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OHIO’S 12 FEEDING AMERICA FOODBANKS & MEMBERS OF THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
Dan Flowers, President & CEO

Greater Cleveland Food Bank
Kristin Warzocha, President and CEO

Mid-Ohio Foodbank
Matt Habash, President & CEO

SE Ohio Foodbank & Kitchen
Andrew Mayle, Executive Director

Freestore Foodbank
Kurt Reiber, President

The Foodbank, Inc.
Michelle Riley, CEO

Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign, & Logan
Tyra Jackson, Executive Director

Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley
Michael Iberis, Executive Director

Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
Juliana Chase-Morefield, Executive Director

Shared Harvest Foodbank
Tina Osso, Executive Director

Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank
James Caldwell, President & CEO

West Ohio Food Bank
Linda Hamilton, CEO
Congratulations on your election to the 133rd Ohio General Assembly!

Food insecurity is a symptom of larger, systemic issues: poverty, income inequality, insufficient wages, weakened social safety nets, rising housing costs, food access gaps, and much more. To respond effectively, we need the public, private, and charitable sectors working together on the same team.

Ohio has a remarkable history of bipartisan support for effective public-private partnerships that alleviate and prevent hunger. State legislators like you can be champions for the 2 million Ohioans who rely on foodbanks for help each year. We’re proud to have worked with legislators on both sides of the aisle to develop and implement proven, win-win programs and sound policies.

This playbook gives you the information you need to use your influence to raise awareness about the issue of hunger, pass legislation that strengthens our response to hunger, and work with state agencies to ensure effective policies are in place.

We look forward to working on your team to promote the nutrition and well-being of all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt
Executive Director
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org
THE OPPONENT: HUNGER IN OHIO

Nearly 1.6 Million Ohioans Live in Poverty\(^1\)

More than half of Ohio’s counties had unemployment rates at or above 5 percent in 2017, including eight counties with rates above 7 percent.\(^2\)

*Ohio’s poverty rate remains higher than pre-recession levels.*

1 in 5 Ohio kids live in poverty, including nearly 1 in 4 kids under the age of 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OHIO</th>
<th>14.0%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDWEST</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Ohio’s unemployment rate is higher than the national average and the Midwest average.*

Ohio was tied for the 6th worst unemployment rate among all states in 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OHIO</th>
<th>5.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDWEST</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

More Than 1.75 Million Ohioans Are Food Insecure\(^3\)

The USDA ranked Ohio the 9th worst state for *very low* food security in the country from 2015-17, with about 285,000 households containing some members with reduced food intake or disrupted eating patterns.

*Demand for help with food from seniors (age 60+) is steadily increasing.*

Ohio seniors visited food pantries 1.74 million times last year – enough to fill Ohio Stadium 17 times.
HOW WE BATTLE HUNGER EACH DAY

About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

Our mission is to provide food and other resources to people in need and to pursue areas of common interest for the benefit of people in need. We proudly represent Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks, their 3,500 member food pantries, soup kitchens, and other hunger relief agencies, and the 2 million Ohioans they serve each year.

Securing and distributing emergency food

Our statewide hunger relief network distributed 216 million pounds of food to Ohioans in need last year. More than 25 percent of that food came from the state-funded Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP). For an average of just 33 cents a pound, we distributed 41.3 million pounds of surplus Ohio-grown fruits and vegetables and 14.9 million pounds of protein items and shelf-stable foods through OFPACP. Those products made up some of the most wholesome foods available to Ohioans struggling to afford food on their own.

Addressing child hunger

Children are particularly vulnerable to hunger, and several federal programs, including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program and the Summer Food Service Program, exist to help prevent children from going hungry. However, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) only reaches about 1 in 10 eligible children due to antiquated funding regulations. We have partnered with the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for seven years to implement several innovative programs that feed children left underserved by the federal SFSP.

SNAP outreach and The Ohio Benefit Bank™

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) is our nation’s most critical line of defense against hunger. But applying for SNAP can often be intimidating and overwhelming for people in crisis, which is why we have partnered with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to conduct SNAP outreach throughout Ohio for more than a decade. We believe the best way to feed hungry people is by putting them in grocery store lines, where what they spend circulates back into local economies.

Public policy advocacy

We know that elected officials at the state and federal levels can’t be experts on every issue, and we’re proud to serve as a resource for lawmakers as they create and implement policies that impact Ohioans struggling with hunger and poverty. Our role as advocates is to educate elected representatives and other public officials about issues related to hunger and work collaboratively toward effective policy solutions. With nearly 30 years experience in implementing public-private partnerships, we strongly believe in the critical role that government plays in addressing hunger.
THE COSTS OF LETTING HUNGER PREVAIL

Food Insecurity Worsens Health Outcomes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that health care usage and expenditures increased when SNAP (food stamp) benefits decreased, while a modest increase in SNAP benefits contributed to slower growth in health care usage.

