

Advocacy Update

October 2025



IN THE NEWS: *Additional CalFood Funding & Federal Government Shutdown*

Right before the conclusion of the state legislative session, the California legislature passed a funding bill (SB 105) which included an **additional \$20M in CalFood funding for California food banks!** The additional funding was the result of advocacy work (media, sign-on letters, legislative meetings, testimonials) with our legislators that aimed to educate them on the increased food need we are seeing in our communities. The additional funding is intended to help mitigate the impacts of the federal budget reconciliation bill (HR1) on food banks.

As of 12:01 a.m. ET on Oct. 1, funding for the federal government has lapsed. Many departments and agencies—including USDA—have now shut down. The severity and timing of disruptions to federal operations will vary from agency to agency. Congress must pass either fiscal year 2026 spending legislation or a temporary extension of current funding (a continuing resolution) to reopen the government. [You can read more detailed information on the government shutdown here.](#)

And in other federal news, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that they will be discontinuing the annual Household Food Security Survey, a survey that was a key benchmark in the tracking of national food insecurity data.

LEARN MORE:

[Read the California Association of Food Banks' statement on the USDA announcement](#)

BEYOND POLICY: *Hunger Action Month Recap*

A big THANK YOU to everyone who joined us in September in raising awareness and taking action for food security in Orange County!

From our inaugural **Hunger Action Month Kickoff Event** at Great Park Live in Irvine, to **OC landmarks and billboards** lighting up orange across OC, the support for our mission was strong.

We premiered our [advocacy video](#), **Good Day LA** highlighted Hunger Action Day, our food partner Kroger held a **panel on food insecurity** to help spread awareness, **Cox** ran a PSA, local restaurant **Knife Pleat** had a special Hunger Action Month drink, and local leaders amplified our message with official **Proclamations** at City Council meetings across Orange County and from the County Board of Supervisors. We had volunteer events hosted by **Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris**, **UCLA** and **USC**, and **Pretend City Children's Museum**.



Together, we sparked learning, action, and advocacy. Thanks for a great **Hunger Action Month!**

[View photos from Hunger Action Month 2025](#)

ENGAGE:

Help urge Governor Newsom to sign these anti-Hunger bills into law:

AB 79 (Arambula) – [Advocacy Action link](#)

SB 411 (Perez) – [Advocacy Action link](#)

AB 777 (Rodriguez) – [Advocacy Action link](#)

ON THE CALENDAR:

October 12 – State bill signing deadline

October 13-17 – National School Lunch Week

October 16 – World Food Day

October 24 – Second Harvest's birthday!