

IN THE NEWS: *Debt Ceiling Negotiations*

On April 26, 2023, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed a debt ceiling bill which aims to impose strict limitations on federal spending. The bill includes a host of policies that aim to cut vital programs proven to support families struggling to meet their basic needs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as CalFresh in California. These cuts would weaken a critically-needed food safety net program that is proven as one of our most powerful and cost-effective tools to prevent hunger.

CalFresh currently helps five million Californians struggling to put food on the table by providing modest monthly benefits to purchase food at grocery stores and farmers markets. In 2022, CalFresh delivered \$900 million in economic activity in California; every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates as much as \$1.80 in economic activity during an economic downturn. It supports local businesses and creates jobs. By cutting funding for SNAP, the debt ceiling bill will not only harm older adults and families by taking food away, but also undermine the overall health of our economy — an especially harmful outcome on top of the mounting hunger cliff.

LEARN MORE: [McCarthy Bill Uses Debt Ceiling to Force Harmful Policies, Deep Cuts \(Center on Budget and Policy Priorities\)](#)

BEYOND POLICY: *Assemblymember Petrie-Norris Volunteer Event Recap*

On Saturday, April 29, Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris hosted a volunteer event for the community at Harvest Solutions Farm!

Over 70 volunteers helped harvest over 4,500 lbs. of cabbage and 1,000 lbs. of broccolini that were then distributed to our neighbors facing food insecurity.

Second Harvest is thankful for the support of our elected officials and their help in bringing members of the community together to further our mission.



ENGAGE: [Write to your local Congressperson](#) and let them know that Federal budget negotiations should not hold public assistance programs like SNAP/CalFresh hostage. Ensuring people have access to food is an essential investment that strengthens our economy.

Let them know Food Banks can't solve the hunger crisis alone – it takes everyone working together in partnership!

ON THE CALENDAR:

May 7-9 – National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

May 14 – CA Governor Budget Revise released

May 15-19 – California Hunger Action Coalition's Hunger Action Week