Fast Facts from the Fresh Ideas For Calfresh Report

TRANSFORMING CALFRESH CULTURE

Uncertainty can happen to anyone, public food assistance programs should be a universal priority. We all play a role in improving our community food culture, especially for programs like CalFresh. Below is an ecosystem visual that shows the “big picture” of our relationship with food and the society we live in. It provides an intersectional (or multi-layered) view of how we as everyday people are connected to our communities and public policies. Food access improvements exist at different community levels and within ourselves as consumers, family members, friends, neighbors, and voters.

COMMUNITY FOOD ECOSYSTEM

INDIVIDUAL
Personal realities that influence the ways we select, purchase, and eat food

RELATIONSHIPS
Learned attitudes and behaviors about food from family and friends

COMMUNITY
Social norms, publicly understood values, and practices within groups

INSTITUTIONAL
Organizational conditions and practices that interprets food assistance from policies into programs (i.e. program administrators and community-serving organizations)

PUBLIC POLICY
Laws that define food assistance program eligibility and participation requirements, and the roles and responsibilities across jurisdictions (i.e. local, state, and federal)

“We would like there to be more signs in the streets [about CalFresh]. We need more outreach in the community and schools when there are parent meetings. At the laundromats, at fairs, at the park.”

— REGION 2, SOUTH LOS ANGELES

MYTH:
Public food assistance programs are charities.

FACT:
CalFresh is not a charity. Like Social Security and Medicare, CalFresh is a benefit available to eligible Angelenos. You pay into it so that it is there when you need it.

CHECK OUT THE PROJECT AT GOODFOODLA.ORG/CALFRESH