because state and federal governments bolstered our social safety net by boosting CalFresh benefits, expanding child tax credits, and bolstering housing subsidies and protections. Coupled with historic support from the public, the philanthropic community, and dozens of food banks and food bankers across the state stepping up to meet our community needs, we held the line on hunger.

As we enter 2024, pandemic-era safety net enhancements have ended, food insecurity rates are on the rise, and food banks are stretched thin. Today more than one in five Californian households overall are food insecure, which is comparable to the height of the pandemic, while food banks are serving more people with less resources.

We know how to increase food security. Together we did it just a few years back.

Join us as we strive to win back critical anti-hunger resources through advocacy, outreach, and ensuring that all of California's communities can access fresh, healthy foods.

Together, we can turn the curve again!



**STACIA LEVENFELD**



## MISSION

*To end hunger in California*

## VISION

*A well-nourished & hunger-free California, where all people have enough food to lead a healthy life.*

## VALUES

*Dedication • Inclusion • Collaboration  
Transparency • Accountability*



## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

*We can end hunger in California if we:*

- *Build a diverse & sustainable charitable food system,*
- *Create robust & equitable pathways that connect food-insecure neighbors to food, &*
- *Prevent hunger from happening in the first place*



# From Farms to Families

The Farm to Family program has increased its volume by 65% over the past four years, distributing more than 271 million pounds of food — 265 million pounds of fresh produce and about 6 million pounds of proteins and pantry staples — this past year. Farm to Family has continued to forge essential partnerships with farms across California, recovering high-quality produce for donation to food banks that would be tilled under or otherwise lost.

265  
MILLION

pounds of fresh  
produce

5.8  
MILLION

pounds of protein  
& pantry staples

40

types of fruits  
& veggies

TO  
FOOD  
BANKS



*“Thanks to our partnership with CAFB’s Farm to Family program, we’ve received tangerines, oranges, garlic, celery, and more. It’s so amazing for us to be able to offer this kind of variety. It means everything to us.”*

– Beth Stanton  
Executive Director,  
Interfaith Food Bank of Amador County



## What’s Next

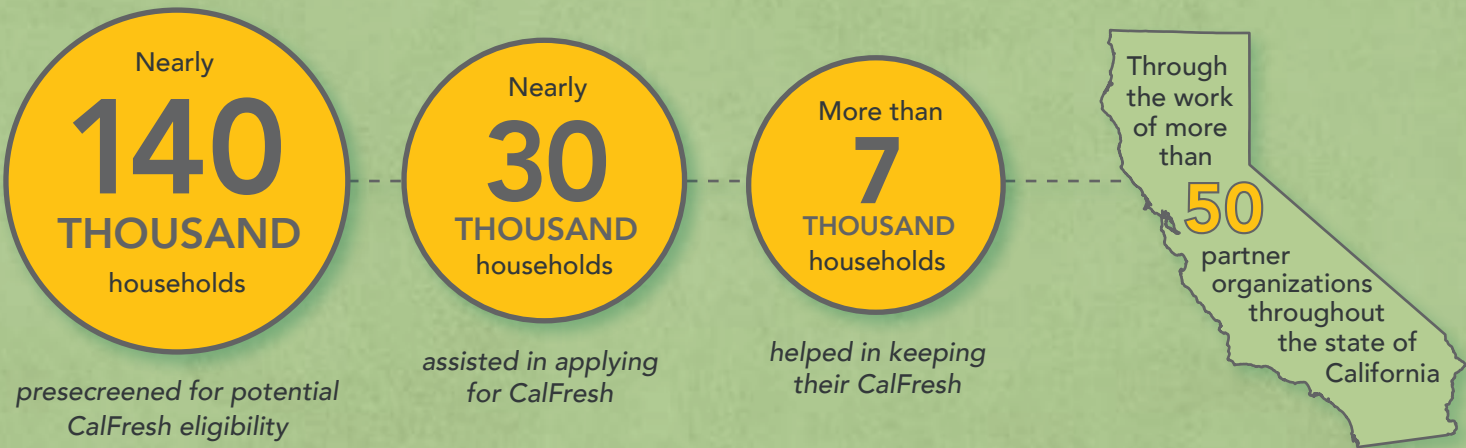
Many small and remotely located food banks lack funds or space to purchase and store large amounts of produce at once. In 2023, CAFB began a \$1 million pilot program to better understand these barriers in order to help food banks distribute more fresh foods. CAFB will continue to evaluate the success of a “mixing center” for repacking and delivering mixed-produce loads, allowing 15 of our food banks — who had previously been unable — to receive fresh, regular produce shipments for their communities.





