

I support Ohio's hunger relief network!

For the 2016-2017 biennial budget the Ohio Association of Foodbanks requests \$40 million (\$20 million each year) to support the continuation of our grant agreement. The undersigned hereby endorses this request in support of the association's Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program.

Ohio's emergency food assistance network collectively serves more than 2 million men, women, and children every year. The Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP) is operated by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and is funded in part by a line item in Ohio's state budget, which is administered through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. State funding directs food supplies to millions of Ohioans through the state's network of 12 Feeding America foodbanks and more than 3,300 food pantries and soup kitchens. This funding is a highly effective and fiscally responsible use of state dollars and our association works tirelessly to leverage that funding to maximize our ability to get food to hungry Ohioans.

The OFPACP has been praised for its effectiveness, its demonstrated return on investment, and its efficiency in getting fresh foods and shelf-stable items to Ohioans in need. From every dollar of the \$14.5 million in state funding provided to the association in SFY 2014, 95 percent was used to purchase food or improve the distribution network.

OFPACP – which for more than a decade has purchased surplus or unmarketable products directly from Ohio farmers, growers, and commodity producers – is among the most unique and most replicated food programs in the country. It supplies tens of millions of pounds of fresh, Ohio-grown, highly nutritious agriculture products to Ohio's hungry children, families, and seniors each year—food that otherwise would have gone to waste.

It's time to focus on programs that will hasten economic recovery and provide a strong foundation for the future we all share.

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Name: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Street Address: _____

City / Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Why I Care About Ending Hunger in Ohio:

Yes, please send updates and action alerts from the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to my email!

Return to: Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Attn: Nora Balduff, 101 East Town St., Ste. 540, Columbus, Ohio 43215
nora@ohiofoodbanks.org or fax to: (614) 221-4338