



ENSURING A FOOD SECURE TOMORROW FOR ALL OHIOANS



For more than two decades, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, has successfully partnered with the State of Ohio to feed hungry Ohioans through the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP). **There is no better example of a highly efficient, cost-effective public-private partnership in Ohio.** Through this partnership we procure center-of-the-plate and shelf-stable foods and direct surplus and unmarketable agricultural products from nearly 100 Ohio farmers and producers through the state's network of foodbanks and onto the tables of Ohio families, ensuring a source of nutritious, Ohio-raised food for Ohioans experiencing food hardship.

WHAT WE DO

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks represents Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and supplemental feeding programs. In SFY 2022, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than **242 million pounds of food** and grocery items.

While much of the food our network distributes is sourced through charitable donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and manufacturers, it takes support from the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly to make it possible for us to procure fresh fruits, vegetables, proteins, and staple items for foodbanks serving Ohioans across all 88 counties – wholesome items we don't normally see in our traditional donation streams, and foods that keep children, parents, workers, disabled Ohioans, and older adults nourished.

Our successful, decades-long public-private partnership with the State of Ohio supports:

- **Our workforce:** providing a safety net for workers; preventing job loss and greater economic hardship by responding to household income shortfalls during personal or community crises, from a car repair bill to a tornado
- **Our families and older adults:** helping kids learn and grow; supporting parents so they can focus on keeping up with other household expenses from housing to health care; and rethinking how we support older adults as they strive to age in place with dignity and in better health
- **Our agriculture and food producers:** supporting agricultural and food supply chains; providing a safety net for producers facing climate and market instability; reducing food waste

However, there is still much work that needs to be done.

FEEDING AMERICA FOODBANKS



WHO THE FUNDING SERVES

By helping Ohio households meet their basic needs, like wholesome food and essential non-food items, we can free up more of their limited incomes for utilities, housing, transportation, health care, childcare, education, recovering from debt, and regaining lost emergency savings.

In the first half of 2022, Ohio foodbanks **provided emergency take-home groceries nearly 6 million times**, even as 1.5 million Ohioans continued to receive SNAP Emergency Allotments under the public health emergency. Those 1.5 million people will see these benefits reduced by an average of **\$90 per person, per month** beginning in March. The loss of those enhanced benefits will be enormous – working families, older adults, and people with disabilities will be hit the hardest, and overall, Ohio will lose \$1.2 billion in SNAP benefits in 2023. Ohio's foodbanks will be called on to fill as much of the gap as we can.

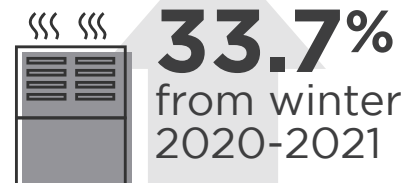
Despite having recovered 85% of jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation has wiped out many gains Ohioans had made.



Meat, fish, and egg prices



2-bedroom unit in Ohio



The cost to heat homes



Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we collaborate to invest in food and economic security and ensure an equitable recovery for all Ohioans.

The FY 2024-2025 Biennial Budget, H.B. 33, Governor DeWine's as-introduced budget, provided flat funding of \$24.55 million per year to support our core hunger relief programs. On April 26, 2023, the Ohio House of Representatives passed its version, Am. Sub. H.B. 33, and increased funding for those programs to \$39.55 million, representing an increase of \$15 million per year. We are requesting additional support of \$10.45 million per year from the Ohio Senate to fully fund these critical hunger lifelines.

STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS: OUR BUDGET REQUEST

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is respectfully requesting \$50 million per year over the FY 2024-2025 biennium (\$100 million total) to be allocated for the following:

- **Ohio Food Program & Agricultural Clearance Program (\$49 million per year):** To secure and distribute at least 65 million pounds, or 54 million meals, of nutritious, wholesome foods across the state. This money will also be used for essential non-food household items, such as shampoo, toothpaste, baby wipes, diapers, and toilet paper.
- **Capacity Building Resources for Charitable Organizations (\$1 million per year):** To provide refrigeration and freezer units and other necessary equipment for food pantries to handle more perishable protein, dairy, and produce.

This funding will allow the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to 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 anti-hunger, pro-agriculture standard among states.