## Suporting CalFresh Access

This year, CAFB played a key role supporting 28 Disaster CalFresh implementations across the state. By hosting timely trainings, distributing key information, and collaborating on outreach strategies, we were able to quickly activate our network of partners. Additionally, we maintained support for our extensive network of over 50 outreach partners, who assisted eligible Californians in both applying for and retaining their CalFresh benefits. As a result, Californians were successfully connected to an essential nutrition program when they needed it the most.



***“By raising awareness and providing guidance, our outreach efforts ensured that vulnerable individuals and families received timely support to address their immediate nutritional needs in the wake of disasters.”***

**– Rigoberto Morales Mendoza**  
Food Connections Resource Center  
Supervisor, Redwood Empire Food Bank



## What’s Next

We remain steadfast in our advocacy to expand benefits eligibility and adequacy so that all Californians can access foods aligned with their dietary, cultural, and nutritional preferences and needs. Simultaneously, we will continue supporting our outreach partners in their invaluable work connecting Californians to the benefits they are eligible for. In May 2024, the Food ACCESS Conference, hosted biennially by CAFB, will gather individuals in Sacramento to address hunger, emphasizing the exploration of the root causes of food insecurity and strategies for a hunger-free California.



# Addressing Hunger Directly

With the ending of CalFresh Emergency Allotments (EAs) and many other COVID-era public supports like the Child Tax Credit, hunger is again on the rise. CAFB successfully secured \$60 million in the State budget for CalFood funding this year so food banks can purchase California-grown and produced food, helping maintain well-stocked warehouses with valuable items like eggs and culturally relevant products.

In addition to our work to expand CalFresh benefits, we secured \$15 million in the State budget for a pilot program to increase the CalFresh minimum benefit from \$23 to \$50. We will continue to advocate to make \$50 the permanent minimum for all CalFresh households.

Published in 2023:



End of EAs:  
Policy Brief

CA Food Insecurity:  
Data Dashboard

2024 State  
Policy Agenda

Our Coalitions & Partners:



**“CAFB makes participating in advocacy events easy — with detailed information sheets and talking points about bills and relevant issues — so that we can speak with confidence on our visits with legislators.”**

– Genevieve Riutort  
President & CEO,  
Westside Food Bank



## What’s Next

Looking ahead, we are advocating for the permanent establishment of CalFood funding at a minimum of \$60 million annually and the reinstatement of the State Disaster Food Assistance Program as a critical resource for food banks during emergencies. Proactive solutions are crucial to ending hunger in California. In fall 2022, CAFB launched a Research & Strategic Initiatives department to enhance data-driven decision-making and advocacy. More studies and reports will be emerging from this department in the coming year on hunger in California and the impact of food banks on addressing food access needs.

