



BY SARA KIMBERLIN

CalFresh Cuts Poverty in All Congressional Districts

Food assistance provided by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – known as CalFresh in California – significantly reduces the rate and severity of poverty throughout the state. Without CalFresh, the poverty rate would have been higher in every California congressional district from 2013 to 2015, according to updated California Poverty Measure data recently produced by the Public Policy Institute of California and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality. During this period, CalFresh reduced the poverty rate by 2.3 percentage points statewide, with the largest reductions – up to 5.4 percentage points – in districts in the Central Valley (see Maps on pages 3-4.) More than 30,000 people per year would have been in poverty without CalFresh in Districts 16 (D-Costa), 21 (R-Valadao), 8 (R-Cook), and 40 (D-Roybal-Allard). Food assistance through CalFresh also lessened the severity of poverty for 3.5 million more people per year across California by reducing their poverty gap, or the shortfall between a family’s level of resources and the poverty threshold.

Congress will soon need to reauthorize the Farm Bill, which sets eligibility and funding levels for SNAP, but both President Trump and some congressional leaders have proposed cutting federal support and limiting who is eligible. Cuts like these would greatly reduce the effectiveness of one of California’s most important tools to mitigate poverty.

More than 800,000 More Californians Would Be in Poverty Without CalFresh

District	Representative	Party	CPM Poverty Rate With CalFresh, 2013-2015 Annual Average*	Percentage Point Increase in Poverty Rate Without CalFresh	Increase in Individuals in Poverty Without CalFresh**	Increase in Children in Poverty Without CalFresh**	Additional Individuals With Poverty Gap Reduced by CalFresh**	Additional Children With Poverty Gap Reduced by CalFresh**
California			20.4%	2.3%	857,400	391,400	3,540,400	1,414,800
1	LaMalfa, Doug	R	18.5%	2.1%	14,300	6,100	58,700	18,200
2	Huffman, Jared	D	17.7%	1.5%	10,500	4,000	50,900	16,500
3	Garamendi, John	D	17.4%	2.2%	15,300	6,500	62,600	22,900
4	McClintock, Tom	R	13.6%	1.2%	8,800	3,900	43,000	14,200
5	Thompson, Mike	D	17.6%	1.9%	13,800	6,200	54,000	19,100
6	Matsui, Doris O.	D	21.6%	3.4%	24,600	11,100	89,200	32,800
7	Bera, Ami	D	13.5%	2.3%	16,500	7,700	46,000	15,200
8	Cook, Paul	R	21.7%	4.5%	31,100	14,400	95,700	38,000
9	McNerney, Jerry	D	18.7%	3.1%	22,100	9,600	72,800	31,200
10	Denham, Jeff	R	16.2%	3.3%	24,000	10,200	68,000	26,200
11	DeSaulnier, Mark	D	16.4%	1.2%	9,200	4,400	46,300	18,300
12	Pelosi, Nancy	D	20.7%	1.0%	7,100	3,000	45,000	12,300
13	Lee, Barbara	D	22.8%	2.0%	14,100	5,900	68,200	23,700
14	Speier, Jackie	D	16.6%	0.6%	4,100	1,600	40,200	15,800

