EXPANDING HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES ACROSS CALIFORNIA

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

For more than a decade, healthy food incentive programs have increased the purchasing power of low-income families to buy fruits and vegetables at grocery stores and farmers’ markets, thereby helping to reduce hunger, improve nutrition and support California’s agriculture and retail.

IMAGINE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES, IF THEY WERE AVAILABLE ACROSS CALIFORNIA¹

- **FAMILIES**
  - Extra in their pockets to spend on fruits and vegetables each year
  - $74M - $142M

- **ECONOMIC MULTIPLIER**
  - 1.7 – 2.9
  - Contribution to California’s economy for every $1 spent on incentives

- **STATEWIDE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION**
  - $123M - $409M

- **LABOR INCOME**
  - $45M - $89M

- **JOBS**
  - 855 – 1,682

- **ECONOMIC MULTIPLIER**
  - 3.0
  - to farm direct

- **LABOR INCOME**
  - $3.4M - $7.5M
  - for Agricultural sector

- **LABOR INCOME**
  - $3.2M - $6.2M
  - for Retail sector

The research highlighted in this brief is based upon analysis conducted by a team of economists at Colorado State University, led by Dr. Dawn Thilmany, in partnership with SPUR, Fair Food Network, and a coalition of ten additional implementing partners across nine states in the US, including Ecology Center, Vouchers for Veggies, and UC San Diego. For the full details of methodology and findings see: fairfoodnetwork.org/incentivesimpact

¹ The ranges presented here reflect low-bound and high-bound scenarios based on assumptions of annual SNAP participation, the percent of grocery stores, corners stores, and farm-direct retail outlets that would offer incentives; and whether a program encourages purchases of locally-grown produce.

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