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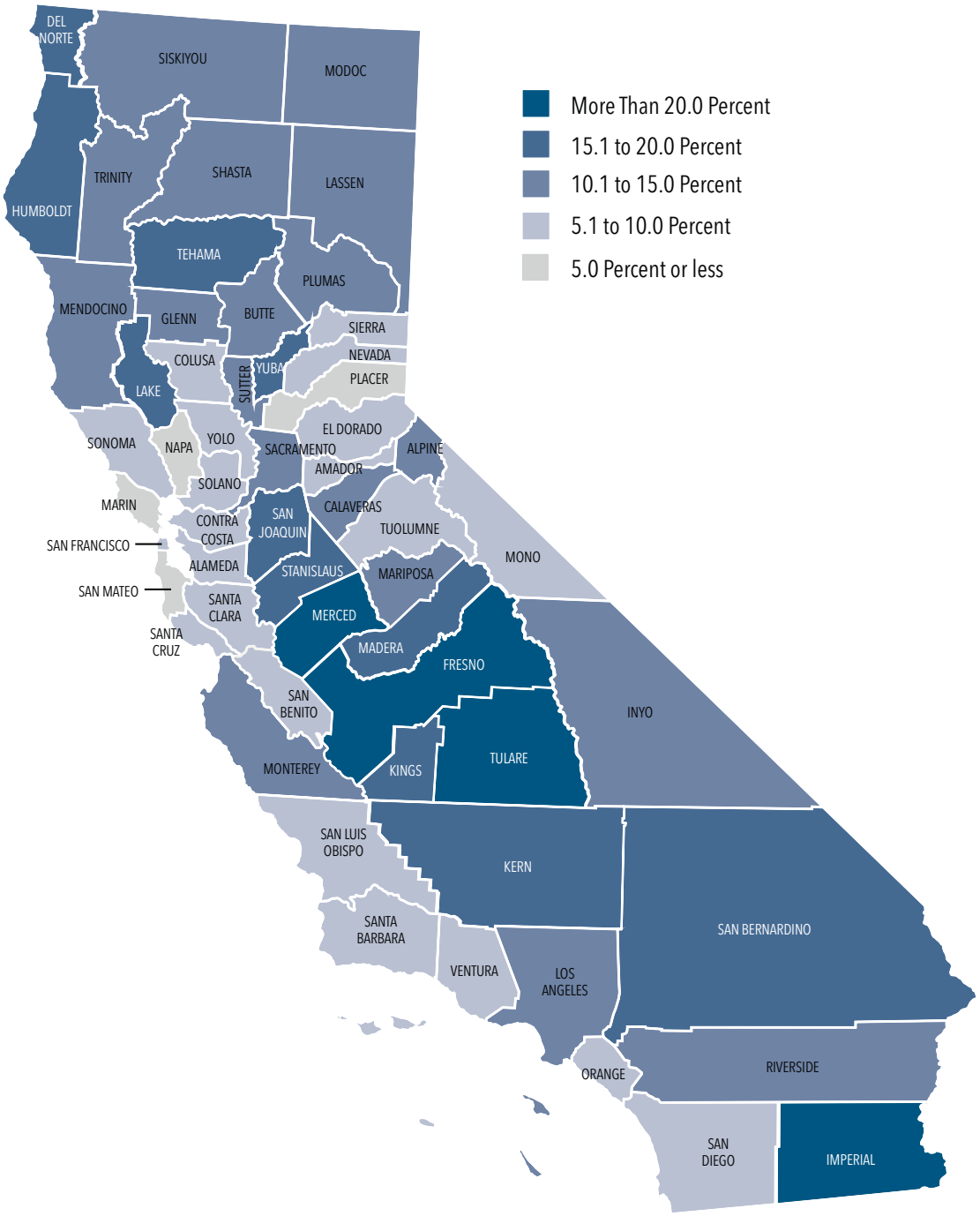
# CalFresh Reduces Hunger in Every County in California, but Changes at the Federal Level Could Cut Benefits

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

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[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.