In counties with high food insecurity:

- 1/8 people have diabetes
- 1/5 people have a disability
- 1/3 people experience obesity

Food insecure households often consume less nutritious foods because they are less expensive. An inadequate diet can lead to toxic stress, poor nutrition, and chronic diet-related diseases.

Food insecurity is linked to higher health care usage and costs:

- Likelihood of needing health care, compared to food secure households: 33% vs. 71%
- Total health care costs, compared to food secure households: 32% vs. 76%

Older Adults Increasingly Rely on Help from Foodbanks

While the rate at which all Ohioans turned to Ohio’s foodbank network for help increased each year from 2010 to 2014, those increases tapered off for adults and children with the onset of a slow economic recovery. However, the number of seniors seeking help with food continues to increase each year.

Number of visits made to food pantries by Ohio seniors from 2010 - 2018

Food insecurity in seniors worsens and exacerbates aging issues:

- Rates of high blood pressure, asthma, depression, chest pain, and limits to activity are higher for food insecure seniors.
- Chronic conditions and diseases limit employability and increase health care costs.
SNAP: OUR MOST IMPORTANT DEFENSE AGAINST HUNGER

SNAP Linked to Many Improvements in Health Outcomes, Lower Costs

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides about 1.4 million Ohioans with an average of $120 per person, per month to help purchase food. Access to SNAP improves food security in the short-term and contributes to improved health and household stability in the long-term.

SNAP improves birth outcomes, lowers risk of chronic conditions, and supports academic achievement.

Researchers found that SNAP had a profound long-term impact on health and wellbeing. Adults who had access to SNAP as children fared better in many categories when compared with similar children who did not have access to SNAP.

SNAP provides critical support to low-income elderly individuals.

When compared to low-income elderly individuals who do not participate in SNAP, elderly SNAP participants have lower health care costs, are more likely to adhere to medication regimens, and spend less time in hospitals and nursing homes.

SNAP Boosts Local Economies, Supports Workers

SNAP recipients redeem benefits at nearly 10,000 retailers in Ohio - primarily supermarkets and superstores. In 2017, SNAP recipients redeemed about $2.2 billion in completely federally-funded food assistance dollars at grocers and other food retailers in their local communities.

In Ohio, 1 in 11 workers (about 496,100 statewide) participated in SNAP in 2017. These workers earn low wages, working unpredictable and demanding schedules, and they rely on SNAP to keep food on the table for their families.
OHIO FOOD PROGRAM & AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE PROGRAM

Providing wholesome food to families in need for pennies on the pound

The Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP) has received bipartisan support from 4 governors and 11 Ohio General Assemblies since its creation in the 1998/99 state budget. OFPACP provides more than 25 percent of all of the food distributed statewide by Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and their 3,500 member food pantries, soup kitchens, and other hunger relief agencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ohio Food Program</th>
<th>Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Provided 14.9 million pounds of food in state fiscal year 2018</td>
<td>• Provided 41.3 million pounds of food in state fiscal year 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Distributed items include proteins and shelf-stable foods, like eggs, soup, milk, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter</td>
<td>• Distributed items are all grown by 75+ Ohio farmers; products include apples, onions, potatoes, squash, cabbage, tomatoes, corn, carrots, peppers, and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Each pound of food cost less than 60 cents</td>
<td>• Each pound of food cost less than 20 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Keeps wholesome, staple foods on the shelves of 3,500 hunger relief agencies</td>
<td>• Salvages surplus agriculture products that would otherwise go to waste</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making an economic impact while fighting hunger

Not only does OFPACP provide nutritious food to Ohio families in need, but it also generates additional direct and indirect economic output, including job creation, right here in Ohio.¹⁶

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SFY 2018</th>
<th>Direct Economic Impact</th>
<th>Indirect Economic Impact</th>
<th>Total Economic Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value of Output</td>
<td>$14.65 million</td>
<td>$13.8 million</td>
<td>$28.45 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Generated</td>
<td>$4 million</td>
<td>$4.8 million</td>
<td>$8.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs Created in Ohio</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INNOVATIVE CHILDHOOD HUNGER INITIATIVES

Filling gaps left by inadequate federal nutrition programs

In Ohio, about 622,000 school-aged children receive free or reduced-price school meals through the National School Lunch Program. Yet only about 65,000 (1 in 10) participate in the federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which is designed to provide similar free meals when school is closed for the summer.

Because of the way it is structured, the federal SFSP is often difficult for children to access. SFSP sites are required to serve meals in congregate settings, meaning that children have to access a central location to eat each day. This is especially problematic for children in rural areas, where transportation options are limited and in many cases SFSP sites don’t exist.

