

CAN-Act POLICY PLATFORM

Based on the Member Survey Completed August 12, 2008

CAN-Act is an association of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Nutrition Education (SNAP-Ed) providers. Our mission is to support healthy eating and active living in low-income communities through provider leadership, client empowerment, vigorous support for a better SNAP-Ed, and advocacy for effective nutrition and physical activity related policy.

Policy advocacy is an important piece of our work. In order to use our resources most effectively, we develop an annual policy agenda based on this policy platform. CAN-Act will support bills that 1) help fulfill CAN-Act’s mission, and 2) relate to the policy areas specified below.

This platform includes two tiers of policy priorities:

1. **Priority:** This issue is central to CAN-Act’s mission, and it merits staff time and CAN-Act resources.
2. **Secondary:** This issue is related—but not central—to CAN-Act’s mission. CAN-Act will engage with this issue only when we have sufficient resources. A member may also seek Board approval to voluntarily represent CAN-Act’s interests on this issue.

POLICY CATEGORY	PRIMARY POLICY AREAS	SECONDARY POLICY AREAS
Food Stamp Nutrition Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure/protect sufficient funding • Improve utilization of SNAP-Ed resources • Allow public health approaches to SNAP-Ed • Increase state-level accountability • Improve SNAP-Ed administration, especially for local programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with other program efforts
Food stamps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure/protect sufficient funding • Ensure that SNAP allotments are adequate for recipients to purchase a healthy diet that includes fruits and vegetables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create efficient, user-friendly enrollment and reporting methods
School food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure adequate funding for free and reduced-price school meals • Support provision of high quality foods in schools • Bring fresh fruits and vegetables and other wholesome foods into cafeterias and classrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create efficient, user-friendly enrollment procedure¹ • Expand school breakfast • Encourage schools to source local, sustainably grown food • Establish effective outreach to eligible non-participating families
Healthy food access for low income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that low income neighborhoods have sufficient places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make local, sustainably grown food affordable and accessible to

¹ This item had equal votes for “secondary” and “not appropriate for CAN-Act”

POLICY CATEGORY	PRIMARY POLICY AREAS	SECONDARY POLICY AREAS
communities	to buy healthy food, particularly fresh fruits and vegetables	low income communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict fast food outlets²
Physical activity resource access for low income communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for projects improving the safety and accessibility of walking and biking • Provide funding for physical activity programs serving people with low incomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for municipal parks in low income communities • Support Safe Routes to School programs
Preventable diet-related chronic disease and obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public understanding of diet-related chronic disease and obesity, including methods for prevention • Reduce marketing of unhealthy foods, especially to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support menu labeling requirements • Continue to eliminate added trans-fats from the food supply
Nutrition standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt federal nutrition standards and guidance that reflect the best understanding of good nutrition 	

Policy areas where CAN-Act will not develop positions include (but are not limited to):

1. Other “basic needs” support programs (e.g. TANF, Medi-Cal, EITC, minimum wage, etc.)
2. Therapeutic and related nutrition issues (e.g. vitamins and therapeutic nutrition counseling)
3. Health care availability and accessibility
4. Broader health care issues
5. Broader environmental issues

² This item had equal votes for “secondary” and “not appropriate for CAN-Act”