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**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Applauds President Biden's Proposals to Build More Equitable Economy through American Families Plan**

*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director  
of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks*

"The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is grateful for President Biden's leadership announcing the American Families Plan that lays out a vision for building a stronger and more equitable economy.

"Food insecurity and unemployment rates are at an all-time high due to the unforeseen effects of COVID 19, which has created the perfect storm, devastating Ohio families. Nearly 1 in 5 Ohioans experienced food insecurity last year, including nearly 1 in 4 Ohio kids. While the recently enacted American Rescue Plan is providing much-needed relief to Ohioans – that relief is only temporary. We can't stop there if we want to build a more equitable economy for Ohioans, many of whom continue to struggle to make ends meet.

"The President's recovery proposals in the American Jobs & Families Plans represent a ground-breaking agenda and include many important policies, but Congress needs to address shortcomings. Specifically, we encourage Congress to craft recovery legislation that ensures that everyone has access to adequate nutrition, affordable health coverage, housing and childcare; includes a permanent expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit; and provides dignity for workers through efforts such as paid leave, sound unemployment compensation and subsidized jobs to individuals who face barriers in the labor market.

"We urge Ohio's congressional members to move swiftly to build on the President's recovery proposals and craft legislation that improves the health and economic security for children, families and working individuals. The livelihoods of millions of Ohioans are depending on it."

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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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