

## IN THE NEWS: *California State Budget Win & Federal Policy Challenges*



On Friday, June 27, the 2025-26 California state budget was signed by the Governor, and we were thankful that our state leaders included our full request of \$60 million for the CalFood Program! CalFood is a state-run program that allows California food banks like Second Harvest to purchase locally grown food. These funds will be used to provide nutritious food to our community members in need and are a vital investment in food banks, farmers, and healthy communities.

This is a wonderful example of how our collective voices can come together to elevate the issues that affect our communities the most. We wish to thank all our volunteers and supporters who took the time to contact their legislators to let them know the importance of the CalFood Program. It is because of your collective advocacy that our elected officials heard us and prioritized the needs of food banks in the state budget!

On the Federal side, Congress passed budget reconciliation legislation ahead of the July 4 holiday weekend, which includes the most severe cuts to SNAP—known as CalFresh in California—in the program's history. This legislation breaks with decades of federal commitment by shifting billions in costs to states, reducing food assistance for millions of families, and cutting critical support for programs like SUN Bucks and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

These cuts will take food off the table of working parents, grandparents raising children, and veterans—at a time when many families are struggling to afford groceries and are already struggling to make ends meet. Additionally, this bill will cut healthcare and other services Californians rely on, further straining people's food budgets.



Food banks are proud to serve our local communities, but they cannot replace SNAP, which provides nine meals for every one meal distributed by food banks. Second Harvest remains committed to serving our Orange County community members facing food insecurity, but these cuts create an immense gap that we simply cannot fill alone.

### LEARN MORE:

[Read the California Association of Food Banks' statement on the California state budget](#)

[Read Feeding America's statement on the passage of budget reconciliation legislation](#)

### ENGAGE:

Sign up for the [Second Harvest Engagement Network](#) to learn more about food insecurity issues and how you can advocate for the Food Bank.

### ON THE CALENDAR:

**July 25 - August 31** – House Recess  
**August 2 - August 31** – Senate Recess  
**September** – Hunger Action Month