

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN DIEGO, July 20, 2017 – Yesterday, the House of Representatives Budget Committee released its [fiscal 2018 budget resolution](#) which calls on the Agriculture Committee to cut spending by \$10 billion over the next 10 years, much of which will come from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California. The Budget Committee intends to shift the burden of administering the federal program to individual states to carry out and includes policy statements laying out harsher work requirements for SNAP recipients. This budget resolution is a blow to food assistance programming and those who rely on it to put food on their tables.

“These cuts to the SNAP program would be devastating to our country’s most vulnerable populations including many children, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Cuts to SNAP will not reduce the deficit. Spending from SNAP households helps boost our economy and create jobs. Instead, these cuts pave the way for Congress to provide tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans and forces hard-working families to make even more sacrifices,” said San Diego Hunger Coalition Executive Director Anahid Brakke.

According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition’s [2017 San Diego County Food Insecurity Analysis](#), our region is home to **nearly 500,000 individuals (or 1 in 6) who are food insecure**, meaning they don’t always have enough to eat for an active, healthy life. Of these people, more than 164,000 are children, or a staggering 1 in 5. CalFresh/SNAP is a vital source of nutrition for families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level because it supplements their incomes so they can purchase food from local grocers and farmer’s markets. According to the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, more than 272,000 people were enrolled in CalFresh in June 2017. More than 46 percent of these recipients were children.

While common myths associated with people who rely on federal food assistance suggest that many benefitting from programs like CalFresh/SNAP do not work, the Hunger Coalition’s analysis found that more than half (55.8 percent) of food insecure adults have a job, and nearly half (48.5 percent) are living with a disability. Other key findings were that approximately 40 percent of low-income adults and nearly half of low-income children are living in a food insecure household. **San Diego Hunger Coalition’s complete 2017 San Diego County Food Insecurity Data is available online [here](#).**

San Diego Hunger Coalition’s food insecurity analysis is based on 2014 and 2015 data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The survey is conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles Center for Health Policy Research, and food security is evaluated for households below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. San Diego Hunger Coalition’s analysis represents the most current and accurate understanding of food insecurity rates for San Diego County.

For the first-time San Diego’s anti-hunger community is also examining the population that responded to the CHIS survey as “food secure” but currently receiving CalFresh/SNAP. San Diego Hunger Coalition estimates that more than 143,000 people (66,793 are children) who are below 200 percent of the poverty line are at risk of becoming food insecure if they lose their CalFresh/SNAP benefits. This could become a reality if Congress continues down this treacherous path.

About the San Diego Hunger Coalition

San Diego Hunger Coalition leads coordinated action to end hunger in San Diego County supported by research, education and advocacy. San Diego Hunger Coalition's vision is that everyone in San Diego County has enough food for an active, healthy life. To learn more, visit the San Diego Hunger Coalition online at www.sdhunger.org, or on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).