

IN THE NEWS: *State Capitol Action Day & Federal Farm Bill Updates*

Second Harvest Food Bank traveled to Sacramento in mid-May for the California Association of Food Banks' Food ACCESS Conference, where we had the opportunity to connect with the other 40 California food banks. As part of the conference, members of the [O.C. Hunger Alliance](#) met with the Orange County delegation of our California State Senators and Assemblymembers for Capitol Action Day.

Connecting with our legislators is an important part of the engagement work of the O.C. Hunger Alliance, especially during a tight budget cycle in California this year. We can advocate for policies that help not only our food banks, but our neighbors facing food insecurity as well. Thank you to the offices of all our state elected officials that met with us to discuss our budget and legislative priorities for 2024.

On the Federal side, the House Agriculture Committee completed its markup of Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson's (R-Pa.) proposed farm bill and advanced the bill out of committee. While the bill proposes several improvements to nutrition programs, it also contains provisions that, over time, weaken the government's ability to provide vital resources to people facing hunger. We continue to advocate for a bipartisan farm bill that strengthens and protects federal nutrition programs.



*O.C. Hunger Alliance in Sacramento
(L-R: Asm. Avelino Valencia, Malia Cary (SHFB), Mark Lowry (CAPOC), Hiram Rodriguez (CAPOC))*

LEARN MORE:

[Second Harvest Food Bank 2024 Policy Agenda](#)

[California Association of Food Banks \(CAFB\) 2024 State Policy Agenda](#)

[OC Hunger Alliance Statement on Proposed Farm Bill Draft](#)



BEYOND POLICY: *Community Voices Academy Launch!*

Second Harvest is excited to announce the launch of our Community Voices Academy – a training program specifically aimed at engaging our community members with lived experience of food and/or nutritional insecurity. The Academy helps prepare community members to be able to confidently share their stories of lived experience of food insecurity and/or why issues of food insecurity are important to them. The goal is to integrate the voices of our community members in our government relations work for sustainable change in our food systems.

Our first cohort of participants graduated earlier this spring, with another cohort set to launch mid-June. Together, we work to fulfill our mission by addressing change in the systems and structures that created the hunger crisis in the first place.

To learn more and/or apply for the Community Voices Academy visit feedoc.org/advocacy.

ENGAGE: Tag California Governor Gavin Newsom (@CAGovernor) on social media and highlight the [budget and legislative priorities for California Food Banks](#) this year.

ON THE CALENDAR:
June 15 – California Budget Deadline