

Food Care Focus

MAR 2026

ABOUND FOOD CARE

Edible Food Recovery Summit Brings Ventura County Together to Drive System-Wide Change



On February 19th, on behalf of Waste Free Ventura County, Abound Food Care partnered with Ventura County Public Works to host the Edible Food Recovery Summit, bringing together public agencies, food businesses, and nonprofit partners to strengthen Ventura County's regional food recovery system. Through Abound Food Care's coordination, Waste Free Ventura County (WFVC) is a regional coalition consisting of the

County of Ventura in partnership with the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura, working together to reduce food waste and food insecurity. The coalition recovers excess edible food and distributes it to nonprofit agencies serving those at risk in their communities. Through direct and panel presentations, we explored:

- The current state of hunger in Ventura County
- Community health assessment insights
- SB 1383 compliance progress and gaps
- Impacts of HR-1 on local food recovery systems
- An ambitious Tier 2 food generator pilot
- Practical logistics strategies to expand edible food recovery

In breakout groups, stakeholders had the opportunity to share their challenges while working together to identify solutions. Regional collaboration goes beyond compliance, it helps optimize food systems, save resources, and increase community impact.

[Learn more about WFVC and the Summit](#)

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Abound Food Care Co-Chairs Sacramento County Food Security Working Group

Abound Food Care is now a co-chair of the **County of Sacramento's Food Security Working Group!** The group was formed from the Sacramento County CEO's office in response to HR-1. The CEO's office reached out to various departments and tasked representatives to create a Safety Net Alliance including other community working groups that support community members in need. Abound Food Care will serve as a part of the steering committee and provide feedback and resources. We are uniquely qualified through our experience with co-founding and leading the Orange County Hunger Alliance.

The goals of this working group are to serve as a collaborative platform to assess impacts on food access and nutrition programs, share information, gather community feedback, and coordinate cross-sector efforts to connect residents with resources while reducing inefficiencies.

Through this collaboration, Sacramento County is taking a more coordinated, data-informed approach to food access, ensuring resources are aligned, gaps are addressed, and communities are better supported.

[Learn More](#)

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Continuing Coordinated Food Relief for Wildfire-Affected Communities



With support from partners and financial donors, Abound Food Care has been actively engaged in wildfire relief efforts to support communities impacted by the Eaton and Palisades wildfires. In partnership with **Monkey Business Café** and the **California Culinary Coalition**, we produced and distributed over 3,000 ready-to-heat-and-eat meals.

Additionally, we procured and delivered more than 6,500 pounds of fresh produce, dairy, nonperishable goods, and protein, helping organizations meet increased demand in affected areas. We also coordinated the transport of two freezers to partner agencies that lacked cold storage, ensuring meals and nutritious food could be safely stored and distributed to those in need.

To date, these efforts have helped support more than 400 families. All of this was made possible through collaboration with our partners and the generous financial donations of various individuals and organizations. Abound Food Care will continue working with partners to maximize the impact of this funding as relief efforts continue.

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Reduce Costs while Reinvesting in Your Mission

The Enhanced Procurement Program has been helping nonprofit organizations reduce the cost of food, supplies, and equipment, so more of your organization's funding goes directly toward your people and programs. Through the Enhanced Procurement Program, nonprofits gain access to North America's largest group purchasing network, unlocking reduced pricing typically reserved for large institutions.

By joining the Enhanced Procurement Program, your organization can lower operating costs, simplify purchasing, and give your organization the ability to reinvest the savings into supporting your mission.

Learn more about the Enhanced Procurement Program and how your organization can start saving today:

aboundfoodcare.org/procurement

[Learn more about the Enhanced Procurement Program](#)



Advancing SB 1383 Compliance

Through our work with cities in and surrounding Orange County, Abound Food Care continues to support compliance with California's SB 1383 edible food recovery requirements by working directly with cities to ensure food generators in their jurisdictions comply. Across the cities we support, we have helped 426 food generators become compliant with the law, showing an average compliance of 77% across all participating cities. We expect all numbers to grow as outreach and education continue. These efforts reflect ongoing collaboration with cities and food businesses to strengthen local food recovery networks, reduce food waste, and ensure more excess edible food reaches community organizations serving those in need.



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