



VIRTUAL CONVENING

Food Access for Immigrant Californians During COVID-19

Presented in partnership with the California Community Foundation

WELCOME!



Use the chat box to ask questions during the webinar. Presenters will answer ?'s throughout.



Webinar recording & materials will be shared afterwards.



Please stay muted. You will be allowed to unmute yourself during Q&A and discussion.

WELCOME!

Food Access for Immigrant Californians During COVID-19

Today's Speakers

Rosie Arroyo, Senior Program Officer, CCF

Betzabel Estudillo, Senior Advocate, CFPA

Maricela Gutierrez, Executive Director, SIREN

Ellah Ronen, Program Officer, CCF

Moderated by: *George Manalo-LeClair, Executive Director, CFPA*



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Impact of COVID-19 on Immigrant Californians
- Food and Nutrition Programs for All Californians
- Food4All Campaign
- Community Discussion
- Closing & Next Steps



ABOUT CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES



We are a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the **health and well-being** of **low-income Californians** by increasing their **access to nutritious, affordable food**.

ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Mission & Vision

Our mission is to lead positive systemic change that strengthens Los Angeles communities.

We envision a future where all Angelenos have the opportunity to contribute to the productivity, health, and well-being of our region. And we believe that our common fate will be determined by how successfully we improve the quality of life for all of our residents.

System Change Priorities



EDUCATION



HEALTH



IMMIGRATION



HOUSING



Mission: SIREN is a vehicle for low-income intergenerational, multiracial immigrants and refugees in California—to be their own agents for change. We do this through community education and organizing, leadership development, civic engagement, legal services, and policy advocacy.

