



Greater Cleveland
Food Bank



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 14, 2022

**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Joint Statement on
Critical Need for Support During Food Shortfalls, Hardship**
*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of
Foodbanks, and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Board of Directors*

“Fifteen months ago, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), passed by the 117th Congress, into law. This relief and recovery [package](#) included an expanded Child Tax Credit, distributed in monthly installments – putting cash directly in families’ pockets and [slashing child poverty and food insufficiency](#). It provided one-time direct payments to low- and moderate-income Americans, \$130 billion to help schools safely reopen amidst the ongoing pandemic, and \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments.

“In addition to \$5.33 billion in aid that has gone directly to Ohio’s cities, counties, and other local government entities, the State of Ohio received \$5.68 billion in direct relief from ARPA. Of that, \$5.36 billion was earmarked for flexible State Fiscal Recovery Funds for Ohio to ‘recover, repay, restore, and rebuild from the coronavirus pandemic.’

“Our foodbanks and our partners in hunger relief throughout Ohio have been on the front lines of the pandemic since March 2020. We have experienced every supply chain inflection point, from historically high costs of food and transportation to food supply shortages, to the cost of recruiting, training, maintaining, and protecting an essential workforce. We raised private funds furiously and purchased more food than we ever have before to keep our doors open and food on the shelves every single day of the pandemic. Now we’re doing even more because of the high cost to find and purchase food while we’re getting less donated and federal commodities.

“Meanwhile, with the cost of everything from rent and utilities to childcare to food and fuel higher than ever, and with less federal help available, we are seeing more families with kids – including many that have not sought help throughout the pandemic until now – standing more often in our lines. We are serving older adults and people living with disabilities more frequently as their limited, fixed incomes fail to keep up with the rising cost of their basic expenses. Working adults are earning the same wages but paying \$5 per gallon or more for fuel to get to work and facing an 11.2 percent increase in the cost of groceries so far this year.

“We desperately need more help. Many foodbanks are seeing spikes in need comparable to or higher than in the early weeks of the pandemic. Some of our foodbanks are rationing food, and more will need to start doing so without immediate action. Hundreds of loads of USDA foods have been and are continuing to be cancelled due to various factors, including no bidders, price increases, lack of product availability, and higher transportation costs. We have been calling for an investment of ARPA dollars in our network for months to help us support our communities as they recover and rebuild. Instead, the State of Ohio most

recently announced that it had inserted \$809 million from its remaining ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds into the Capital Budget, without any opportunity for public input, before recessing for the summer.

“Ohio has \$1.9 billion remaining in ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds, hundreds of millions of dollars in unspent TANF funds and billions of dollars in its rainy day fund. Ohio’s foodbanks are asking for \$50 million in immediate, emergency funding to move much-needed food out to food insecure Ohioans and \$133 million in a longer-term investment to help us prepare our physical and human infrastructure to face the recession many economists estimate is just around the corner.

“More than 200 statewide, regional and local organizations and nearly 600 individuals have signed an online petition [urging immediate investments](#) in Ohio’s foodbanks and other basic services that Ohioans with low and moderate incomes rely on. We are calling on Governor DeWine and members of the Ohio General Assembly to act, with urgency, to help us prevent hunger now and promote stability in the months ahead.”

###

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 3,700 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2021, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 290 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

[Petition Signers](#) (nearly 600 individuals as well as the below organizational signers)

Statewide Organizations and Industry Representatives

Advocates for Ohio’s Future	Molina Healthcare of Ohio	Ohio Poultry Association
Buckeye	Mrs. Dennis’ Potato Farm, Inc.	Ohio Poverty Law Center
Buurma Farms, Inc.	MyUSA Credit Union	Ohio Urban Resources System
CareSource	National MS Society	Ohio Workforce Coalition
CDCRC, Inc.	Ohio Association of Community Health Centers	Peoples State Bank
Children’s Defense Fund – Ohio	Ohio Association of Foodbanks	Policy Matters Ohio
Hunger Network in Ohio	Ohio CDC Association	UHCAN Ohio
Managed Care Advisory Group, LLC	Ohio Dairy Producers Association	Wiers Farm, Inc.
McMaster Farms, LLC	Ohio Pork Council	Women of All Red Nations
Miceli Dairy Products		

