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# Central Coast nonprofits fear proposed state budget cuts

Story by Leslie Duarte • 3w • [2 min read](#)

California's proposed state budget cuts could potentially impact hundreds of organizations across the state, including many in Santa Cruz.

"We are facing, as a state, one of the most challenging state budget crises that we've seen," said Tony Nunez, a Community Bridges Meals on Wheels representative.

The proposed budget cuts could significantly impact the people these organizations serve.

"That only means that the community's going to feel the impact individuals who are depending on food banks to provide food," said a representative from the Food Bank.

The proposed budget could also slash funding for hundreds of programs across the state, including Food Banks and Meals on Wheels, which feed people in the community.

"California neighbors should not go hungry. That really should be a principle that we offer it with," said Erica Padilla-Chavez with Second Harvest in Santa Cruz County.

Community Bridges in Santa Cruz County runs the Meals on Wheels program, which feeds about 800 older residents across the county. They warn that if the budget goes through, they will have to start putting new applicants on a waitlist, something they have never had to do before.

"And that just is something we don't want to do. But if we, with the budget cuts that we're looking at as a result of this current proposal, there's something we'll likely have to do in order to continue the program at its current state," Nunez said.

Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County says some of their services are also in danger. They are currently feeding about 75,000 people a month at their food bank.

"We're threatened by that – in terms of the amount of food we're going to be able to have in our communities to provide for our hungry neighbors. So the situation is serious," said Padilla-Chavez.

With the budget deadline approaching, organizations are calling on the state legislature to protect programs like theirs.

"Despite the challenges highlighted in the Governor's revised budget, I am fully committed to working with my colleagues to mitigate the economic shortfall. We've successfully reduced this year's deficit by \$17 billion and will continue to address the budget disparity while preserving core programs for Californians," California State Representative Dawn Addis said in a statement.

Local organizations hope the state listens.

"What the eventual budget will look like and how it will impact programs like Meals on Wheels that work with the most vulnerable people in our state will say a ton about who we value and what our values are as Californians," Nunez said.

If they lose these funds, the organizations say they will have to rely on community donations for funding.

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[Link to original story.](#)