Maricela Gutiérrez, Executive Director

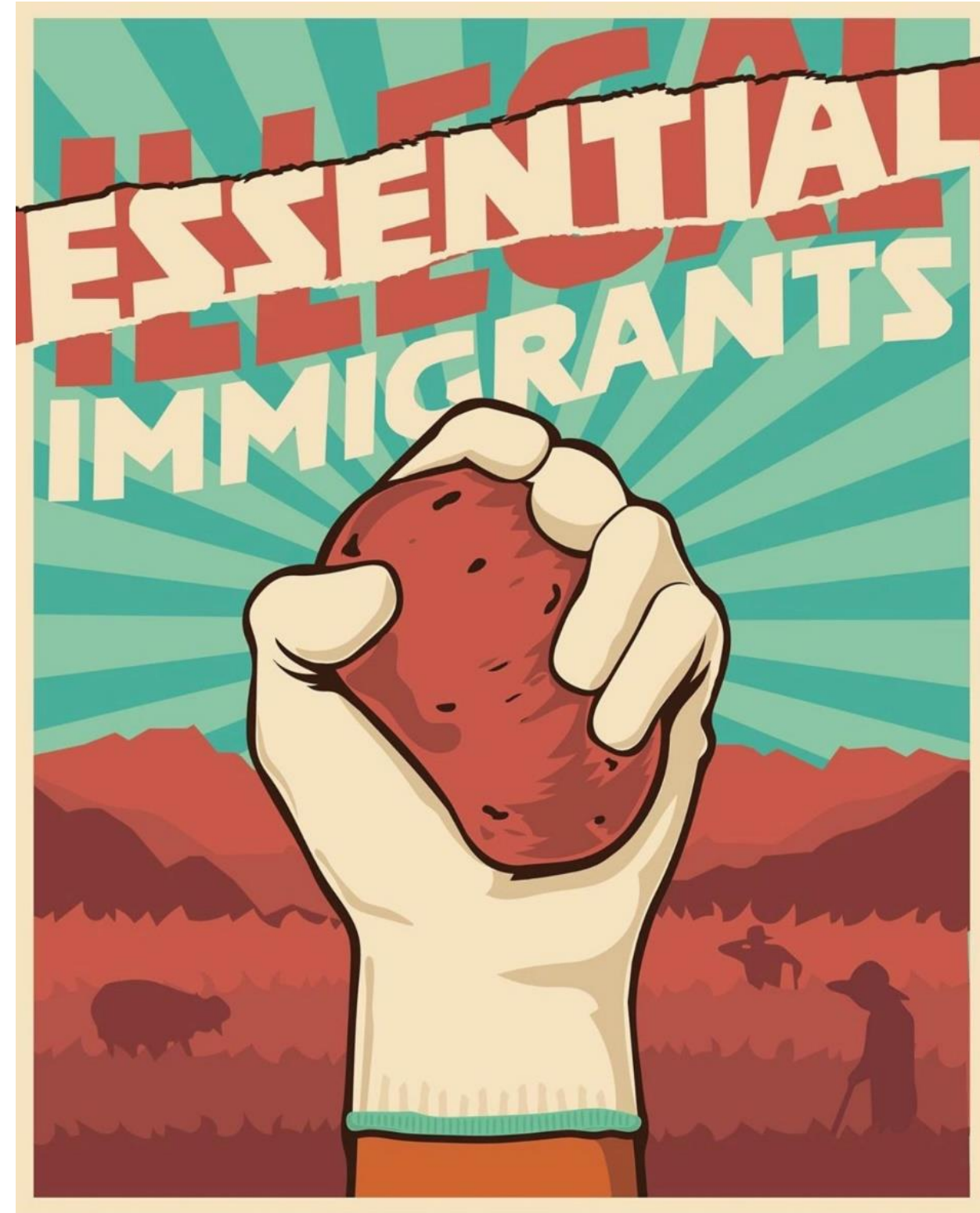
Maricela_SIREN



SIREN_BayArea

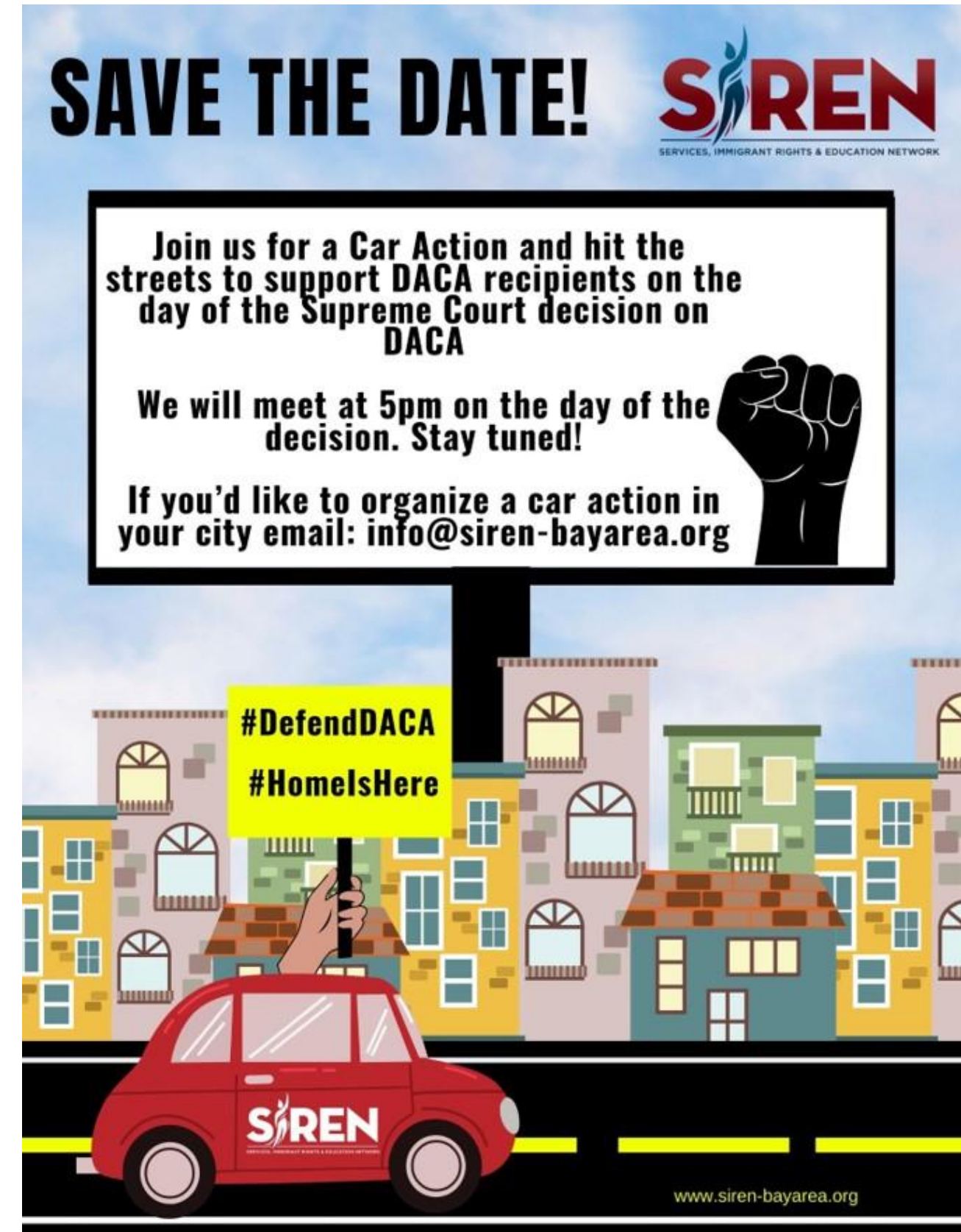
Impact to Undocumented Families

- ▶ Economic pressures
- ▶ Access to Health care
- ▶ Access to protective equipment & testing
- ▶ Exclusion from stimulus & unemployment insurance
- ▶ Childcare & home schooling
- ▶ Evictions/cancel rent
- ▶ Mental Health, stress, depression, anxiety



Impact to Undocumented Youth

- ▶ Cancel student debt
- ▶ Looming DACA decision
- ▶ Oppose proposal cuts undoc/AB540 student aid programs
- ▶ Free college tuition
- ▶ Partner & support student orgs



END CRIMINALIZATION



By Julio Salgado



BAN PRIVATE PRISONS



COVID19 Resources for Undocumented People

- ▶ **SIREN's COVID-19 Resource Lists for Immigrants (Bay Area + Central Valley)**
 - ▶ <https://bit.ly/COVIDImmigrantBayAreaResources>
 - ▶ <https://bit.ly/COVIDImmigrantCVResources>
- ▶ **State's COVID-19 Guidance for Immigrant Californians:**
https://covid19.ca.gov/img/wp/listos_covid_19_immigrant_guidance_en_da_f.pdf
- ▶ **Informed Immigrant COVID-19 Resource List:**
<https://www.informedimmigrant.com/guides/coronavirus/>



By Monica Trinidad

Ways to support Undocumented Individuals

