**This is a friendly reminder that the 2017 California State Employees Food Drive started statewide on November 6th and continues through January 12, 2018.**

Last year, California State Employees at nearly 100 agencies contributed over 223,400 pounds of food, over 100,000 pounds of that were outside of Sacramento donations. In addition, a total of $216,290 was also donated and used to purchase more food. Altogether California’s State Employees contributed a combined total equivalent of **764,128 pounds of food!**

**This year we have a very ambitious goal of donating 800,000 pounds of food**. For the drive for every $1 donated, it is the equivalent of donating 2.5 pounds of food! If every state employee donated just $2, we would far surpass our goal and raise the equivalent of nearly 1.2 million pounds of food!

**Food Banks are better able to stretch your dollar and allocate that money to items they need throughout the year, not just during the holidays.** To donate money to your local food bank, visit our “[Donate](http://www.fooddrive.ca.gov/Deposit.asp)” page. If you donate to a Food Bank outside of Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, send the confirmation receipt to addison.ford@cdfa.ca.gov along with the state agency you work for.

All benefits from the drive go directly to California Food Banks which help support their numerous partner agencies. Let’s show our support for California families in need during the holidays and the coming year.

As a reminder, if you would prefer to donate food as opposed to money, the best type of food donations are non-perishable, highly nutritious, low sodium and reduced sugar.  Foods that are recommended for donation include the following:

* Canned vegetables
* Canned tuna fish
* Canned meats
* Canned fruit in water
* Peanut butter
* Beans
* Soup
* Macaroni & cheese
* Baby food (dry and/or canned) & baby formula are always in demand

**Open packages, open cans, open bottles, home-canned foods and expired items are NOT acceptable.**

**To learn more about the 2017 California State Employees Food Drive please visit the 2017 California State Employees Food Drive website at** <http://www.fooddrive.ca.gov/> **or contact your agency coordinator.**

