



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on Approved 2020-2021 State Budget**  
*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the*  
*Ohio Association of Foodbanks*

"The Ohio Association of Foodbanks, its 12 member foodbanks and 3,500 non-profit and faith-based charities extend our deepest appreciation to the Ohio General Assembly and Governor DeWine for their commitment to Ohioans facing hunger. Their generous support of \$24.55 million per year to fund hunger relief in the 2020-2021 state budget allows for the continuation of critical programs to assist our state's most vulnerable populations.

"Members of the Senate led this effort by including an additional \$5 million in significant investments for Ohioans and our communities, and we deeply appreciate the leadership by Senate President Obhof, Senators Peterson, Huffman, Hottinger, Chairman Dolan, Minority Leader Yuko and the members of the conference committee that ensured the additional support provided by the Senate was protected throughout their deliberations. The inclusion of additional funding will allow our statewide charitable network to provide the most nutritious, wholesome food available to the 2 million Ohioans that rely on our help each year.

"The support of these state-funded food programs not only nourishes Ohioans in need, but also has a multiplier effect on Ohio's agricultural economy. Last year, the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program provided over 55 million meals, created 316 jobs and generated nearly \$9 million in additional income. It also supported Ohio farmers and producers by funding the purchase of highly nutritious surplus eggs and protein items, staple foods and fresh fruits and vegetables.

"This important investment will pay dividends in expanding educational achievement, advancing worker productivity and improving healthcare outcomes. It tells the families we serve, including older adults, children, families, people living with disabilities and the working poor, that they are not alone, and that adequate, nutritious food is something that no one should go without."

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**About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks**

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,500 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2018, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 216 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow the association on Twitter, stay connected on Facebook and visit them on the web at [www.ohiofoodbanks.org](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).

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