We have partnered for seven years with the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and the Ohio Department of Education to implement innovative programs to address these challenges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Weekend Meals Program</strong></td>
<td>$1.3 million</td>
<td>Provided kid-friendly, shelf-stable weekend meals to 10,000 Ohio children in low-income areas for 10 weeks in summer 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Rural Delivery Meals Program</strong></td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>Provided a week’s worth of kid-friendly, shelf-stable meals to 4,400 Ohio children in rural, underserved areas for 10 weeks in summer 2018.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile Farmers Markets</strong></td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Provided more than 1.1 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to families with children at less than 40 cents per pound.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leveraging national service to fight childhood hunger

We have partnered with the federal Corporation for National and Community Service for a decade to deploy AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates in high-need communities to increase access to summer meal programs for kids. In summer 2018, our 69 AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates helped their nonprofit host sites to serve 420,000 summer meals to food insecure children.
Modernizing to increase fresh, healthy food access

Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks are emphasizing healthy, fresh fruits, vegetables, protein items, and dairy items more than ever. But our network of 3,500 hunger relief agencies, serving all of Ohio’s 88 counties, can’t always quickly and safely store and distribute large quantities of fresh food.

The most recent Hunger in America Study found that about a third (34 percent) of Ohio hunger relief agencies said that their inability to store healthier foods was an obstacle to offering those foods to their clients. Equipment grants to local hunger relief agencies for new refrigerators, freezers, and other cooling equipment will help maximize our network’s ability to distribute fresh, healthy foods to hungry Ohioans.

THE OHIO BENEFIT BANK™

A proven model for public-private partnership

The Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB™) has provided services to more than 700,000 Ohio households since its inception in 2006. Through a combination of volunteers at trusted community nonprofits and an easy-to-use online platform, the OBB has connected low- and moderate-income Ohioans with nearly $2 billion in primarily federal work support programs and tax credits.

After many years of private and public investment in the expansion of the OBB, maintaining it will only cost a small fraction in public support and political willpower. Modest support will maintain access to application completion assistance, including SNAP outreach assistance and free federal and state tax filing for most low- and moderate-income taxpayers, a service which has infused about $440 million in tax credits and refunds into local communities over the past decade.
POTENTIAL PITFALLS: WHAT MAKES EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION?

The two simple litmus tests for any legislation impacting hungry Ohioans

When considering any proposals that would affect programs and policies that serve food insecure Ohio families, we encourage you to ask:

Will this proposal improve the food security of Ohioans?
Will this proposal use taxpayer dollars responsibly?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Description</th>
<th>Will this proposal improve the food security of Ohioans?</th>
<th>Will this proposal use taxpayer dollars responsibly?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposals to “increase fraud prevention and oversight” of SNAP by means such as increased frequency of eligibility verifications</td>
<td>No, it would put additional barriers in place for vulnerable people</td>
<td>No, it would increase administrative costs exponentially, and likely lead to additional quality control errors by caseworkers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals to require photo identification when shopping with SNAP benefits</td>
<td>No, it would erroneously remove program participants from SNAP using tactics that have been proven unsuccessful in other states</td>
<td>No, it would increase administrative costs exponentially, in addition to placing an added burden on private grocers and retailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals to make existing work requirements harsher, more punitive in order to receive SNAP benefits</td>
<td>No, it would force many low-wage, contingent, temporary workers off of SNAP without improving their employment prospects</td>
<td>No, it would increase administrative costs while forfeiting federal dollars owed to the State of Ohio</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Ohio Revised Code requires that members of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks network serve all Ohioans with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. In 2017, about 1 in 3 Ohioans lived in households with incomes at or below that threshold. Any proposal that takes SNAP benefits out of the pockets of low-income Ohioans places more strain on our statewide hunger relief network.
STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS: OUR BUDGET REQUEST

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is requesting $30 million per year over the 2020-2021 biennium ($60 million total) to fund a Comprehensive Approach to Hunger Relief, representing just $1.25 per person, per month served by our statewide network.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ohio Food Program &amp; Agricultural Clearance Program</strong></td>
<td>$24.55 mm</td>
<td>$24.55 million per year to secure and distribute at least 55 million pounds of nutritious, wholesome foods at an average of just 33 cents per pound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Innovative Summer Meals Programs for Children</strong></td>
<td>$2.83 mm</td>
<td>$2.83 million per year to provide kid-friendly, shelf-stable meals and fresh fruits and vegetables to children in rural or underserved areas of Ohio through three proven programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Ohio Benefit Bank™</strong></td>
<td>$620,000</td>
<td>$620,000 per year to support free tax filing for low- and moderate-income taxpayers and to leverage matching funding from the USDA for SNAP outreach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity Building Resources for Charitable Organizations</strong></td>
<td>$2 mm</td>
<td>$2 million per year to provide updated refrigeration and freezer equipment for food pantries and to leverage matching funding for AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each state that receives a federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant is required to meet a minimum level of state Maintenance-of-Effort (MOE) spending. Some states, including Ohio, count third-party contributions toward meeting the MOE requirement. The Ohio Association of Foodbanks has provided $24,898,470 per year to help the State meet its MOE requirement, relieving the State of Ohio from spending up to $49.7 million per biennium in General Revenue Funding in order to meet the federal requirements.
CITATIONS


8 Assessment of Ohio Association of Foodbanks monthly service statistics


