



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POTENTIAL 90% CUT TO STATE CALFOOD FUNDING THREATENS VENTURA COUNTY FOOD ACCESS

Food Share Ventura County warns reductions could limit food for 200 pantry partners

For Food Share Ventura County, CalFood makes up 35% of its food purchasing budget. The CalFood program provides State funding to food banks for purchasing, storing, and distributing food grown and/or produced in California. State funding for CalFood is projected to drop from \$80 million in FY 25-26 to \$8 million in FY 26-27, at a time when federal funding cuts to nutrition programs like SNAP (CalFresh) are leaving more people turning to food banks for help.

Overall, Food Share distributes more than 21 million pounds of food to 254,000 people each year — a number that has grown three times since before the pandemic. The majority served are working families living paycheck to paycheck, along with seniors on fixed incomes — all of whom are being pushed to the brink by rising costs for food, fuel, and housing.

WHY NOW

- 737,000 Californians are expected to lose SNAP benefits due to H.R.1 bill cuts
- Food banks are urging state leaders to authorize \$110M in CalFood ahead of the May budget revise, with \$60 million in ongoing funding and an additional \$50 million to help offset the impact of cuts to SNAP
- Need is already at 6M people/month statewide, exceeding pandemic-era levels
- 1 in 5 households face food insecurity in California

MEDIA CONTACT: Janelle Kruly, Reveille, (714)-858-0945 or janellek@reveilleinc.com

About Food Share Ventura County:

Food Share, Ventura County's food bank, is the largest hunger-relief organization in the county, serving more than 254,000 food-insecure individuals annually. Staff and volunteers distribute over 21 million pounds of food each year through a network of 200 partner agencies. Food Share is a proud member of Feeding America and the California Association of Food Banks. Learn more at www.foodshare.com.

About California Association of Food Banks:

Since the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) formed in 1996, it has grown into a powerful network leading the fight against hunger in California with a shared belief that access to food is a fundamental right. California produces more than enough nutritious food to feed everyone in the state. CAFB partners with 43 food banks that support close to 6,000 community-based organizations with a common mission: to end hunger. Through collaborative partnerships, CAFB is a collective force making equitable access to food the standard, not the exception. For more information about CAFB, please visit cafoodbanks.org.