

# THE ECONOMIC AND ANTI-HUNGER VALUE OF SNAP (CALFRESH)



California Association of Food Banks is proud to partner with business sectors in achieving our mission to end hunger in California. These include our nation's leading agricultural sector who feeds the world, grocers, restaurants and retail outlets who sustain our healthy population and economy.

Our flagship [Farm to Family](#) program is a national model connecting growers, packers and shippers to food banks – setting a record 200 million donated pounds in 2016 alone. Our relationships with grocers and other retail partners are fundamental sources of expensive but vital proteins like dairy and meats.

Yet as food banks, [we know first-hand that 19 out of 20 emergency meals come not from the charity sector from federal nutrition programs](#), primarily the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California.

Because SNAP provides 100% federally-funded nutrition benefits it is an essential economic engine for California, especially across our agricultural, grocery and retail sectors:

1. [Every billion in SNAP benefits generates as many as 14,000 jobs](#) in states like California with heavy food and farming industries, including nearly [3,000 agricultural jobs](#).
2. [Annually, SNAP drives \\$7.5 billion in economic activity](#) across California especially in rural areas supporting farmers to have markets for their products, and small retailers to have customers.
  - [The Restaurant Meal Program provides crucial food access in nearly all major urban counties](#).
3. Because Californians on SNAP buy their food locally, [SNAP benefits circulate in the economy with a 1.7 multiplier effect according to Moody's](#) – one of the most effective economic stimulus programs across the federal government. In other words, every \$5 in SNAP benefits generates \$9 in



economic activity.

4. We should expand, not cut SNAP. [Right now we leave \\$2.5 billion in federally funded SNAP benefits and \\$4.5 billion in total economic activity on the table because we don't maximize participation in the program](#).
  - [Every \\$1 billion increase in SNAP benefits generates \\$92.6 million of agricultural production, and \\$32.3 million of agricultural GDP](#).

**We ask our industry partners to help us protect and defend SNAP, whether in the Farm Bill or other opportunities.**

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