



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on Approved 2022/2023 State Biennial Budget
Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director
of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks, along with our 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,600 member charities, extend our deepest appreciation to Ohio Governor DeWine, Ohio House Committee Finance Chairman Scott Oelslager, Ohio Senate Finance Chairman Matt Dolan, and members of the Ohio General Assembly for their leadership in responding to the needs of food-insecure Ohioans. Their generous support of \$24.55 million per year in the 2022/2023 state budget allows for the continuation of critical programs to assist our state’s most vulnerable populations. We are also thankful for the one-time support of \$12 million in CARES Act funding for the calendar year 2021.

“Our inclusion in the state budget allows for the continuation of the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program, which has been described as one of the most successful public-private partnerships, directly supporting Ohio farmers and providing wholesome, nutritious foods to Ohioans in need. Last year, the Ohio Food and Agricultural Clearance Program provided over 71 million pounds of nutritious foods at an average of just 38 cents per pound.

“Additionally, we applaud our legislators for protecting critical federal SNAP benefits for the more than 1.5 million Ohioans who rely on them to help feed themselves and their families. We are grateful that the Conference Committee heard the pleas of advocates and constituents to remove the harmful SNAP provisions contained in the Senate’s budget. These provisions would have had dire consequences on our state’s already severe hunger crisis.

“Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we invest in food and economic security and ensure an equitable recovery for all Ohioans. We look forward to working with the Administration in the next biennium to ensure every citizen has access to healthy, affordable food.”

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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.

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