

Advocacy Update

June 2025



IN THE NEWS: *Anti-Hunger Policy Conference & Capitol Action Day*

In early May, Second Harvest traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Food Research & Action Center's annual Anti-Hunger Policy Conference, where anti-hunger advocates from across the country came together in conversation and community.

Following the conference, we met with our Congressional leaders about issues that affect not only our food banks, but our neighbors facing food insecurity as well. Thank you to our Orange County elected officials and offices that met with us to discuss protecting SNAP and other federal food programs that so many of our neighbors rely on.



Later in the month, Second Harvest was in Sacramento for the California Association of Food Banks' Capitol Action Day. We joined other food bank staff from across California to meet with state legislators and advocate for sustained levels of funding for the CalFood program in the state budget, so that we may continue to distribute fresh and nutritious California-grown food to our neighbors in need.

Food insecurity is on the rise here in Orange County, and more people are turning to food banks for support. Now, more than ever, we must work together to ensure that we can continue feeding our communities and meet their growing needs.

LEARN MORE: [Learn more about the state-funded CalFood program and how it supports food banks](#)

BEYOND POLICY: *Elevating the Voices of our Community*

Second Harvest works to center the voices of the community in our advocacy efforts. We do this by holding listening sessions, called Community Conversations, throughout the year with our neighbors receiving food from our food distribution partners. These conversations aid in community-building by fostering ongoing two-way communication between the Food Bank and the community we serve, with the goal of identifying and keeping a pulse on the root causes of hunger specific to our region.

Twice per year, Second Harvest also holds an advocate training program called the Community Voices Academy, with the aim of the program being to prepare community members to be able to confidently share their stories of lived experience of food insecurity. Our hope is to integrate the voices of our community members in our advocacy work to influence sustainable change in our food systems.

Do you have personal experience of food insecurity and want to use your experience to help advocate for systemic change? Our next Community Voices Academy starts later this month. [You can learn more and apply here.](#)

ENGAGE: *Advocate for CalFood*

Take action and [send a note to the Governor](#) in support of CalFood and food banks.

ON THE CALENDAR:

June 15 – California state budget deadline
June 27 – U.S. Senate budget reconciliation anticipated deadline