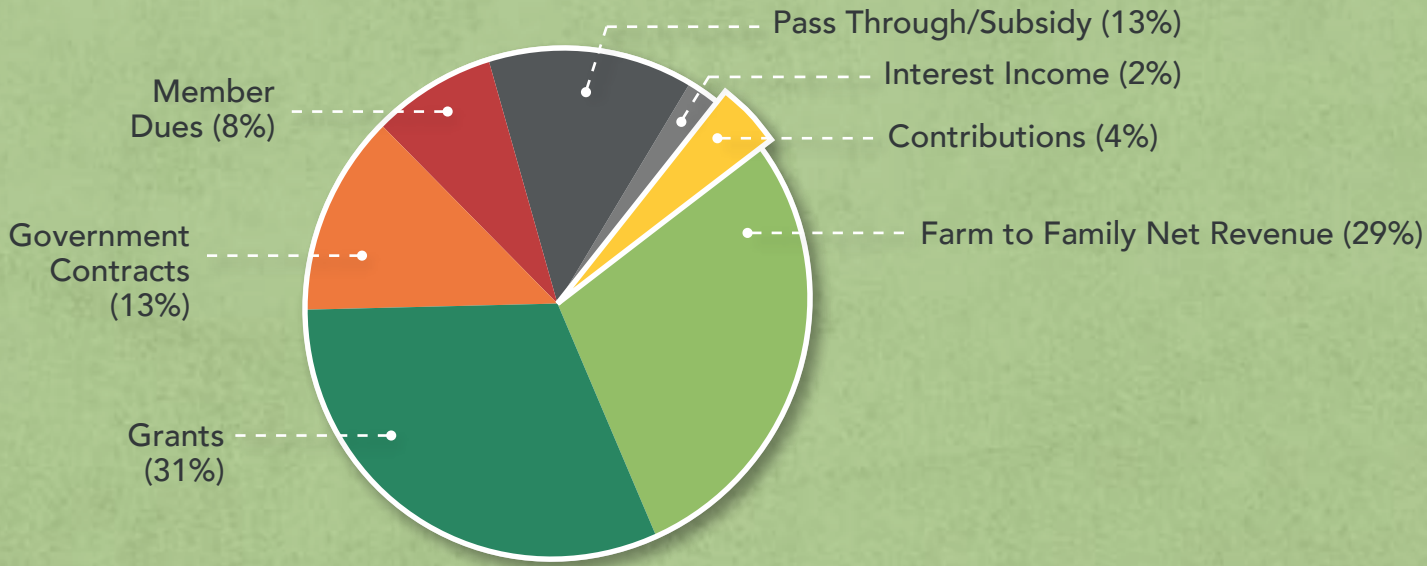


# CAFB Member Food Banks:



\*2022 Data

## 2023 CAFB Revenue Sources



Did you know your generosity doesn't just fill plates but also fuels innovation? Your contributions empower us to pioneer innovative ideas and swiftly support our network in times of need. Your gift, large or small, launches us towards a future where no Californian goes hungry.

With 41 food banks spanning from Humboldt County to the Imperial Valley, our collective strength empowers effective learning, best practice sharing, and advocacy — reinforcing California's food safety net.



- 1 Alameda County Community Food Bank
- 2 Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency
- 3 CAP of Kern Food Bank
- 4 CAP of San Bernardino County Food Bank
- 5 Community Action of Napa Valley Food Bank
- 6 Central California Food Bank
- 7 Community Food Bank of San Benito County
- 8 Dignity Health Connected Living Food Bank
- 9 Emergency Food Bank
- 10 Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino
- 11 Feeding San Diego
- 12 FIND Food Bank
- 13 Food Bank for Monterey County
- 14 Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano
- 15 Food Bank of El Dorado County
- 16 Food for People
- 17 Foodbank of Santa Barbara
- 18 FoodLink Tulare County
- 19 Food Share of Ventura County
- 20 Fort Bragg Food Bank
- 21 Imperial Valley Food Bank
- 22 Interfaith Food Bank of Amador County
- 23 Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank
- 24 Kings Community Action Organization
- 25 Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
- 26 Merced County Food Bank
- 27 North State Food Bank
- 28 OC Food Bank
- 29 Placer Food Bank
- 30 Redwood Empire Food Bank
- 31 Resource Connection Food Bank
- 32 Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services
- 33 Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
- 34 Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
- 35 Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
- 36 Second Harvest Food of the Greater Valley
- 37 SLO Food Bank
- 38 SF-Marin Food Bank
- 39 Westside Food Bank
- 40 Yolo Food Bank
- 41 Yuba-Sutter Food Bank



# THANK YOU

## Supporters

- Albertsons
- BeatBox Beverages
- David and Lucille Packard Foundation
- Feeding America
- Food Research & Action Center - Wellspring
- Guinness Gives Back Program
- Hearst Foundations
- Interpublic Group
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital Fund for Community Benefits Programs at The East Bay Community Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente Southern California Fund for Charitable Contributions issued from Donor Advised Fund of the California Community
- L.A. Care Health Plan
- Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Co.
- Stupski Foundation
- Sunlight Giving

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- Frank Wang
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- Celeste Williamson
- Marty Yee

## Food Donors

Through the generous support and hard work of California’s **farmers, packing houses, and shippers**, the California Association of Food Banks was able to deliver more than **265 million pounds** of fresh fruits and vegetables to our network of 41 food banks and to those who need it most.

- A J Global Foods
- A.V. Thomas Produce
- Access Organics
- All State Packers
- Altar Produce
- Andrew & Williamson Fresh Produce
- Avo 88 Limited
- Beachside Produce
- Bee Sweet Citrus
- Bella Vista Produce, Inc.
- Billingsley Produce Sales, Inc.
- Bluebird Mountain Organics
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- Boskovich Farms
- BP Packing Company
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- Cache Produce
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- Chestnut Hill Farms, LLC
- Chiquita Channel Island
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- Curation Foods, Inc
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- Dulcinea
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- EpicVeg
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- Fordel Marketing, LLC
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- Fowler Packing Company
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- Fresh Prep, LLC
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- Green Life Farms
- Greene & Hemly
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- Harvest Tek, Inc
- HATCH, Inc
- HMC Farms
- Hungenberg Produce
- Index Fresh
- JAS Family Farm Organics
- Johnston Family Farms
- Keystone Fruit & Vegetable Co., Inc.
- Kings River Packing
- Kirschenman Enterprises
- Laguna Produce Sales
- Lakeside Organic Gardens
- Loomis Distributing Inc
- Lundberg Family Farms
- Maple Ridge Food, LLC
- Marin Sun Farms, LLC
- Mission Produce Inc
- Morada Produce
- Mucci Produce
- Neil Bassetti Farms LLC
- North Coast Growers Assoc.
- Ojai Orchards LLC
- Onions ETC
- P & J Estes, Inc.
- Pacific Coast Produce
- Pacific Trellis Fruit, LLC
- Peri & Sons Farms
- Pinos Produce
- Pleasant Valley Farms Inc.
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- Southland Cooling
- Sunkist Growers, Inc
- Sunrise Kiwi Packing
- SunTerra
- T D Produce Sales
- Talley Farms, Inc.
- Taylor Farms Retail, Inc.
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- The HMC Marketing Group Inc.
- TheVegBoss, LLC
- V&H Fresh, LLC Inc
- Van Groningen & Sons
- Vanguard Direct LLC
- Varsity Produce Sales, Inc
- Venida Packing Company
- Vessey & Company
- Western Onion Sales
- Western Veg-Produce
- Wilson Produce LLC
- Windset Farms
- WM Bolthouse Farms Inc
- WMD
- Wonderful Citrus Cooperative
- Zada Fresh Farms
- Zuckermans

## Ways to Give

Thank you for your support! Supporting CAFB and your local food bank fortifies our commitment to ending hunger in California.

Give today at [cafoodbanks.org/give](https://cafoodbanks.org/give)



Donate Online



Stocks



Donor Advised Funds



Cryptocurrency



IRA Charitable Rollovers



Planned Giving

Contact Emme Buczko at [emme.buczko@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:emme.buczko@cafoodbanks.org) for more information.





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**Natalie Caples** | Board President | Co-Chief Executive Officer, Central California Food Bank

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**CALIFORNIA  
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