

# OHIO AS A LEADER ~ A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HUNGER RELIEF

## 3 Things to Understand about Hunger...

Hunger looks like  
you and me.

Hunger does irreparable harm  
to people, communities and our  
state's economy.

Hunger is completely  
preventable.

**But most importantly...The costs associated with pervasive hunger will bankrupt Ohio and the nation, devastate families, escalate health care needs, and disrupt local communities.**

The FY2018-2019 State Budget is an opportunity for Governor John Kasich and members of the Ohio General Assembly to continue the critical work they have supported over the past 20 years to reduce hunger and food insecurity in the Buckeye state. By supporting **A Comprehensive Approach to Hunger Relief**, Governor Kasich and members of the Ohio General Assembly can establish a groundbreaking initiative to unify Ohio's response to hunger under one singular banner.

In one place – all Ohioans facing hunger can find support – through an extensive and unprecedented solution that considers not only food availability, but also essential benefits and supports for citizens of all ages.

## Our Request

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is advocating for funding that will align Ohio's funded hunger relief efforts within one request. A **\$30 million per year allocation**, sourced from existing federal and state dollars, will allow Ohio to comprehensively address hunger, by funding the following programs:

- The **Ohio Food Program**, providing shelf-stable foods
- The **Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program**, providing surplus fresh produce, meats and eggs
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP, formerly food stamps) outreach to Ohio's most vulnerable populations, including families with children and seniors
- Innovative **programs for Ohio's hungry children**, such as the summer weekend meals program and the summer rural delivery meals program, that fill nutritional gaps during breaks from school
- Summer **farmers' market programs** targeting families with children
- The **Ohio Benefit Bank**, a proven, effective collaboration with Ohio's nonprofit and social service sector to lift people out of poverty
- **Capacity building** for foodbanks and non-profit charities fighting local hunger

## Why it Works

Currently, Ohio's state-funded hunger relief programs reside in disparate sections of the state budget, are administered by different contract managers, and provide limited flexibility. Under the proposed Comprehensive Approach, programs that address food insecurity in our state and are overseen by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks will:

- Have reduced administrative costs and overhead;
- Work in an integrated manner that maximizes opportunities for efficiency and cost savings;
- Have increased ability to leverage food purchase and public-private partnerships across programs; and
- Streamline operations and overall program effectiveness.

**Above all, through this unified initiative, the Comprehensive Approach will direct the maximum amount of state dollars available to Ohioans who need it most, putting food on the tables of Ohio families, positioning our children to be healthy and ready to learn, protecting the welfare of our senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, and setting the hunger standard among states.**