District	Representative	Party	CPM Poverty Rate With CalFresh, 2013-2015 Annual Average*	Percentage Point Increase in Poverty Rate Without CalFresh	Increase in Individuals in Poverty Without CalFresh**	Increase in Children in Poverty Without CalFresh**	Additional Individuals With Poverty Gap Reduced by CalFresh**	Additional Children With Poverty Gap Reduced by CalFresh**
15	Swalwell, Eric	D	12.4%	1.4%	10,800	4,300	36,000	14,000
16	Costa, Jim	D	22.2%	5.4%	37,700	17,400	106,900	49,100
17	Khanna, Ro	D	12.6%	0.9%	6,700	3,200	29,200	9,700
18	Eshoo, Anna G.	D	14.3%	0.6%	4,300	1,900	36,600	15,200
19	Lofgren, Zoe	D	20.8%	1.5%	10,800	4,900	67,100	27,200
20	Panetta, Jimmy	D	22.3%	2.2%	15,200	7,400	83,400	37,800
21	Valadao, David	R	21.8%	4.7%	32,300	16,300	94,300	43,200
22	Nunes, Devin	R	18.4%	3.3%	23,900	10,900	87,000	35,300
23	McCarthy, Kevin	R	18.9%	3.3%	23,200	11,700	79,700	35,000
24	Carbajal, Salud	D	22.7%	1.9%	12,800	6,000	49,700	20,000
25	Knight, Steve	R	18.4%	2.1%	15,000	7,800	60,300	26,000
26	Brownley, Julia	D	19.2%	2.0%	14,400	6,300	65,900	27,900
27	Chu, Judy	D	20.5%	1.8%	13,100	5,900	53,500	17,300
28	Schiff, Adam	D	26.6%	1.6%	11,600	4,400	68,300	22,800
29	Cárdenas, Tony	D	29.0%	2.6%	18,100	7,800	90,500	36,900
30	Sherman, Brad	D	19.6%	1.5%	11,000	4,800	54,600	21,100
31	Aguilar, Pete	D	19.6%	3.6%	25,600	11,600	90,100	37,700
32	Napolitano, Grace	D	21.0%	2.7%	19,300	9,200	59,400	23,600
33	Lieu, Ted	D	13.4%	0.6%	4,000	1,600	26,600	7,900
34	Gomez, Jimmy	D	36.9%	3.1%	21,500	9,500	114,800	46,600
35	Torres, Norma	D	17.8%	3.0%	21,700	10,200	70,900	28,400
36	Ruiz, Raul	D	23.3%	2.9%	21,000	10,200	77,200	34,200
37	Bass, Karen	D	27.1%	3.0%	20,700	8,600	87,600	32,000
38	Sánchez, Linda	D	18.5%	1.7%	12,100	6,100	49,700	19,400
39	Royce, Ed	R	16.9%	1.4%	10,100	4,800	45,700	17,900
40	Roybal-Allard, Lucille	D	37.0%	4.3%	30,600	14,100	137,300	63,800
41	Takano, Mark	D	19.2%	2.5%	18,400	8,900	77,500	33,400
42	Calvert, Ken	R	15.6%	2.4%	18,300	8,200	54,200	22,600
43	Waters, Maxine	D	26.5%	2.9%	20,700	9,900	96,600	41,300
44	Barragán, Nanette	D	28.7%	4.1%	29,200	13,500	104,400	46,900
45	Walters, Mimi	R	15.1%	1.0%	7,300	3,400	37,300	14,600
46	Correa, J. Luis	D	31.1%	2.3%	16,300	7,800	105,600	48,100
47	Lowenthal, Alan	D	26.4%	2.2%	15,500	7,100	87,100	34,400
48	Rohrabacher, Dana	R	18.7%	1.2%	8,600	3,900	51,000	19,400
49	Issa, Darrell	R	16.2%	1.0%	6,900	3,500	34,900	13,600
50	Hunter, Duncan D.	R	20.0%	1.6%	11,400	5,200	50,100	19,600
51	Vargas, Juan	D	27.4%	3.7%	26,300	11,500	89,000	34,800
52	Peters, Scott	D	14.2%	0.7%	5,200	2,100	29,400	8,600
53	Davis, Susan	D	20.6%	1.4%	10,500	4,800	60,600	23,200

*Poverty rate is based on the California Poverty Measure (CPM).

