



**SECOND HARVEST**  
*of* SILICON VALLEY

# **Policy Overview**

2023

# Policy Principles Overview

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# Access to Healthy Food is a Human Right





# All Children Should Receive Free School Meals



# Evaluate policies for impact on diversity, equity & inclusion

## DIVERSITY



of people and perspectives

## EQUITY



in policy and practice

## INCLUSION



of all voices and visions



# Community Voice Matters



# Policy Priorities

Rachel Monaco, Senior Manager of Policy & Advocacy

Liliam Perez, Strategy & Advocacy Coordinator

Joan Sanborn, Senior Manager of Food Sourcing



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# Strengthening CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



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# Preparing for the End of Emergency Allotments

- The SNAP Emergency Allotments were additional benefits for SNAP/CalFresh recipients in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Program ended February 2023. Final issuance of benefits in March.
- We are expecting a significant increase in the number of community members coming to us for food assistance once this ends.
- Approximately 93,000 households will lose about \$171/month across San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. \$16M per month removed from our local economy.





# Strengthening the Safety Net

**Food4All SB245/AB311:** Expand access to California Food Assistance Program to low-income people ineligible for CalFresh due to immigration status.

- State budget funded expansion to ages 55+. However, Governor's January proposed budget delays implementation until 2027.

**SB 600 California CalFresh Minimum Benefit Adequacy Act of 2023:** Increase the minimum monthly benefit from \$23 to \$50.

**H.R. 1919 – Federal EATS Act:** Attending higher education would count the same as work for the purpose of determining eligibility to participate in SNAP.



# School and Summer Meals



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# Local Impact of Universal School Meals

**All students in California can eat breakfast and lunch for free at school, began SY22-23.**

- Across San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, 235,000 students are newly eligible for free school meals.
- Universal Free School Meals eliminates any stigma that may be associated with low-income students receiving free or reduced-price meals.



# Opportunities to Strengthen School Meals

- Increased meal reimbursement rates at the state.
- Funding for kitchen, infrastructure, and training.
- Workforce development.
- Ensuring students have enough time to eat.
- SB348 (Skinner) would address some of these issues and improve meal nutritional quality.



# Local Impact of Summer Meals

**Schools, libraries, and other community organizations use the Summer Food Service Program or Summer Seamless Option to serve meals.**

- 104 sites across San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties operated and served meals to any child 18 and under.



# Challenges & Opportunities of Summer Meals

## Summer 2022

- School districts had significant staffing shortages, and uncertainty over USDA waivers.
- 56 fewer sites in SMC and SCC vs 2021.

## Summer 2023

- Using geographic data to identify eligible summer meal sites.
- Continuing to support partners with outreach materials.



# Summer EBT

## Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)

- 2023 Federal Omnibus Spending Bill established permanent Summer EBT.
- Low-income students nationwide will receive a debit card with \$120 per child per summer beginning 2024.
- A little over 30% of our student population across our two counties may be eligible.



