



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Foodbanks grateful for one-time relief, urge more investment in basic needs over biennium**  
*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director  
of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks*

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks extends its thanks to Speaker Cupp, Chairman Oelslager, and distinguished members of the Ohio House of Representatives for supporting additional coronavirus relief funds to meet immediate foodbank needs in 2021. While Ohio Am. Sub H.B. 110 includes flat funding for Ohio’s hunger relief network, the supplemental appropriation measures include \$12 million in one-time federal-pass-through CARES Act funding. This represents an increase of \$5 million over Governor DeWine’s proposed one-time appropriation. These funds will be helpful to our continued crisis response in the short-term, and we are grateful.

“As I have emphasized throughout the past year, Ohioans need substantial, sustained investment in basic needs, not only to regain footing, but to reposition our neighbors and communities to better withstand future crises. Before the pandemic, nearly one in three Ohioans lived in households with incomes low enough to be eligible for help from foodbanks. Nearly four in ten adults did not have enough saved nor access to credit to cover even a \$400 emergency. We cannot afford to build back only to the inequity and wage and wealth disparity of early 2020. The State of Ohio must invest to help its individuals and families achieve stability and dignity.

“We urge the Ohio Senate to pick up where the House has left off by providing an additional \$20 million per year in temporary funding in the 2022-23 biennium to support our network’s efforts to provide wholesome food and essential non-food household items to low-income Ohioans recovering from the COVID-19 recession. The long-term harm from our current crisis will not abate for the most vulnerable among us without visionary foresight and leadership from our elected officials.”

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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 3,600 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](http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org).*

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