



State Anti-Hunger Leaders Oppose President's Budget That Would Worsen Hunger, Health, and the Economy in California

Yesterday, President Trump released his [FY 2020 budget](#) proposing \$220 billion in deep cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, CalFresh in California) over the next 10 years. The budget plan also doubled down on deeply flawed proposals to time limit benefits across several core safety net programs including SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid and Rental Assistance that would worsen hunger, health, and poverty for everyday Californians. The California Association of Food Banks, Western Center on Law and Poverty, and California Food Policy Advocates urge all members of the California Congressional Delegation to oppose cuts to SNAP and other vital programs that help lift millions of Californians out of poverty. We are pleased to see that so many have already made [statements that they will](#) push back against these proposed cuts.

SNAP is the nation's most important anti-hunger program, reaching nearly [40 million low-income Americans](#), including approximately 4 million Californians. Over the next 10 years, the budget blueprint outlines a harsh vision for our country that would increase hunger and hardship, including several proposals that would undermine the strength, efficiency, and reach of the SNAP program we know today. The budget reinforces the administration's previous proposals to time limit SNAP nutrition assistance benefits for an [estimated 755,000 people](#), which the Farm Bill overwhelmingly rejected on a bi-partisan basis. Further, the budget reintroduces its deeply flawed FY 2019 budget proposal to replace SNAP with a "Harvest Box," which would stigmatize people struggling to make ends meet by limiting choice and would be administratively burdensome to implement.

The President's proposal would upend SNAP and undermine the success and efficiency of this public-private partnership that drove approximately \$12 billion in economic activity last year — supporting markets for producers and customers for local retailers. SNAP, not private charity, is the frontline against hunger. Food banks know the importance of the program because for every one meal that charity provides, SNAP provides 12. There is no way food banks could make up cuts of this scale, which would increase hunger and hardship statewide.

The budget plan also targets child nutrition programs, cutting funding by \$1.7 billion over the next 10 years by reducing the number of schools eligible to implement the [Community Eligibility Provision](#) and altering the process for verifying school meal applications, which will create new administrative barriers, reduce access to free and reduced-price meals for eligible students and drive up [school lunch debt](#).

In sum, the President's FY 2020 budget outlines a harsh, deeply flawed vision that would plunge millions of Americans deeper into poverty, worsen health outcomes, and widen existing inequities and racial disparities across our most vulnerable communities.

For more information about California's Federal Anti-Hunger Priorities, go to www.wclp.org; www.cafoodbanks.org; or www.cfpa.net or contact:

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