



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Critical Navigator Services Expanded in Ohio, Across the Country**  
**Media Statement from Joree Novotny, director of external affairs,**  
**Ohio Association of Foodbanks**

“Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced [\\$80 million in federal awards](#) to 60 grantees in 30 states to reinvest in critical Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Navigator services. [The announcement](#) includes \$1,928,061 for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and its consortium of regional and local organizations in its first year of a three-year cooperative agreement with CMS.

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks proudly served as the lead entity for Ohio’s statewide ACA Navigator program from 2013 to 2016, before funding for these important services was drastically cut. This renewed investment in outreach and enrollment assistance will help individuals and families in Ohio secure and maintain the affordable health coverage that fits their needs and their budgets, while helping them better understand how to put their coverage to use. We want to thank President Biden, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure for recommitting to the funding authorized under the ACA to make Navigator services widely available. We also congratulate fellow Ohio grantees Southeast Community Mental Health Center, Inc. and Equitas Health, with whom we look forward to partnering.

“The association and its consortium members will be working over the coming weeks to hire, train and certify Navigator personnel, relaunch a public education and outreach campaign and prepare for the 2022 open enrollment period for Health Insurance Marketplace plans beginning November 1. Ohioans can visit [getcoveredohio.org](http://getcoveredohio.org) for more information as it becomes available.”

**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Navigator Consortium Members:**

Charitable Healthcare Network  
The Community Action Committee of Pike County  
Freestore Foodbank  
Medworks  
Mid-Ohio Food Collective  
Toledo/Lucas County CareNet  
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio  
Washington-Morgan Community Action

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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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