- ▶ Donate to undocu-funds & immigrants rights orgs
- ▶ Wrap-around care and warm handoffs
- ▶ Advocate to policy makers for COVID-relief legislation to provide economic relief
- ▶ Universal healthcare, paid sick leave, paid family medical leave



SIREN
Undocufund

Donate to support undocumented immigrant families impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.



Funds raised will support families with costs for basic needs such as housing, food, and health.

DONATE: <https://bit.ly/SIRENundocufund>
or scan our the code above.

   [SIREN-BAYAREA.ORG](https://www.siren-bayarea.org) OR [INFO@SIREN-BAYAREA.ORG](mailto:info@siren-bayarea.org)

STAY IN TOUCH!

▶ SIREN_ImmigrantRights



▶ SIREN_BayArea &
Maricela_SIREN



▶ San Jose: 408-453-3003

▶ Fresno: 559-840-0005

▶ www.siren-bayarea.org

▶ info@siren-bayarea.org



FOOD RESOURCES FOR LOW-INCOME CALIFORNIANS

SAFE & OPEN TO ALL

These food resources are available to all, regardless of immigration status, and will not be considered in a public charge test:



School Meal Services

Free or reduced priced breakfast, lunch, after school, & summer meals.



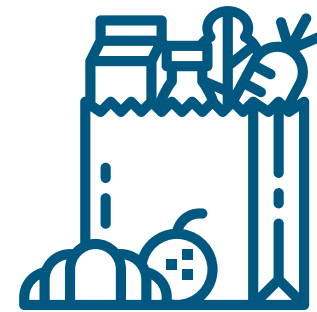
WIC

Food vouchers & nutrition support for pregnant mothers, infants, & children under 5.