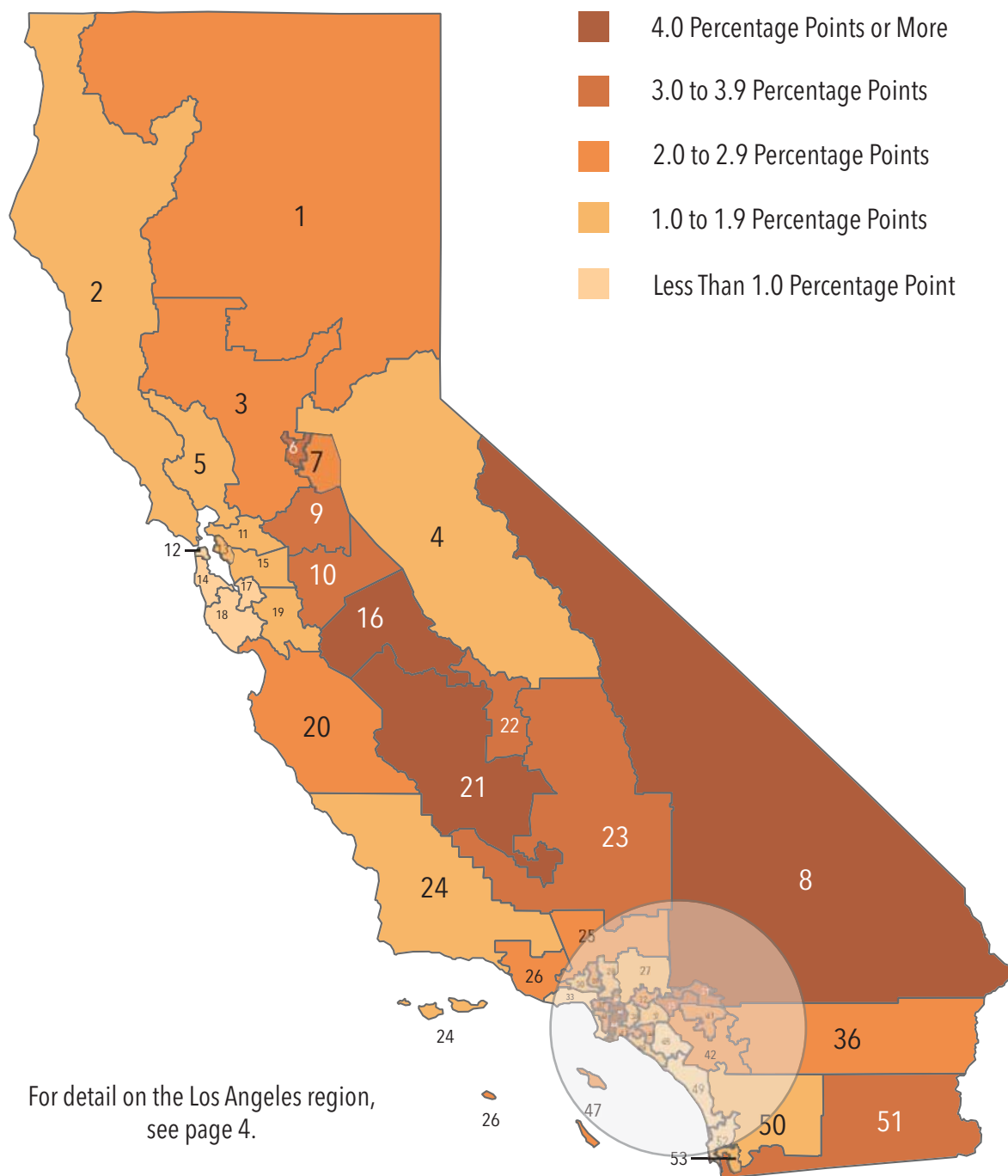
**Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100. District estimates do not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and Budget Center analysis of CPM data, produced by PPIC and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality using US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data, downloaded from IPUMS-USA.

MAP 1

CalFresh Significantly Cuts Poverty, Particularly in Central Valley Congressional Districts

