

2017

CALIFORNIA HUNGER ACTION COALITION

CHAC Policy Agenda



The California Hunger Action Coalition believes access to adequate, nutritious and safe food is a fundamental human right. With potential federal threats to the safety net, we must take action to end our status as #1 in the nation in poverty: 1 in 5 Californians lives in poverty when including our high cost of living ([US Census Bureau](#)).

It's time to prioritize ending poverty & hunger in the state budget

- + Raise **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** above the poverty level and restore the state COLA.
- + Fight hunger by supporting the **CalFood Program** that enables California food banks to purchase only California-grown foods.
- + Provide a **state-funded emergency supplemental nutrition benefit** for CalFresh households who must buy **safe drinking water** when their water system poses a serious health threat.
- + Expand the **California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC)** to all self-employed Californians who meet income eligibility requirements, increase the income eligibility threshold, and invest in awareness outreach programs.
- + Restore the **COLA for CalWORKs** recipients and extend the **CalWORKs 48-month clock to 60 months** to combat food insecurity among low-income families.

Support legislation that improves our anti-hunger programs

- + Enable the CA Department of Social Services to more efficiently deliver state CalFresh benefits if federal assistance is unavailable or does not meet California's needs (**AB 164 Arambula**).
- + Increase access to school meals by implementing Medi-Cal Direct Certification statewide and maximize federal provisions to offer free lunches and breakfast to all students in high poverty schools (**SB 138 McGuire**)
- + Prevent harmful treatment to school children when their families are unable to pay an unpaid debt to the school food services providers by establishing state standards for collecting unpaid fees. (**SB 250 Hertzberg**)
- + Reinstate the COLA for the SSI/SSP benefit and require a maximum aid payment that would increase incrementally until January 1, 2019, when it would be set at 100% (**AB 796 Kalra**)
- + Support CalFresh recipients in securing employment and earnings that are enough for them to exit poverty by establishing a CalFresh Employment & Training (E&T) Center for Excellence (**AB 563 Arambula**)
- + Add the Disaster CalFresh Program into statute and establish various requirements of the Department of Social Services and County Human Services Agencies to respond to the need for emergency food assistance in times of disaster. (**AB 607 Gloria**)

