CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Tracey Patterson
Director of Legislation
California Food Policy Advocates
tracey@cfpa.net
510.433.1122 x 101

2016 State Legislative Agenda

Fight Hunger with Summer EBT for Children

CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Contact: Tia Shimada at tia@cfpa.net | 510.433.1122 ext. 109 | www.cfpa.net

Opportunity

Across California, two in every five low-income households with children cannot consistently afford enough food. In all, 1.7 million Californians live in these food-insecure households.

Summer EBT for Children (SEBTC) is nutrition assistance used to purchase groceries when school is out of session and school meals are not available.

- SEBTC is a well-tested strategy to decrease hunger and improve nutrition.
- It has launched in eight states and two tribal nations, but not in California.
- Congress is poised to increase the reach of these federally funded benefits.

Legislative Action

- Direct the State to (1) develop the framework of Summer EBT for Children in California and (2) pursue all federal resources & federal authority available to operate the program.

Why This Matters

Summer EBT for Children works, but it's not at work in California. SEBTC has been rigorously evaluated. With SEBTC, fewer children and adults experience food insecurity and children consume more fruits, vegetables, and other nutritious foods.

Research and common sense tell us that children need year-round access to nutritious meals. Those meals prevent chronic hunger and support optimal health, learning, and development.

California's Summer Nutrition Gap	8 in 10 children who benefit from nutritious, free or reduced-price school lunches miss out on similar meals during the summer

Fight hunger & help all kids thrive: don't let California miss out on Summer EBT for Children.

AB 2054 (Thurmond): Summer EBT for Children

- Summer EBT for Children is an effective, well-tested demonstration program that reduces summer hunger
- Federal opportunities to expand Summer EBT to other states
- AB 2054 would ensure that State agencies seize the opportunity and ensure that California children benefit

CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

2016 State Legislative Agenda

Safe Drinking Water for Low-Income Families

CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Tracey Patterson [Legislation] | tracey@cfpa.net | 510.433.1122 ext. 109
Hector Gutierrez [Water Access] | hector@cfpa.net | 213.482.8200 ext. 202

Learn More: www.cfpa.net

Opportunity

Water in the homes of more than 1 million Californians repeatedly failed tests for safe drinking in 2014. This situation is especially dire for the tens of thousands of affected households that are living at or near the poverty line. For these Californians, having to purchase drinking water puts already limited household budgets – including food budgets – under additional strain. An interim, supplemental benefit for drinking water would help ensure that inadequate, unsafe water systems do not exacerbate hunger or food insecurity.

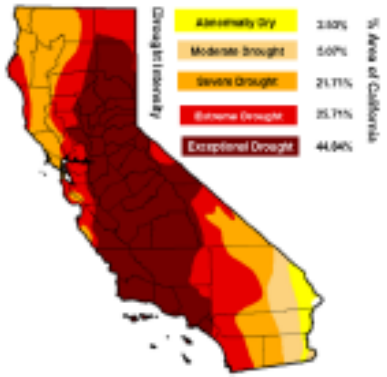
Legislative Action

- Authorize the State's Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system to deliver interim, supplemental drinking water benefits to low-income Californians with inadequate access to safe drinking water.

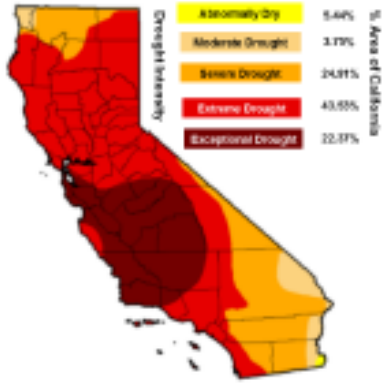
Why This Matters

Families in poverty cannot wait for long-term solutions to state's water crisis. Without affordable access to safe water, low-income communities in California will continue to bear a disproportionate burden of this drought. This issue affects families across the state and is felt most acutely in the Central Valley and Sierra Foothills, where residents face persistent economic hardship. Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right. All Californians should have access to the basic resources necessary to live healthy, productive lives.

December 2015



March 2014



Images: National Drought Mitigation Center. December 1, 2015 | March 14, 2015.

For more than 20 years, CFPA has been the state's trusted food policy advocacy organization dedicated to increasing low-income Californians' access to healthy food at home, at school, and throughout entire communities. CFPA's advocacy agenda draws on the anti-hunger, nutrition, and health movements. Working as both a policy leader and supportive policy ally, CFPA continues to build on its long history of success.

AB 2099 (Stone): Safe Drinking Water for Low-Income Californians

- State funds currently provide for interim emergency drinking water delivery while long-term solutions are sought.
- AB 2099 would authorize the state's EBT system to deliver benefits to impacted low-income households to offset the cost of obtaining safe drinking water

CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES