



2026 Policy Agenda

Since 1983, Second Harvest Food Bank has worked to support those facing food and nutritional insecurity in Orange County. Through advocacy work, we strive to educate and work collaboratively with our community-based partners and elected officials to promote effective policy change that furthers our mission to provide dignified, equitable, and consistent access to nutritious food.

This agenda provides guidance for Second Harvest Food Bank's advocacy efforts on a general basis. While the importance of and focus on specific policy priorities will vary in each calendar year, Second Harvest may weigh in on the following policies and legislation at any time during the year.

Food Assistance Programs

Government food assistance programs provide our communities with the most robust anti-hunger support, yet current public funding levels are insufficient to meet current needs and administrative hurdles prevent eligible people from receiving vital benefits. Second Harvest will work to advocate for protection, strengthening, and expansion of the federal and state food assistance programs via support of outreach activities, benefit protection, and reduction in barriers to enrollment. We will do this advocacy work via legislative vehicles such as the [Farm Bill](#) and other legislation.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and CalFresh**
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and other Senior Nutrition Programs**
- **California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**

Child Nutrition and School Meals

We will continue our efforts to increase the awareness of, accessibility to, efficiency of, participation in, and nutritional value of child nutrition and school meal programs at the federal and state levels. This includes advocacy work supporting a much-needed legislative [Child Nutrition Reauthorization](#).

- **Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**
- **National School Lunch Program (NSLP)**
- **School Breakfast Program (SBP)**
- **Out-of-School Time Programs (OST), including the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and SUN Bucks (Summer EBT)**
- **School Meals for All**
- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**

Food Systems and Food Bank Resilience

We advocate for legislation, programs, and funding that will strengthen the overall position of the food bank, allowing us to continue serving the community to the best of our ability.

- **CalFood Program** – *allows food banks to purchase and distribute California-grown and produced foods, supporting California food producers and allowing food banks the flexibility to choose the food products that best meet their communities' needs.*
- **Food Donation Tax Credits** – *advocating for income tax credits for donations of agricultural products to food banks.*
- **Storage, Capacity, and Administration for Food Banks** – *ensures that food banks have the physical space and capacity to safely store all necessary food products and equipment, and that they have the necessary administrative funding to distribute food product to the community effectively.*
- **Emergency and Disaster Preparedness: State Disaster Food Assistance Program (SDFAP)** – *ensures that food banks have the monetary and physical resources to continue to be emergency responders during natural and public health disasters.*
- **Climate Smart Transitions** – *ensures food banks have the financial support and guidance needed for state-mandated climate smart transitions.*
- **Food Rescue and Responsible Organics Disposal** – *support policy that encourages and incentivizes the conditions for food rescue as a vital component of a stable food system, including ensuring food banks are at the table on efforts to adjust statutory language to better represent the work of food banks on SB 1383 implementation.*

Poverty Alleviation and Prevention

Recognizing that food insecurity is linked inextricably with other social determinants of health, we will continue working to support policies that address the root causes of poverty and food insecurity, including policies that positively impact the health of people experiencing food and nutritional insecurity.

- **CalWORKs and TANF**
- **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**
- **Child Tax Credit (CTC)**
- **SSI/SSP Benefit Adequacy**
- **Living Wage**
- **CalAIM**

Support of Partner Organization Advocacy Work

As a member of the [Orange County Hunger Alliance](#), [California Association of Food Banks](#), and [Feeding America](#), Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County will continue to support advocacy efforts that work to aid our partner organizations and partner food banks.