

# 2016 Research Agenda

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California Food Policy Advocates harnesses research to identify problems, incubate solutions, and effect change. We are calling on community leaders, policymakers, issue experts, academics, funders, and our fellow advocates to join us in these efforts. Together, we can ensure a healthy and food-secure California.

**We welcome your inquiries about our research priorities. Please contact us about opportunities to collaborate.**

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## Current Projects & Opportunities

**Nutrition Standards for Family Child Care Homes** | CFPA is leading a project to develop, test, and evaluate nutrition standards for family child care homes. California does not currently require that the food served in family child care settings meet any nutrition standards. Thoughtfully integrating nutrition standards into state licensing regulations would improve the lives of young children and elevate the quality of care -- and could ultimately support the viability of the child care workforce. CFPA is working with early childhood nutrition experts to propose nutritionally ideal standards and an advisory group of administrators, providers, and other child care stakeholders to vet those standards for practicality.

**What's Next?** CFPA is pursuing resources to

- Engage specialists in the design and execution of the pilot intervention;
- Collaborate with local agencies and family child care providers to pilot the developed nutrition standards;
- Coordinate with evaluators to assess the effects of those standards; and
- Draw on the project evaluation to craft and pursue policy recommendations that would improve nutrition in licensed family child care.

**Interested in nutrition standards for family child care settings?** We welcome inquiries from potential collaborators, including funders, local administrators, community leaders, and other child care stakeholders.

**School Nutrition Report Card** | CFPA is leading a project to develop a school nutrition report card that will capture student perceptions of school nutrition programs. Operating effective nutrition programs is a sustainable, practical approach to improving student achievement, student engagement, and school climate. Qualitative and quantitative measures of school nutrition programs are needed to ensure those positive outcomes. The school nutrition report card will be an easily accessible tool for advocates, decision makers, and other stakeholders to accurately assess student perceptions of school nutrition programs and school nutrition environments.

By the fall of 2016, CFPA will convene an advisory group to develop a draft school nutrition report card; coordinate with California schools to conduct preliminary testing of the report card; and reconvene the advisory group to refine a finalized report card.

**What's Next?** CFPA is pursuing resources to deploy the final report card in a number of school communities that utilize a variety of approaches -- from nutrition education to facilities upgrades to farm-to-school -- in an effort to improve school meal quality and appeal. This work will be critical to understanding

- The connections between students' perceptions of school food and participation in school meals;
- The policies and practices that affect students' perceptions of school food; and
- The most promising policy opportunities to increase school meal participation via improved school meal quality.

**Interested in school nutrition report cards?** We welcome inquiries from potential collaborators, including funders, school nutrition services staff, school administrators, community leaders, parent groups, and other school nutrition stakeholders.

**CalFresh Pilot: Streamlined Enrollment for Seniors** | In an effort to increase the reach of CalFresh among low-income seniors, CFPA is leading a project to pilot a simplified enrollment process. More specifically, the pilot will test the effects and feasibility of decreasing enrollment burdens on applicants and administrators through strategic data sharing between public agencies.

CFPA is working with state administrators and community-based partners to

- Understand and address potential barriers to implementing the pilot;
- Secure support for the pilot among county CalFresh and Social Security administrators;
- Advocate an endorsement of the pilot from the Social Security Administration Regional office.

**What's Next?** CFPA is working to secure pilot participation among one or more counties by the end of the calendar year. Pilot counties will use Social Security Administration data to (1) identify seniors who are potentially eligible for CalFresh; (2) make those seniors aware of CalFresh and their potential eligibility; and (3) with consent, initiate a CalFresh application.

**Interested in streamlined CalFresh enrollment for seniors?** We welcome inquiries from potential collaborators, including funders, local CalFresh and Social Security administrators, CalFresh outreach organizations, senior advocacy groups, community leaders, and other anti-hunger and nutrition stakeholders.

To access our recurring analyses and reports, which assess the need for and benefits of the federal nutrition programs, please visit our [Publication page](#).

**In 2016, CFPA will release a host of inaugural reports and timely briefs described below.**

**General | Screening for Food Insecurity in Healthcare Settings |** A white paper assessing current practices for food insecurity screenings and nutrition referrals in healthcare settings -- and the extent to which those practices are used in California. This paper will also describe opportunities to systemically promote the use of food insecurity screenings in healthcare settings and to ensure effective referrals for food-insecure patients. Expected Fall 2016.

### **CalFresh**

**Policy Brief: Medical Deductions |** A policy brief examining current policies and practices with respect to medical deductions, the extent to which medical deductions are applied, and policy recommendations for leveraging medical deductions to optimize CalFresh benefits and enrollment for seniors. Expected Summer 2016.

**Policy Brief: Dual Enrollment with Medi-Cal |** A policy brief examining current policies and practices with respect to dual enrollment in Medi-Cal and CalFresh. Drawing on the experiences of successful states and counties, this brief will describe specific changes that California can implement to increase dual enrollment. Expected Fall 2016.

**School Nutrition | School Breakfast Program Survey |** A survey to better understand how California public school districts operate the School Breakfast Program -- and the challenges and successes they experience in doing so. Expected Spring 2016.

**Early Childhood | Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): Access & Participation |** An analysis describing the current reach and potential growth of CACFP in the licensed childcare facilities that serve California's youngest and most vulnerable children. Expected Fall 2016

**Water | Policy Brief: Water in Child Nutrition Programs |** A policy brief examining the current state of water access via the federal child nutrition programs, including access to safe drinking water in schools. This brief will present a range of policy solutions to improve water access and consumption among California kids. Expected Summer 2016.