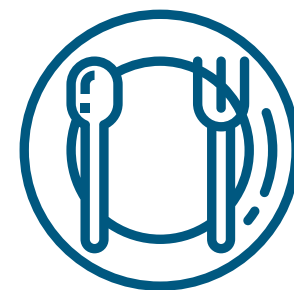
Child & Adult Care Meals

Meals served to children and adults with disabilities in day care settings.



Pandemic EBT COVID-19 Relief

Grocery money for families whose children are eligible for free/reduced cost school meals.



Older Adult Nutrition

Free congregate or home-delivered meals for adults age 60+.



Food Distribution

Free food from pantries and other community-based resource providers.

PANDEMIC RELIEF PROGRAM

Pandemic-EBT - Available Now!

P-EBT cards can be used like debit cards to buy food at most grocery stores and farmer's markets, and to purchase groceries online at Amazon & Walmart.

May 12 to May 22 P-EBT cards will be automatically sent to some families with eligible children.

May 22 to June 30 Families who do not receive a P-EBT card by 5/22 will need to **apply online at ca.p-ebt.org before June 30.**

It is important to know:

- P-EBT complements - not replaces - pandemic grab & go school meals.
- P-EBT is NOT CalFresh.
- Available to ALL eligible families, regardless of immigration status.
- P-EBT will not be considered in a public charge test.



FOOD RESOURCES FOR LOW-INCOME CALIFORNIANS

SAFE & OPEN TO SOME

CalFresh

Food assistance for Californians with net income at or below 130% federal poverty level.

CalFresh benefit distributed monthly via EBT card and can be used to buy food at grocery stores and some farmers markets.



Average benefit =
\$5 a day
per person

A household can get CalFresh if at least one person:

- ✓ Has Citizenship
- ✓ Has a Green Card
- ✓ Has refugee status, asylum, or parolee status
- ✓ Has, or is applying for, a U-Visa or T-Visa
- ✓ Is an applicant for VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) relief
- ✓ Is a Cuban or Haitian entrant

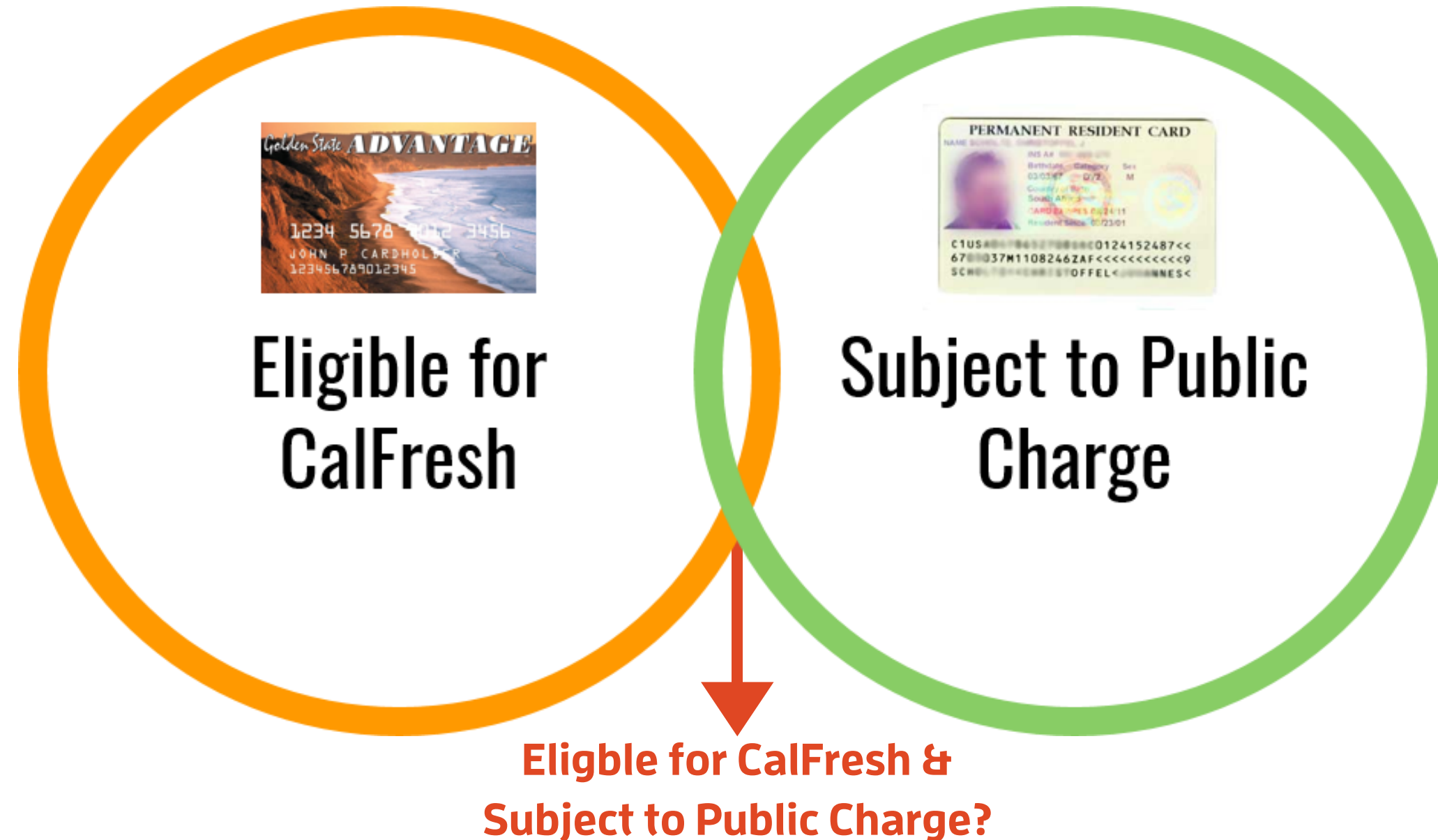
An Individual does not qualify for CalFresh if:

