



PARTNER AGENCY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025



Dear Partner Agency,

I sincerely appreciate all that you do. As we discussed in our recent virtual conversation, our partnership and coordination are more critical now than ever. While these are challenging times, I am confident that together, we can develop effective strategies

to further our mission—ensuring every neighbor in need is nourished.

I look forward to our in-person meeting on April 21st, where we will take time to plan and explore ways to strengthen our collaboration, maximizing our collective impact.

A few administrative updates: As you may recall, Josue Barajas transitioned out of our food bank a couple of months ago. I am currently in the process of identifying a new leader for the

department and will introduce them once the hiring process is complete. I am seeking someone with passion, commitment, and experience working with our diverse and vibrant community of neighbors and partner organizations like yours. Our work is truly 'heart work,' and finding the right leader to support our growth is essential to our ongoing success.

Finally, I want to remind you that my door is always open. I welcome your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions on how we can better serve our community. Whether in our meetings, conversations, or anytime in between, please don't hesitate to reach out—I value hearing directly from you.

Looking forward to seeing you in person on April 21st. The team will reach out shortly with the particulars.

Erica Padilla-Chavez
CEO

AGENCY NETWORK UPDATES

NEW TEAM MEMBER

We are happy to introduce a new member of our Agency Network Team. Tamalyn Nguyen has joined us as our Partnership Compliance Coordinator and will be assisting the team with their existing tasks and projects, including interfacing with and supporting our partner agencies.



Tamalyn Nguyen

tamalyn@thefoodbank.org

ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHICS SURVEY

Food bank leadership has decided to forego this year's Annual Demographics Survey in an effort to be mindful of the current unease within the community around data acquisition and retention. Thank you to the partner agencies that were mindful of this annual requirement and reached out to our Agency Network Team to inquire about when we would be requiring this survey to be conducted.

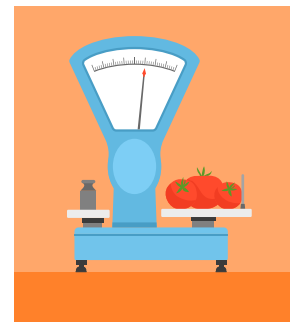
PARTNER AGENCY POUNDAGE DISTRIBUTION

Total pounds of product distributed to our Partner Agency Network in 2025:

January
526,894

February
542,200

March
575,917



FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATES AND OPERATION BRIDGE THE GAP

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County held a press conference to address the urgent impact of recent U.S. policy changes and federal funding cuts, which are jeopardizing the essential services it provides to neighbors in need across the county. At the event, food bank and community leaders shared critical updates on the impact of federal funding cuts and introduce “Operation Bridge the Gap”—an urgent campaign aimed at mobilizing community support and resources to address the escalating food insecurity crisis. Below are links to articles and information for our partner agency network to learn about these efforts and conversations.

Click the link to read the full article

🔗 **Lookout Santa Cruz** [After sudden \\$700K drop in funding, Second Harvest calls for community support - Lookout Santa Cruz](#)

🔗 **90.3 KAZU** [Local food bank loses federal money; area union members join Cesar Chavez Day march | 90.3 KAZU](#)

🔗 **KSBW** [A California food bank launches \\$1M campaign to combat funding cuts](#)

Please add the following events to your calendars!

Agency Network Team Office Hours

Thursday, April 24

1 – 2 p.m.

[Join the Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 822 3075 9495

Partner Agency Meeting

Monday, April 21

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: TBD

CalFresh Forum

Friday, May 2

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Crocker Theater Cabrillo College

Please notify us of any changes or cancellations to your distributions. agencies@thefoodbank.org

FOOD SAFETY

MOCK RECALL

Twice a year, several departments within The Food Bank, including Operations, Marketing, and Programs, come together to perform a Mock Recall.

This is not only a compliance requirement, but also a vitally important exercise to improve and streamline our internal processes in preparation for any actual recalls that could affect the food bank, our partner agency network, and our participants. This recently completed Mock Recall was a big success, and we would like to thank all our partner agencies that participated. Any partner agencies that have questions about this practice, or how a recall might affect them, please feel free to reach out to our [Agency Network Team](#).

