



BY KRISTIN SCHUMACHER

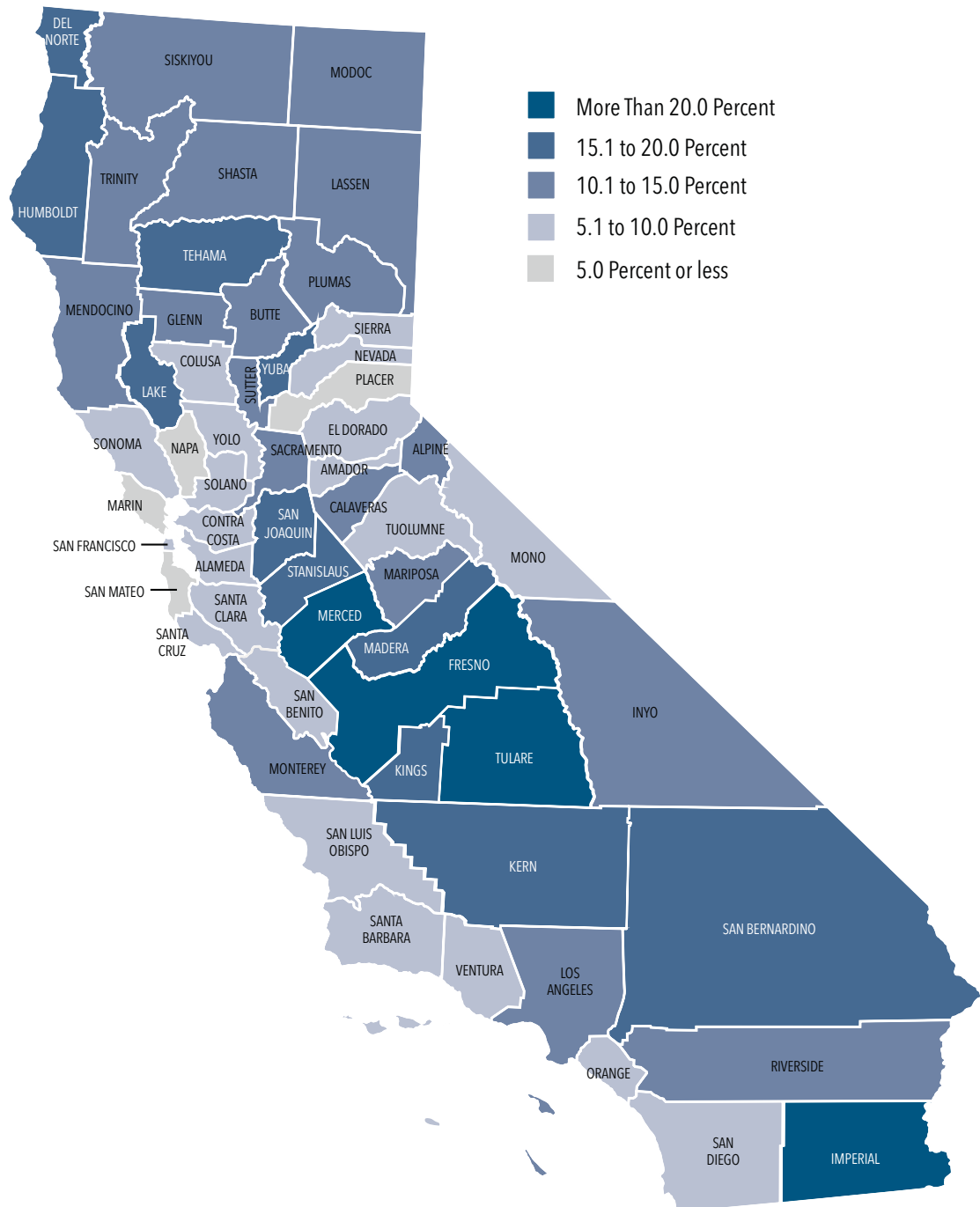
CalFresh Reduces Hunger in Every County in California, but Changes at the Federal Level Could Cut Benefits

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – known as CalFresh in California – is the cornerstone of the federal government’s effort to reduce hunger and help struggling families put food on the table. An estimated 4.3 million individuals on average will receive CalFresh food assistance each month during the 2016-17 fiscal year, which began this past July 1. Of the 10 counties with the highest shares of residents participating in CalFresh, five are in the San Joaquin Valley: Tulare (25.5% of residents receive CalFresh), Fresno (21.8%), Merced (20.5%), Madera (18.5%), and Kern (18.3%). (See Map on page 2.) In addition to helping households afford food, SNAP benefits also boost local economies, with every \$1 in benefits producing as much as \$1.79 in economic activity.¹ During 2016-17, an estimated \$7.1 billion in SNAP benefits will flow from the federal government directly to California households, potentially creating \$12.7 billion in economic activity throughout the state. (See Table on page 3.)

SNAP lifts families out of poverty and has been shown to improve children’s health and well being.² Yet at the federal level, Republicans have proposed severe cuts to SNAP in each of the last six years. If President-elect Trump and the Republican-led Congress follow through on cutting annual federal funding for SNAP, many families would be plunged into poverty, and children could be deprived of the nutrition necessary to stay healthy and reach their full potential.

Use of Food Assistance Varies Across California, and Is the Highest in the San Joaquin Valley

Estimated CalFresh Participation as a Share of the Population, 2016-17



Note: Estimates are based on CalFresh participation during the first four months of the 2016-17 state fiscal year.

