



## 2023 Policy Agenda

Since 1983, Second Harvest Food Bank has worked to support those facing food and nutritional insecurity in Orange County. Through advocacy work, we strive to educate and work collaboratively with our community-based partners and elected officials to promote effective policy change that furthers our mission to provide dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food.

This agenda provides guidance on prioritization of SHFB's advocacy efforts. Below are our primary policy and budget objectives for the 2023 local, state, and federal legislative cycles.

### **Strengthening Food Assistance Programs**

*Government food programs provide our communities with the most robust anti-hunger support, and yet current public funding levels are insufficient to meet the current needs and administrative hurdles prevent eligible people from receiving vital benefits. 2023 will see a Farm Bill reauthorization which will allow for the opportunity for important updates to many of these programs. Second Harvest will continue working to protect, strengthen, and expand access to the federal and state food assistance programs including:*

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) & CalFresh**
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and other Senior Nutrition Programs**
- **California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**
- **Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**

### **Childhood Nutrition & School Meals**

*We will continue our efforts to increase the awareness of, accessibility to, efficiency of, and participation in school meal programs, both at a Federal and State level. This will include advocacy work supporting an upcoming legislative Child Nutrition Reauthorization.*

- **National School Lunch Program (NSLP)**
- **School Breakfast Program (SBP)**
- **Out-of-School Time Programs (OST), including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**
- **School Meals for All**
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**
- **Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) and Summer EBT**

### **Food Systems & Food Bank Resilience**

*We will continue working to advocate for programs and funding that will strengthen the overall position of the food bank to allow us to best continue to serve the community.*

- **CalFood Program** – *allows food banks to purchase and distribute California grown foods – supporting California food producers and allowing food banks the flexibility to choose the food products that best meet their community’s needs*
- **Storage & Capacity for California Food Banks** – *ensures that food banks have the physical space and capacity to safely store all necessary food products and equipment*
- **Emergency & Disaster Preparedness** – *ensures that food banks have the monetary and physical resources to continue to be emergency responders during natural and public health disasters*
- **Food Rescue** – *support policy that encourage and incentivize the conditions for food rescue as a vital component of a stable food system*

### **Poverty Alleviation & Prevention**

*Recognizing that food insecurity is linked inextricably with other social determinants of health, we will continue working to support policies that address the root causes of poverty and hunger, including policies that positively impact the health of people experiencing hunger.*

- **CalWORKs (TANF)**
- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**
- **Child Tax Credit**
- **Living Wage**
- **CalAIM**

### **Support of Partner Organization Advocacy Work**

*As a member of both the Orange County Hunger Alliance and the California Association of Food Banks, Second Harvest Food Bank will continue to support legislative and budget requests that work to aid our partner organizations. In 2023, this will include state funding requests for diaper bank and personal hygiene programs.*