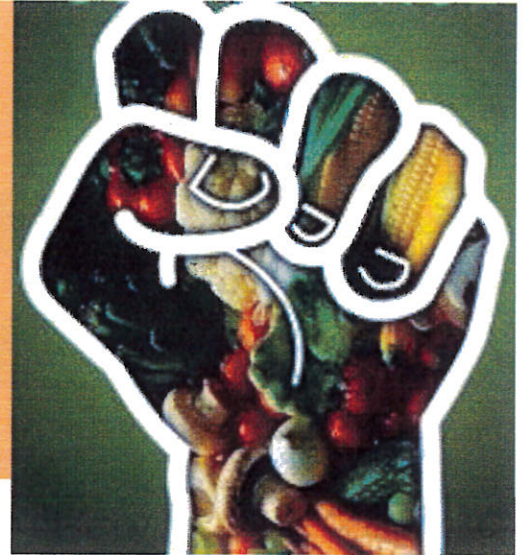


Speaking out for Food Justice

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



HUNGER ACTION LA INVITES YOU TO

A free Anti-Poverty Advocacy training

Punishing people living in extreme poverty by
withholding access to food and other assistance
is **WRONG!**

The training will discuss proposed policies designed to help
poor people in California and how you can speak to elected
officials, reporters, and friends+family about them:

- * Lifting the Lifetime Ban for Non-violent Drug Felonies (SB 1029)
- * Restoring the State Supplement Payment (SSP) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)
- * Other proposals to fight poverty

Friday,
April 25

10:00 am- 12:00pm

Location: CHIRLA

2533 W 3rd St

Los Angeles, CA 90057

Register in Advance- Space is Limited

RSVP Frank@hungeractionla.org (213) 388-8228

Also- Join Us for Hunger Action Day Sacramento in May. Call for Details.



SAVE THE DATE!

HUNGER ACTION DAY 2014

May 20-21, 2014

in Sacramento, California

Each May hundreds of anti-hunger advocates from across the state meet in Sacramento to educate their legislators about hunger and encourage their support for anti-hunger legislation. This year advocates from your community will be at the capitol on Wednesday, May 21, 2014. With more than 3.8 million California adults struggling with food insecurity it's important we speak out

LOS ANGELES HUNGER ACTION DAY INFORMATION:

- Space is limited so reserve now 213 388 8228 or frank@hungeractionla.org
- Leaving on bus 9 am from LA on Tuesday May 20 (RSVP first)
- Departing from St Mary's Church 961 S Normandie Ave 90006 (you can park there)
- Staying overnight in Sacramento : main events are on Wed May 21. It will be hot and windy
- Leaving Sacramento 2:30 pm Wednesday May 21 after Hunger Action Day
- Arrive back in LA approx 9 pm Wed May 21
- \$35 donation requested, no one turned away
- Groups welcome from community organizations in LA, East LA, South LA, Valley, Westside, Pasadena/Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, Long Beach, Antelope Valley, and anywhere else!
- You can also make your own travel arrangements & meet us in Sacramento: still RSVP please



More information coming soon!

Questions? Contact:

Frank Tamborello (Southern California)

213.388.8228 or frank@hungeractionla.org

www.hungeraction.net

[Letterhead]

April 22nd 2014

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair Assembly Committee on Agriculture
1020 N Street, Room 362
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 2385 (Ting) – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Eggman and Assembly Agriculture Committee Members:

[Name of your organization] supports AB 2385, which would improve low-income Californians' access to nutritious food through new incentives for nutrition benefit program recipients to shop at farmers' markets.

AB 2385 would establish the Market Match Nutrition Incentive Program (MMNIP) in the Department of Food and Agriculture to award grants to Market Match programs. These programs increase the purchasing power of CalFresh, WIC, Senior Farmers Market, and SSI and SSDI recipients when they use their nutrition benefits to purchase fruits, nuts, and vegetables at farmers' markets by doubling the value of those benefits at the farmers' market. State investment in Market Match programs would directly benefit our state's small- and mid-sized farmers while making nutritious food more accessible for California's most economically disadvantaged people who are frequently unable to buy fresh food in their communities.

Under the new Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive provision in the recently passed federal Farm Bill, the United States Department of Agriculture shall award matching grants totaling \$20 million per year for five years to support such nutrition incentive programs. The combination of California's unparalleled agricultural bounty, vast network of farmers' markets and entrenched poverty gives us a unique opportunity secure federal funds to expand the reach of nutrition programs in communities where they can most efficiently serve those most in need.

California has pioneered the Market Match approach in a four-year pilot. A report by Roots of Change indicated a six-fold return on investment in farmers' market sales. The program is serving 37,000 families based on only \$237,000 in available Market Match incentive dollars. A \$2 million program in California, matched with \$2 million from USDA, could boost healthy food access to \$18 million for over 100,000 families and generate hundreds of new farm jobs.

Optional: Include a couple sentences about why your org supports or cares about AB2385 and the impact it has had on farmers and constituents in the areas you serve.

Sincerely,

[Your name and title]

2014 CA Budget:

RE-INVEST

In California's Safety Net



- The Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/ State Supplemental Payment (SSP) program gives cash assistance to 1.3 million aged, blind and disabled Californians. California funds the SSP portion of the grant. For 2014, the state allotted \$156.40 to the cash grant for individuals, bringing the overall total to \$877.40.
- The federal government provides an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the federal portion of the grant based on the federal consumer price index.
- The California state government suspended the COLA for the SSP in 2009.
- The California Budget Project reports since 1990, the purchasing power of the individual SSI/SSP grant declined by 32%.
- SSI/SSP grants for couples are lower in 2014 than they were in 2007.
- As of January 2014, the income of individuals solely receiving the SSI/SSP grant is 90.2% of the federal poverty level, placing over 1 million aged, blind and disabled Californians in poverty.
- Restoring the SSP grant cuts would lift more than 1 million Californians out of poverty.
- These benefits will immediately filter into the local economy.
- We urge the Legislature to RESTORE THE GRANT CUTS AND PROVIDE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE SSP!

The California Hunger Action Coalition (CHAC) is a broad-based membership organization of emergency food providers, consumers, and anti-hunger advocates. United in the belief that access to adequate, nutritious, and safe food is a fundamental human right, the coalition advocates for freedom from food insecurity and hunger for all Californians. For more information, contact the CHAC Legislative Committee Chairs Keisha Nzewi at knzewi@accfb.org or Jessica Jones Greenholt at jjones@lafoodbank.org.