

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY AGENDA 2019



This agenda identifies opportunities that our state departments can seize now, within their current authority, to help more Californians in need.

We all deserve food, dignity, and meaningful opportunities to thrive.

It's time to put California values into action.

It's time for Californians to unite, as we have before, to fight for policies that improve circumstances for all.

We can dismantle the racist and classist structures that perpetuate deep inequities in health, education, poverty, and hunger.

We can uphold the promise to care for one another.

Together, we can make California hunger free.

Honoring Promises Made

Californians have united to establish policies that improve circumstances for all. Once a bill or budget becomes law, the work of making new policies into on-the-ground realities is the responsibility of administrators in state departments and local agencies.



We look to state administrators to uphold the promise of new laws, and together, make California hunger free.

- New laws are being implemented to create more equitable access to food for California's public school students ([SB 138](#) & [AB 1871](#)).
- Recent budget investments, like the [CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot](#) and [Safe Drinking Water EBT](#), are helping to modernize the CalFresh EBT system so that the state can improve Californians' ability to purchase healthy foods and be able to quickly respond to emerging needs of communities in the future.
- With [new state policy](#), approximately 500,000 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients (older adults and/or individuals with disabilities) will become eligible for CalFresh food assistance for the first time.

People at the Center

All people are deserving of respect and dignity, no matter their life circumstances. Creating programs that are easier to navigate acknowledges the complexity of hardships that come along with food insecurity. Leaders should actively engage with people who have lived or may be living the experience of hunger and apply these perspectives when designing and improving service systems.



Clients' experiences should drive change within and across social service programs.

- New leadership means new energy to create systems-level changes that embrace a “no wrong door” approach for people seeking assistance (like [CalFresh, WIC, and Medi-Cal](#)), regardless of where they live or their life circumstances.
- The State should continue to maximize federal flexibilities that ease enrollment into CalFresh and maximize benefits, including the [time-limit rule waiver](#), a [simplified older adult application](#), and the [Standard Medical Deduction](#).
- The State can [connect more](#) eligible students from CalFresh, CalWORKs, and Medi-Cal households to free and reduced-price school meals by making evidence-based changes to their monthly data matching process, known as “direct certification.”

Inclusivity in a Diverse California

Policies can intentionally and unintentionally create and perpetuate inequities across race, region, gender, immigration status, and other identities. Administrators wield a unique authority and power to implement programs that prioritize equity and contribute to a more just society.

Administrative leaders can and should help reverse long-standing ethnic and racial injustices.

- The [Food for All Stakeholder Group](#) brings together state agencies, advocates, and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to remove immigrant exclusions from California’s food assistance safety net, improve linguistic and cultural access to food assistance, and fight for a system that works for all.
- The State should engage participants, local administrative partners, advocates, and other stakeholders to understand the [language and cultural barriers](#) that prevent families and child care providers from accessing the Child and Adult Care Food Program.