



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY & THE FARM BILL

## CALFRESH/SNAP'S IMPACT ON OUR REGION

April 2018

In San Diego County, **more than 260,000 people** rely on CalFresh, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to put food on the table. SNAP supplements the grocery budgets of low-income households so they can purchase healthy food when times are tough. SNAP is housed under the federal Farm Bill, which is set to be reauthorized this year. The current administration is proposing deep cuts and structural changes to SNAP that will harm the families, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and Americans struggling with unemployment and underemployment who rely on the program when teetering on the edge of stability. These changes will also hurt our local economy by decreasing the amount of money spent at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other retailers.

### WHAT DOES CALFRESH/SNAP LOOK LIKE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY?

The demographics and information below were provided by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

Total CalFresh/SNAP benefits issued in San Diego County in 2017:

**\$426,386,815**



Total economic activity generated in San Diego County by CalFresh/SNAP in 2017:

**\$737,649,190**

### SAN DIEGO COUNTY CALFRESH/SNAP DEMOGRAPHICS

February 2018

Children ages 0-17 on CalFresh/SNAP: 45%

Average household CalFresh/Benefit: \$260/month

Average household income: \$ 1015.88/ month

47% of CalFresh/SNAP households receive benefits for 1 year or less.

TOTAL  
CALFRESH/SNAP  
RECIPIENTS IN  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

**265,946**

### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

According to the Center on Policy Initiatives, an estimated **one third (33%) of working-age families in San Diego County can't make ends meet.** That's **more than 269,000 households and more than 1 million individuals** living with incomes too low to cover basic expenses. Additionally, the San Diego County industries that employ the most people often pay the least. Tourism, retail sales, construction, and other service-based jobs have median earnings below the cost of living, and the availability of these jobs often fluctuates depending on the season, demand, or the state of the economy. **CalFresh/SNAP helps people stay afloat when jobs are lost, hours are cut, or wages don't cover basic living expenses.**

