



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 for Second Harvest Food Bank's advocacy efforts on a general basis. While specific policy priorities will vary in each calendar year, Second Harvest may weigh in on the following policies and legislation at any time during the year.

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. 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 a much-needed 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) and Summer EBT**
- **School Meals for All**
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**

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 Funding** – 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: State Disaster Food Assistance Program (SDFAP)** – 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 encourages and incentivizes 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 (CTC)**
- **SSI/SSP Benefit Adequacy**
- **Living Wage**
- **CalAIM**

Support of Partner Organization Advocacy Work

As a member of the [Orange County Hunger Alliance](#), [California Association of Food Banks](#), and [Feeding America](#), Second Harvest Food Bank will continue to support legislative and budget requests that work to aid our partner organizations and partner food banks.