Calfresh_stimulates_the_local_economy

Every dollar received in CalFresh benefits is spent locally and stimulates the economy! People who seek public assistance are often stereotyped as an economic drain on society. This feeds into the stigma that prevents those who are seeking help from applying or using public dollars. Those who need programs like CalFresh should apply with dignity and without fear, guilt, or shame. When unemployment goes up and the economy is weak, every CalFresh/SNAP dollar spent increases the local gross domestic product by $1.54!* CalFresh strengthens the economy by supporting farmers, food retailers, food processors, and food distributors.

**MYTH:**
Public food assistance programs are bad for the economy.

**FACT:**
It’s actually an economic power! Public food assistance programs stimulate the local economy, feed our communities, and create jobs.

CALFRESH PURCHASING POWER

This graphic represents the purchasing power of food assistance programs like CalFresh. When shoppers buy food with their benefits, they support local businesses as well as food chain workers and their families.

If all eligible Angelenos participated in CalFresh at 100%, Los Angeles County would**:

- Receive $541 million in federal funding annually;
- Support 6,200 food retailers and farmers’ markets;
- And circulate an additional $833 million in the local economy.

Right now I feel like the message [is that the program] is ‘for poor people’ and ‘leeches.’ I think that the real message [should instead be] more friendly, or nice, be like WIC because they are more helpful... approachable”

— Region 5, Antelope Valley

Sources: *USDA, **Nourish California