



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 23, 2020

Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on Request for Full Federal Funding Under Title 32 for Ohio National Guard COVID-19 Response
Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

“On behalf of Ohio’s foodbanks, we are deeply troubled that the need for emergency food assistance remains so significant, but deeply grateful that the Ohio National Guard continues to work diligently each day side-by-side with our foodbank staff as our volunteers largely stay home for their safety.

“Unfortunately, the federal funding authorization for those soldiers and airmen is set to expire next month, amidst soaring cases of COVID-19 and mounting pressure on front line responders. We humbly applaud Governor Mike DeWine for seeking a fully funded extension for the National Guard response under Title 32, and we’re extraordinarily moved that Senators Portman and Brown would join with all of Ohio’s 16 House members on a [bipartisan, bicameral letter](#) to lift up and expedite that request.

“As we all draw close to a Thanksgiving marked by public health advisories and isolation, Ohio’s foodbanks are finishing their final holiday food distributions this week. Hundreds of thousands of Ohio families continue to struggle with record levels of food insecurity as the pandemic’s grip on local economies and household well-being tightens.

“We urge FEMA Administrator Gaynor, OMB Director Vought and Acting DOD Secretary Miller to approve this request so that we can continue to fend off as much hunger for as many people as possible as this crisis continues.”

###

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 nearly 3,600 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2020, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 270 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.

Contact: Joree Novotny, Director of External Affairs for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks
614-273-5818 (cell) – or – jnovotny@ohiofoodbanks.org