Source: Budget Center analysis of data from the Department of Finance and Department of Social Services

Every Month More Than 4 Million Californians Benefit From CalFresh

	Estimated Average Monthly Number of CalFresh Participants, 2016-17*	CalFresh Participants as a Percentage of the Population	Rank (Highest to Lowest Percentage)	Estimated CalFresh Benefits, 2016-17**
California	4,251,900	10.8%	N/A	\$7,111,540,000
Alameda	112,300	6.9%	47	\$192,370,000
Alpine	100	12.8%	23	\$210,000
Amador	3,300	8.8%	39	\$5,290,000
Butte	31,900	14.2%	17	\$52,380,000
Calaveras	5,200	11.6%	26	\$8,300,000
Colusa	1,400	6.4%	49	\$2,230,000
Contra Costa	65,900	5.8%	51	\$113,630,000
Del Norte	5,300	19.5%	5	\$8,530,000
El Dorado	12,700	6.9%	46	\$20,620,000
Fresno	215,600	21.8%	3	\$378,360,000
Glenn	3,600	12.4%	24	\$5,330,000
Humboldt	21,100	15.5%	13	\$35,290,000
Imperial	42,500	22.7%	2	\$65,560,000
Inyo	2,000	10.8%	29	\$3,060,000
Kern	162,700	18.3%	8	\$260,970,000
Kings	24,200	16.2%	11	\$36,670,000
Lake	12,300	18.9%	6	\$20,050,000
Lassen	3,100	10.2%	33	\$5,270,000
Los Angeles	1,093,600	10.7%	30	\$1,932,810,000
Madera	28,700	18.5%	7	\$45,010,000
Marin	9,800	3.7%	57	\$16,810,000
Mariposa	2,000	10.9%	28	\$3,160,000
Mendocino	12,600	14.2%	18	\$20,750,000
Merced	55,800	20.5%	4	\$88,730,000
Modoc	1,100	11.5%	27	\$1,730,000
Mono	800	5.8%	53	\$1,290,000
Monterey	46,000	10.4%	32	\$70,690,000
Napa	7,100	5.0%	55	\$10,420,000
Nevada	7,600	7.7%	45	\$12,530,000
Orange	247,600	7.8%	44	\$402,020,000
Placer	17,400	4.6%	56	\$26,960,000
Plumas	2,000	10.5%	31	\$3,310,000
Riverside	286,200	12.1%	25	\$458,620,000
Sacramento	209,300	13.9%	19	\$360,240,000
San Benito	5,400	9.3%	38	\$8,300,000
San Bernardino	389,100	18.1%	9	\$638,380,000
San Diego	282,100	8.5%	42	\$456,390,000
San Francisco	50,500	5.8%	52	\$89,010,000
San Joaquin	114,100	15.4%	14	\$183,900,000
San Luis Obispo	17,800	6.4%	50	\$28,800,000

	Estimated Average Monthly Number of CalFresh Participants, 2016-17*	CalFresh Participants as a Percentage of the Population	Rank (Highest to Lowest Percentage)	Estimated CalFresh Benefits, 2016-17**
San Mateo	28,100	3.7%	58	\$44,710,000
Santa Barbara	37,200	8.3%	43	\$58,990,000
Santa Clara	100,300	5.2%	54	\$163,580,000
Santa Cruz	25,800	9.3%	36	\$41,260,000
Shasta	24,200	13.6%	20	\$38,410,000
Sierra	300	8.7%	40	\$420,000
Siskiyou	6,600	14.9%	16	\$10,630,000
Solano	41,700	9.6%	35	\$70,830,000
Sonoma	32,700	6.5%	48	\$52,410,000
Stanislaus	87,000	16.0%	12	\$140,810,000
Sutter	12,800	13.1%	21	\$20,410,000
Tehama	9,800	15.3%	15	\$15,070,000
Trinity	1,700	12.9%	22	\$2,950,000
Tulare	119,200	25.5%	1	\$193,360,000
Tuolumne	5,400	9.9%	34	\$8,650,000
Ventura	73,700	8.6%	41	\$120,830,000
Yolo	20,200	9.3%	37	\$32,730,000
Yuba	13,200	17.3%	10	\$21,520,000

* Estimates are based on CalFresh participation during the first four months of the 2016-17 state fiscal year. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. County estimates do not sum to total due to rounding.

** Estimates are based on CalFresh benefits provided during the first four months of the 2016-17 fiscal year. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. County estimates do not sum to total due to rounding.

Note: Data are for individuals receiving federal SNAP benefits and do not reflect individuals receiving state-funded assistance through the California Food Assistance Program.

Source: Budget Center analysis of data from the Department of Finance and Department of Social Services

¹ Kenneth Hanson, *The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model and the Stimulus Effects of SNAP* (US Department of Agriculture: October 2010).

² Chloe N. East, *The Effect of Food Stamps on Children’s Health: Evidence From Immigrants’ Changing Eligibility*, paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference (November 13, 2015), Edward A. Frongillo, Diana F. Jyoti, and Sonya J. Jones, “Food Stamp Program Participation Is Associated With Better Academic Learning Among School Children,” *The Journal of Nutrition* 136 (2006), pp. 1077-1080, and Hilary Hoynes, Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, and Douglas Almond, “Long-Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net,” *American Economic Review* 106 (2016), pp. 903-934.