# Food Rescue



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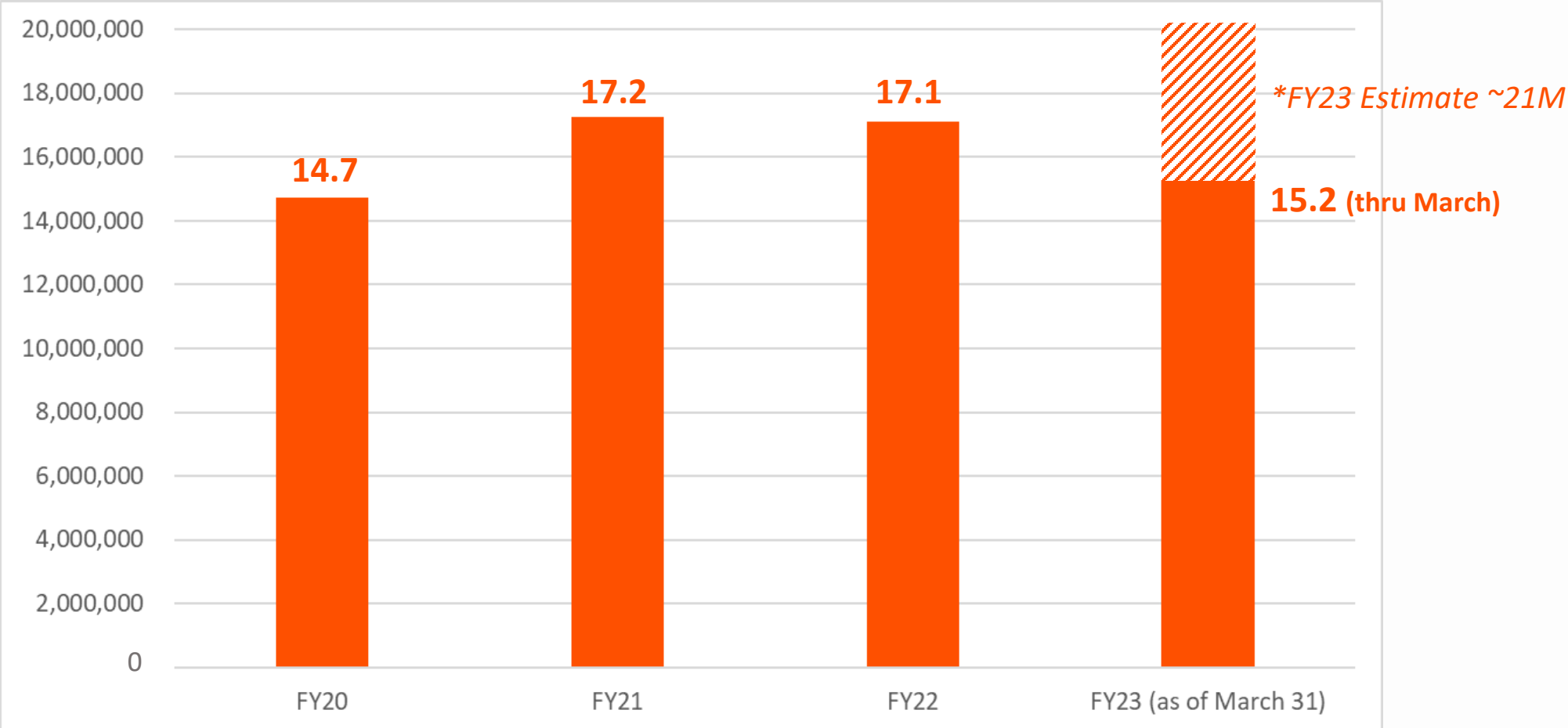
# SB1383 – Food Rescue

**SB-1383** requires that by 2025 California will recover 20 percent of edible food that would otherwise be sent to landfills. It also mandates how large food-generating businesses and organizations must handle and help recover their surplus edible food to feed people in need.

**Second Harvest of Silicon Valley is active in the implementation of SB1383 and is the leader in edible food recovery in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.**



# SB 1383 – Helping To Fill In The Food Sourcing Gap



\*Includes all sources of Food Rescue (Grocery, Wholesale)

# Food Rescue Process



# SB1383 – Opportunities for Food Recovery

## New Partnerships

- 91 partner agencies complete 655 food pickups every week. – more than 30% increase pre-SB1383.
- Continuing to expand our partner pickup network and providing infrastructure and training.

## New Food Sources

- Grocery stores providing culturally diverse foods have begun to partner with us, able to match them to partners serving those communities.

## Sustainability

- We advocate for investment at the county and state levels to support the expansion and continuation of Food Rescue in our region, investment is needed in the nonprofits recovering the food to distribute to people in need.



# Before you go!

- Do you have any policy priorities?
- Have you participated in any advocacy activities?
- Is anyone at your organization responsible for advocacy?



# Interested in Learning More?

Visit [www.shfb.org/Advocacy](http://www.shfb.org/Advocacy) for:

- Policy Agenda
- Recording of the full Legislative Gathering event
- Email Rachel Monaco, Senior Manager of Policy & Advocacy to connect: [rmonaco@shfb.org](mailto:rmonaco@shfb.org)





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**Questions?**

*Thank you*