

## IN THE NEWS: *Washington, D.C. Fly-In with Feeding America*

In March, Malia Cary, Government & Public Affairs Manager, represented Second Harvest at the Feeding America fly-in in Washington, D.C. along with 230 other food bank staff, neighbor advocates, and community partners representing 110 of our sister food banks from across the nation. This was the largest Feeding America fly-in in the history of the organization.

Together, the network held nearly 300 meetings with members of Congress, demonstrating the power of collective advocacy. Together, we championed a strong farm bill that strengthens The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which is a source of food for the Food Bank, and protects the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps supplement the monthly grocery budgets of many of our neighbors in need.

Overall, we were able to elevate the needs of our community here in Orange County and make sure our Congressional Representatives are prioritizing the needs of those facing food insecurity.



**LEARN MORE:** [Take a look at our 2025 Policy Agenda and learn about our policy priorities](#)

## BEYOND POLICY: *Champions for Change*



Second Harvest works to center the voices of the community in our advocacy efforts. Twice a year, the Food Bank holds a training program to prepare community members to be able to confidently share their stories of lived experience of food insecurity.

Launched in 2024, the Community Voices Academy just graduated its third cohort this past February. Graduates of the program are then able to join our standing group of advocates called our *Community Champions*. Our Community Champions met for the first time as a group at the end of February, and will regularly meet throughout the year.

They will serve as advocate voices and will be called upon to speak about food and nutritional insecurity with legislators and other community leaders as we work together to end food insecurity in Orange County.

## ENGAGE:

California food banks are facing a potential \$50M drop in the state budget for the CalFood program. Help us advocate at the state level by [sending an email to your elected officials](#).

[And you can learn more about CalFood here.](#)

## ON THE CALENDAR:

**April 12-27** – Federal Spring Recess

**April 29** – California Hunger Action Coalition's [Hunger Action Day](#)