

CalFresh: Program Overview

CDSS CalFresh Branch



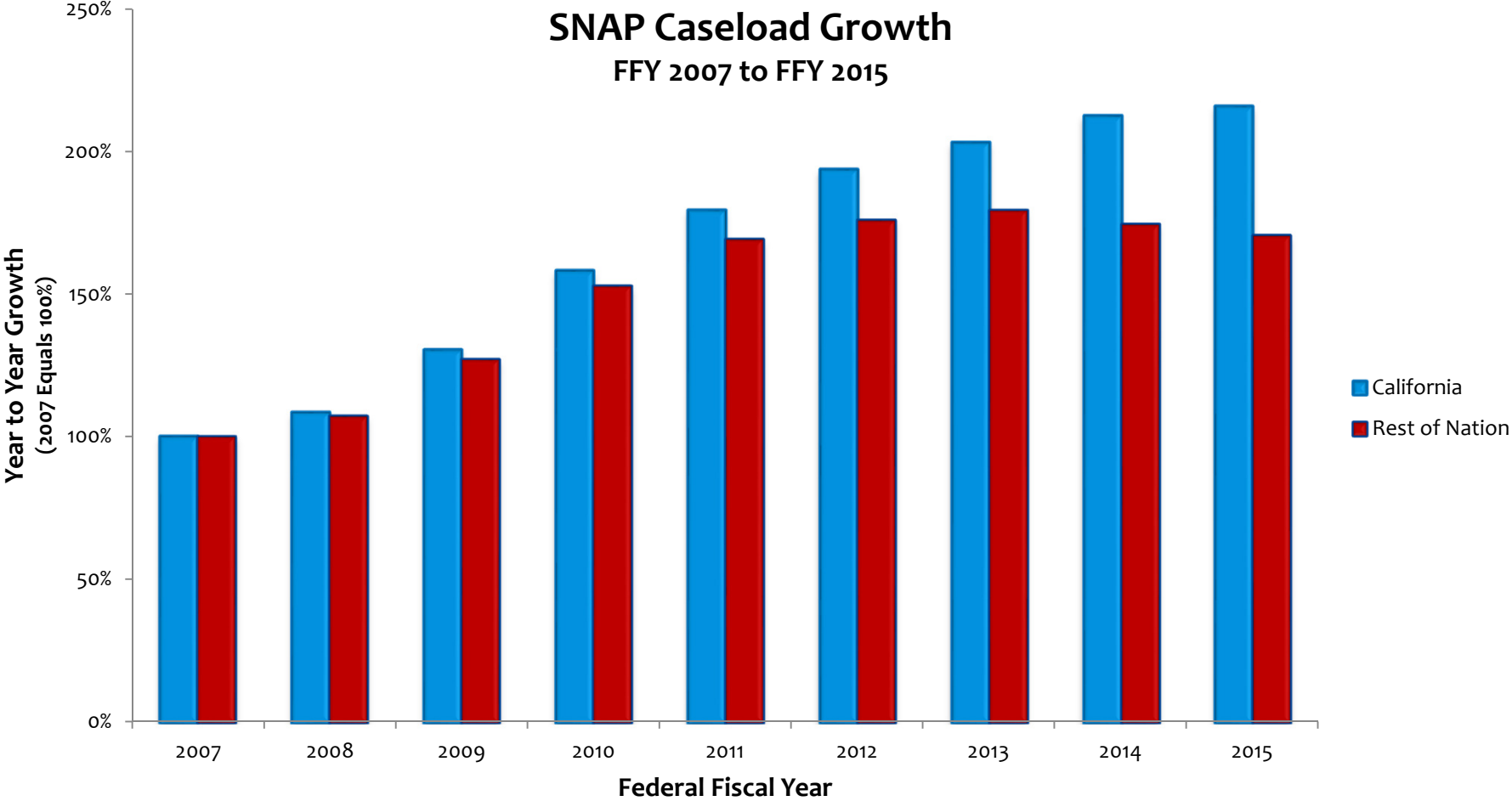
CalFresh in a Nutshell

- * CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps) is an entitlement program that provides monthly benefits to assist low-income households in purchasing the food they need to maintain adequate nutritional levels.
- * Benefits are 100 percent federally funded. Administrative costs are shared between the federal, state and county governments.
- * National eligibility standards and benefit levels are set by Congress and administered by the United States Department of Agriculture. The program is called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at the federal level.
- * CalFresh benefits are issued through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. By using the EBT card, cardholders can access food benefits at point-of-sale (POS) terminals of retailers authorized by USDA to accept CalFresh benefits.

CalFresh Caseload

- * **California currently serves 4.4 million people each month and issues approximately \$8 billion in CalFresh benefits annually.**
 - * 1,900,000 Non-Assistance households
 - * 285,000 Public Assistance households (CalWORKs)
- * **Economic benefit of \approx \$14.3 billion per year**

CalFresh Participation



Governor's Budget Proposed Funding for FY 2016-17

- * A total of \$2.0 billion (\$0.7 billion State General Fund) for CalFresh Administration
- * \$77 million General Fund for California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for certain legal non-citizens

Governor's Budget Proposal: Childhood Nutrition Initiative

- * **Goal to serve 400,000 more children by July 1, 2018, through:**
 1. “In-reach” to those families participating in WIC, School Meals, and/or Medi-Cal
 2. Streamlined business processes
 3. Outreach

- * 5 new regional positions dedicated to county technical assistance & training, in order to rapidly replicate proven practices for “in-reach” and business processes

Childhood Nutrition Initiative: Return on Investment

- * When fully realized the initiative will provide:
 - * \$900 million in food benefits to 200,000 families (with 400,000 children)
 - * \$1.6 billion in economic benefit to California
 - * Assuming every \$1 of food benefits frees up \$0.45 for taxable goods, this initiative would generate \$18 million in annual sales tax revenues

Participation Progress

- * **California recognized by USDA for most improved Program Access Index for the 2014 calendar year.**



Disaster CalFresh: Butte and Valley Fires

- * During the Butte and Valley Fires, a Presidential declaration of disaster was issued to both Calaveras & Lake counties
- * CalFresh was able to provide new and expanded food assistance to over 1100 households:
 - * Disaster-CalFresh benefits = \$474,000
 - * Mass replacement benefits = \$297,000



Program Priorities for 2016

- * 1. Streamlined Services
- * 2. Accurate Benefits
- * 3. Participation by Under-served
- * 4. SNAP Nutrition Education: Healthy Changes
- * 5. SNAP Employment & Training: Job Opportunities

In Focus: Employment & Training

- * National USDA E&T pilot awarded to Fresno County
- * National USDA “SNAP to Skills” technical assistance grant awarded to California to serve San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa and Sacramento Counties
- * Community College pilots beginning in Santa Clara and Sacramento Counties
- * State “ABAWD” waiver extended through December 31, 2017

Thank You

- * CDSS CalFresh Extranet and Data Dashboard:
- * <http://www.cdsscounties.ca.gov/foodstamps/>