- ✗ They are here on a student, work, or tourist visa
- ✗ They are here under DACA
- ✗ They are here under TPS (unless you meet other qualifying factors)
- ✗ They are undocumented

Mixed Status Households

Undocumented parents can get CalFresh for their citizen children without it harming their immigration goals (no public charge). Mixed status families receive prorated benefits for eligible household members.

CALFRESH & PUBLIC CHARGE



- LPR returning to U.S. after 6 months+ out of the country.

If applying via family-based visa petition or other non-exempt pathway:

- Some people granted parole, withholding of removal, and a small subset of Cuban/Haitian entrants.
- Some members of the Hmong and Lao communities.

IMAGINE A CALIFORNIA

**Where immigration status is not a
barrier to getting food assistance.**



FOOD FOR ALL STAKEHOLDER WORKGROUP

Purpose: *Convene advocate stakeholders to identify how the State and local entities can improve current programs and coordinate linkages to community services to strengthen California's food assistance safety net, and work to remove barriers that exclude immigrant Californians.*

What barriers do immigrant Californians face in accessing CA's nutrition safety net?

- Confusing and burdensome application & reporting requirements
- Fear of immigration consequences
- Poor language access
- Lack of cultural competence
- Privacy concerns
- Stigma and misconceptions



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mitigate Chilling Effect of Anti-Immigrant Policy

Multilevel resistance against harmful federal policy changes.

Coordinated strategic communications to dispel myths and fears related to nutrition assistance programs.

Reduce Barriers to Enrollment & Retention

Promote comprehensive actions to expand program access for immigrants by **improving language access; cultural responsiveness; and ease of access into nutrition programs.**

Privacy Protections and Data Sharing

Be explicit about how client data is used--develop messaging that details privacy rights and protections and assess opportunities for data sharing between benefit-issuing agencies

KEY POLICY OPPORTUNITY

Address Legal Exclusion of Immigrants

CalFresh & CFAP are the only nutrition programs that legally exclude some immigrants.

Policy Opportunity:

explore options to extend eligibility for state-funded food assistance to all immigrants, regardless of status.



FOOD for ALL

Want to stay up to date on
policies that impact food access
in California?

**Sign up for our
Action Alerts!**



cfpa.net/subscribe



[@CAFoodPolicy](https://twitter.com/CAFoodPolicy)

Questions / Suggestions?

Betzabel Estudillo, Senior Advocate

betzabel@cfpa.net



May 26, 2020
CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Food Security in LA County COVID-19

Food Security in LA County

Before the pandemic, an estimated **29% of LA County households** experienced food insecurity, with Latinos making up approximately **two-thirds** of the food insecure population.

Since the onset of COVID-19:

- The LA Regional Food Bank has seen a demand increase of **80%**
- Community & Senior Centers Emergency Food Distribution Program run by LA County WDACS has a **500%** increase in demand
- Elder Nutrition Program run by LA County WDACS has seen a **50%** increase in service requests
- Calfresh has seen a **179%** increase in applications submitted

Highly Vulnerable Populations

- Seniors
- People with disabilities
- Undocumented immigrants
- Students, foster youth
- Immunocompromised, diagnosed/symptomatic with COVID-19
- Low-income, newly food insecure (unemployed/furloughed)

Food Security Initiatives

The County of Los Angeles established the Food Security Task Force in collaboration with the City, philanthropy, and the nonprofit sector to better expand and coordinate feeding initiatives across the county.

LA County	LA City	LA Regional Food Bank	Students and Children	Examples of other CBOs
Elder Nutrition Program	Department of Aging Senior Meal Delivery	Distributions across LA County	LAUSD Grab & Go Stations	Meals on Wheels
Calfresh	Angeleno Card	600 partner agencies	LACOE district meal distribution sites	World Central Kitchen
LAHSA	LAHSA	High-volume, bulk purchasing power	Preparations for summer meal programs	Homeboy Industries
Great Plates	Great Plates	Coordination with County, cities, and School Districts	Childcare center food programs	Antelope Valley Partners for Health
Critical Delivery Service		Mobile Unit Distributions range from 800-7,500		SEE-LA/Hunger Action LA

Key Statewide Initiatives

- **Great Plates: Home Meals for Seniors**

- Within an hour of the Governor's announcement of the Restaurants Deliver program, 211 received 600 calls from restaurants eager to participate.
- The program will provide 3 meals per day to older adults while stimulating the local economy.
- The County launched the program May 9 and it is expected to run through June 10, 2020.
- The County program will cover all jurisdictions not running parallel programs, including unincorporated areas.
- City of LA is running its own parallel program.

- **Project Roomkey**

- Project Roomkey is a collaborative effort by the State, County and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to secure hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.

Opportunities for Intervention

- **LA Regional Food Bank**

- The Food Bank is currently serving upwards of 500K people each month, an 80% increase from this time last year.
- Due to its existing partnerships and infrastructure, the Food Bank can leverage its bulk-purchasing power to buy high-volume food at wholesale prices and distribute the food to its 600 agency partners.

- **Home Food Delivery Services**

- The expansion of food delivery services is critical due to the nature of COVID-19. Supporting home-delivery to homebound populations such as seniors, the disabled, and immunocompromised is essential in combatting food insecurity for these populations.