Percentage Point Increase in Poverty Rate Without CalFresh, 2013-15

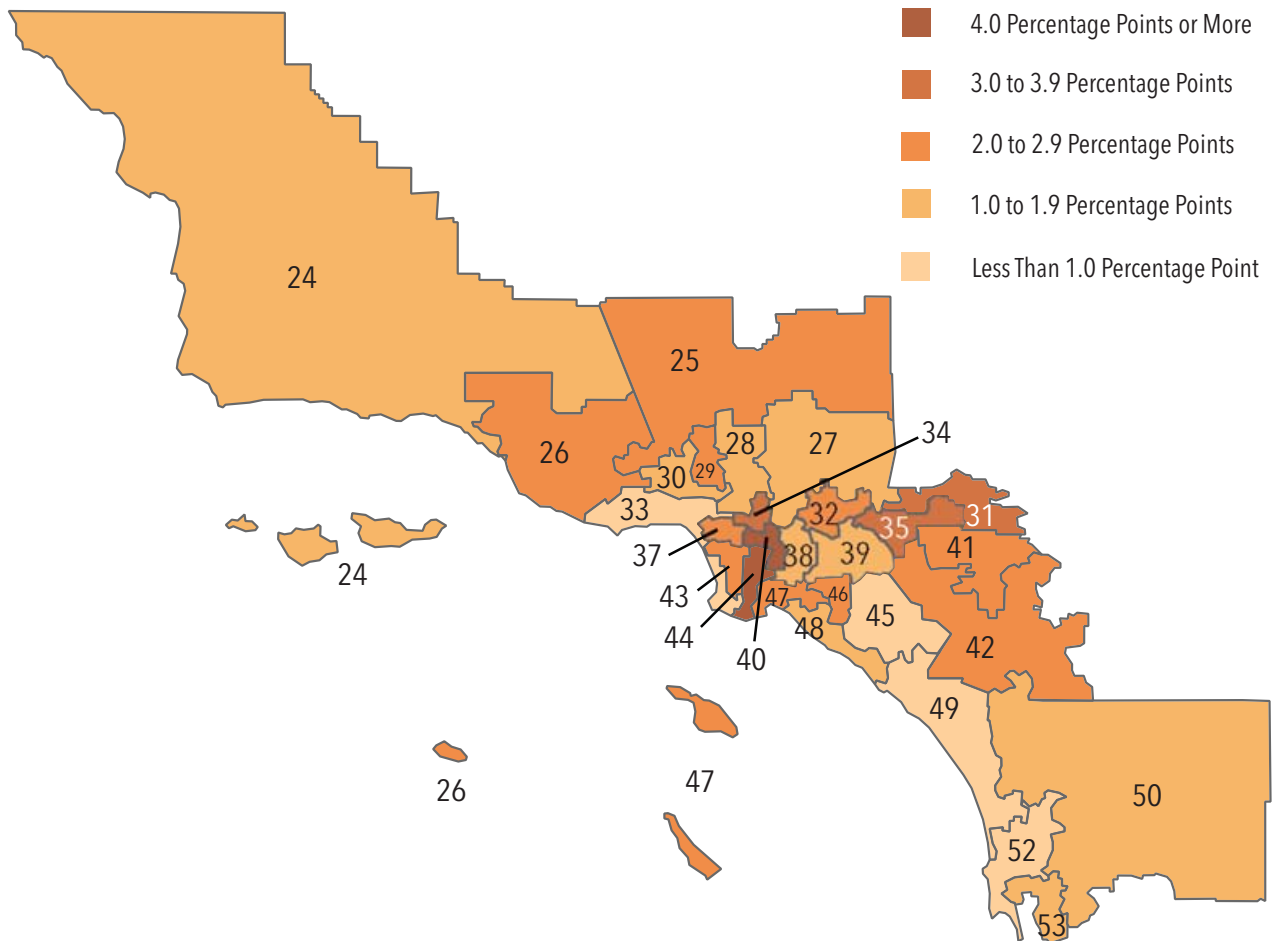


Note: Analysis is based on the California Poverty Measure, which improves upon the official poverty measure by better accounting for local costs of living and by factoring in a broader range of resources that families use to make ends meet. For more information, see www.ppic.org/publication/the-california-poverty-measure-a-new-look-at-the-social-safety-net.
 Source: Public Policy Institute of California and Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality

MAP 2

CalFresh Significantly Cuts Poverty in Los Angeles Region Congressional Districts

Percentage Point Increase in Poverty Rate Without CalFresh, 2013-15



Note: Analysis is based on the California Poverty Measure, which improves upon the official poverty measure. For more information, see <http://www.ppic.org/publication/the-california-poverty-measure-a-new-look-at-the-social-safety-net/>.
 Source: Public Policy Institute of California and Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality