

California Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

Purpose

The purpose of the Food and Nutrition Security Profile (Profile) is to provide an overview of state and regional efforts and infrastructure to advance food and nutrition security. Although not exhaustive, the Profile serves as a resource to support greater collaboration across disciplines and sectors to improve equitable access to food. The intended audience includes public health practitioners, food policy councils, community-based organizations, food banks and pantries, school district wellness councils, food sovereignty organizations including Indigenous groups and coalitions, and others with a mission to improve food and nutrition security.

The Profile serves as a companion to the [National Food and Nutrition Security Profile](#) and will be reviewed and updated biennially. If you have any questions or comments about your Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org.

Food Banks, Pantries, and Feeding Programs

The [California Association of Food Banks](#) works alongside [41-member food banks](#) to ensure they have the tools and resources needed to support California's communities.

The following food banks are members of Feeding America's [network](#).

- [Alameda County Community Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Alameda County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Central California Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare, and Kern Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Feeding America Riverside San Bernardino Counties](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Feeding San Diego](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves San Diego County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [FIND Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).



- Serves eastern Riverside and southern San Bernardino Counties.
- View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Food Bank for Monterey County](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Monterey County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves 18 [Northern California](#) counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Food Bank of Northern Nevada](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Nevada and parts of Central California – view [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Foodbank of Santa Barbara County](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Food Share of Ventura County](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Ventura County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Los Angeles Regional Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Los Angeles County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Placer Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves El Dorado and Placer Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Redwood Empire Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Orange County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Santa Cruz County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).



- [Second Harvest of the Greater Valley](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).

- [Second Harvest of Silicon Valley](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).

- [SF-Marin Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Marin and San Francisco Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).

For a list of food banks in your state that operate independently from Feeding America, see [listing](#) compiled by Food Bank News.

Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

Food Is Medicine Programs

- Find the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) program in your state.
- Locate the [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#) (GusNIP) grantees in your state:
 - *Current Produce Prescription Funding:*
 - [California State University Fresno Foundation](#) (2022-2025)
 - [Community Action Partnership of Orange County](#) (2022-2025)
 - [County of Alameda](#) (2021-2025 and 2022-2025)
 - [County of Los Angeles](#) (2020-2025, 2021-2025, 2022-2025, and 2022-2026)
 - [Everyone's Harvest](#) (2022-2025)
 - [Ole Health](#) (2022-2025)
 - [Project Open Hand](#) (2022-2024)
 - [Thai Community Development Center](#) (2022-2025)
 - [The Ceres Community Project](#) (2022-2025)
 - *Current Nutrition Incentive Funding:*
 - [California Department of Food and Agriculture](#) (2022-2025)
 - [Community Services Unlimited, Inc.](#) (2021-2025)
 - [Inadvance \(Saba Grocers\)](#) (2021-2025)
 - [University of California San Diego](#) (2019-2025)
 - [Yolo County](#) (2021-2025)
- [California Food as Medicine Collaborative](#)
- [Medically Supportive Food & Nutrition California](#)

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
 - The implementing agency is the University of California-Davis.



- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education \(SNAP-Ed\)](#)
 - The California Department of Social Services is the state agency responsible for CA SNAP-Ed or CalFresh Healthy Living. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include the California Department of Aging, the California Department of Health Catholic Charities of California, Inc, and the University of California Davis.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)
 - [California SNAP Directory](#)

Senior Nutrition Programs

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by California Department of Aging.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the California Farmer's Market Nutrition Program.

Child Nutrition Programs

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Child Nutrition Programs](#) contacts for implementing agencies of programs listed below:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- National School Lunch Program (Universal School Lunch)
- School Breakfast Program (Universal School Breakfast)
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program (SUN Meals)
- USDA Foods in Schools

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

[Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation](#) program provides USDA Foods to income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations. [State program contacts](#).

Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [California State Emergency Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 9
- [Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\) Contacts](#)

Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- View [list of food policy councils](#) in each state through the John Hopkins Center for Livable Future's 2021 Food Policy Network Map.
- [Nourish California](#) (formerly California Food Policy Advocates)
- [California Food Policy Council](#)

Other Key Food and Nutrition Security Organizations

- [University of California Food Policy Institute](#) conducts and translates policy-relevant research to transform environments for healthy children, families, and communities.



- [California Department of Food and Agriculture Office of Farm to Fork](#) connects school districts and community members directly with California's farmers and ranchers.
- [Bioneers Restorative Food Systems Program](#) helps transform the dominant, exploitative food system to one that is ecologically based, humane, socially just, and equitable.
- [National Farm to School Network - California](#) increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children's health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities.
- [FEAST](#) promotes wellness by harnessing the power of healthy foods and human connection.
- [Food Finders](#) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to rescue food, reduce hunger, and improve nutrition in communities across Southern California.
- [Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative](#) is focused on building a more sustainable food system in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- [Social Justice Learning Institute](#) is dedicated to improving the education, health, and wellbeing of youth and communities of color by empowering them to enact social change through research, training, and community mobilization.
- [The Ron Finley Project](#) is teaching communities how to transform food deserts into food sanctuaries, and teaching individuals how to regenerate their lands into creative business models.
- [California Alliance of Farmers' Markets](#) supports farmers' market managers and maintains a network of market managers, producers, vendors, and affiliates working together for the betterment of the industry.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

Data Sources and Resources

- [California Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [Food Security in the U.S.](#) – USDA
- [Child Nutrition Programs Dashboard](#) – USDA
- [Food Environment Atlas](#) – USDA
- [Map the Meal Gap](#) – Feeding America
- [Community Food Security in California](#) – Community Food Security Coalition
- [Nourish California Publications and Resources](#) – Nourish California

State Public Health Contacts for Food and Nutrition Security

Chronic Disease and Health Promotion

Lynnley Stern, Interim Chief Chronic Disease Control Branch

lynnley.stern@cdph.ca.gov



Maternal and Child Health Program

Christine Nelson, Director

WIC@cdph.ca.gov

Women, Infants, and Children Program

Emily Zadeh, Acting Title V Director

emily.zadeh@cdph.ca.gov

For additional information or questions about this Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org.

The Improving Food Security, Access to Safe Physical Activity, and Social Connectedness project, commonly known as Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC), was a national project of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors that was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Cooperative Agreement #OT18-1802, Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation's Health, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contents of this profile are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and its more than 7,000 Members seek to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states and nationally. For more information, visit chronicdisease.org.