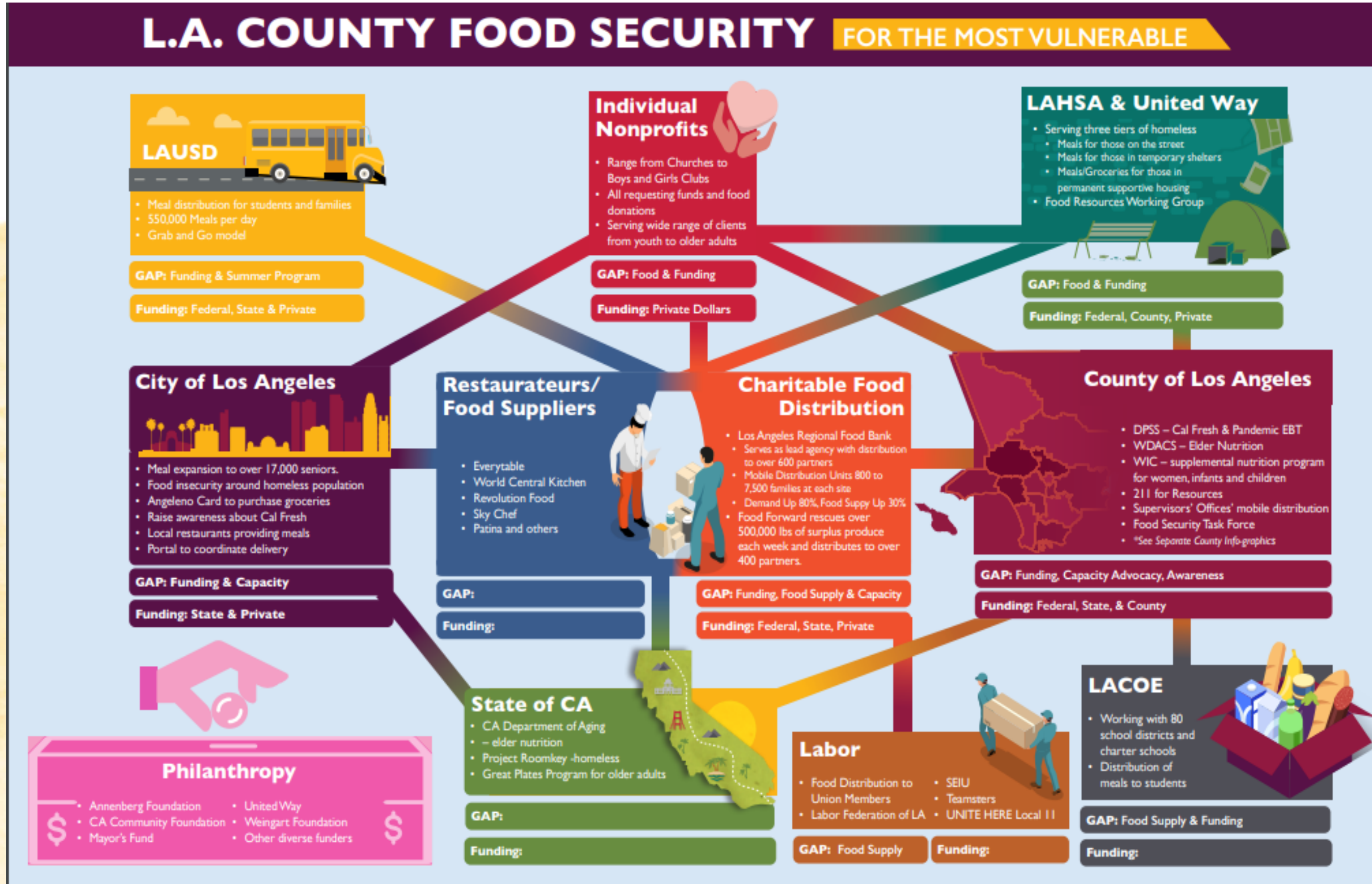
- **School District Food Distribution**

- As the official school year comes to an end, schools will soon no longer be able to distribute school meals at the same level of distribution.
- Helping school districts prepare to serve summer meals while reinforcing partnerships with local food banks and pantries to supplement meals will be essential.

- **Education and Outreach Efforts to Increase Public Benefit Enrollment**

- A growing number of people are becoming newly eligible for public assistance programs such as Calfresh, WIC, and others. This funding comes directly from the federal government and is critical in ensuring we access all public funding available while simultaneously relieving some of the burden from our public agencies and CBO partners.

Need for Coordination





Thank You

Ellah Ronen

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COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

HOW IS COVID-19 IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY?

Program Access

(CalFresh, WIC, School Meals, etc.)

- Are COVID-19 program flexibilities (e.g. virtual WIC visits) helping more people gain access?
- What specific challenges impact older adult's access to nutrition programs (like CalFresh)?
- Are there other immigrant populations with unique challenges?

Public Perceptions

- Hearing concerns about public charge?
- Has COVID-19 affected people's level of trust in government?
- Where do people in your community go for trusted help to access food?

WHAT CHANGE DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

In an ideal world, what would need to change so that immigrants have the resources they need to stay nourished?

- What is working well?
- What kind of assistance do people want?
free food, money for food, etc.
- Who has the power to make these changes?

NEXT STEPS

JOIN THE CCF TASK FORCE

Next meeting July 22nd
Contact German Macias
gmacias@calfund.org



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES


Spread the word about P-EBT
advocates resource coming soon!

SIGN UP FOR OUR ALERTS

 cfpa.net/subscribe

CFPA + L.A. TRUST FACEBOOK LIVE

Nutrition Resources for Immigrants

 Friday 5/29
Like us @CAFoodPolicy

Support SB 882 cfpa.net/SB882



THANK YOU!



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