Regional and Local Organizations and Government Agencies/Officials

3C Pantry	Good Hope Food Pantry	Parma Hunger Center
ACFP	Good Samaritan Hunger Center	Paulding County Health Department
AdamsRib Media Ministries	Greater Cleveland Food Bank	PCM Food Pantry
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank	Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry	Perry County Chamber of Commerce
An-Nur Islamic Community Center	Greater Hilltop Area Shalom Zone CDC	Perry County SVDP
Area 14 Workforce Development Board	Greater Marietta Community Food Pantry	Putnam County Thrift Store
Athens Catholic Food Pantry	HARCATUS Tri-County Community Action Organization	Poasttown First Church of God
Athens Co. Commissioner Chris Chmiel	Harmony Creek Feeding Friends Food Pantry	Princeton Pike West COG
Athens Co. Commissioner Lenny Eliason	Health Partners Free Clinic	R4 Workforce
Athens County Dept. of Job and Family Services	Heart to Heart Food Pantry	Regular First Baptist Church Food Pantry
Athens County Food Pantry	Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP)	Rural Relief Mobile Food Pantry
Attica Community Food Pantry	Holy Angels Soup Kitchen	SE Ohio Foodbank & Kitchen
Basic Needs Food Pantry	Hope Whispers Community Org.	Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign, and Logan Counties
Beatitude House		Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley
Bishopville Food Pantry		

Blackburn Ministries, Inc.	House of Grace Men's Recovery	Second Harvest Food Bank of North
Blessed Trinity Food Pantry	Human Service Chamber of Franklin	Central Ohio
Boardman Glenwood Food Pantry	County	Serve City
Bolindale Food Pantry	Imani Family Center	Shared Harvest Foodbank
Boys and Girls Club West	ISBH	Sisters Health Foundation
Chester/Liberty	Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati	Solid Rock Apostolic Church
Breaking Bread Community Meal	Kent Social Services	Squire Patton Boggs
Broad Street Food Pantry	Kindness Backpack	St Vincent de Paul at St. James of the
Brookfield United Methodist Church	Kings Local Food Pantry	Valley Catholic Church
Butler Behavioral Health	KNAP Sack, Inc.	St. Agnes Table of Plenty
Butler County Educational Service	Landing Point Financial Group	St. Mary Catholic Church
Center	Liberty Helping Hands Pantry	St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal
Caring and Sharing Food Pantry	Lisbon First United Methodist Church	Church
Caring Hands Food Pantry	Little Lighthouse Learning Center	St. Paul United Church of Christ
Caring Kitchen	Little Miami Food Service	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
Chesapeake Community Outreach	Living Hope Church Food Pantry	St. Vincent de Paul Society Voice of the
CHOPIN Hall	Lockwood United Methodist Church	Poor
Christian Life Food Pantry	Logan City Council	St. Vincent de Paul Society, Perry
Church Hill United Methodist Liberty	Logan Head Start	County
Food Pantry	Longstreth Food Pantry	Stark County Hunger Task Force
Churches Active in Northside (CAIN)	Lorain County Office on Aging	Temple Emmanuel Seventh-day
Coleman Health Services	Lorain County Workforce Development	Adventist Church
Community Action Agency of	Agency	The Appalachian Center for Economic
Columbiana County	LSS Food Pantries	Networks (ACEnet)
Community Action Committee of Pike	MarketPlace Church	The Foodbank, Inc.
County	Mason Food Pantry	The Helping Hands Network
Community Mission Outreach	Matthew 25 Outreach Center	The LIGHT Pantry at Elliston Zion
County Line Food Pantry	May Dugan Center	The Oaks Community Church
Communities United for Action	Meigs Cooperative Parish/Mulberry	The P.E.E.R. Center
Crime Victim Services	Community Center	The Salvation Army Huron
Difference Makers	Mid-Ohio Food Collective	The Springfield Salvation Army
Dublin Food Pantry	Murray Ridge School	Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank
El Centro de Servicios Sociales	NAMI CGM	Toledo/Lucas County CareNet
Elyria Hospitality Center	Nelsonville Food Cupboard	TOPSS
Enon Emergency Relief	New Beginnings Church	Torch Feed My Sheep
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services	Newport Community Food Pantry	Tri-County Career Center
Fellowship Christian Food Pantry	NOBLE	TUC Garden
First Place Food Pantry	North Jackson Church of the Nazarene	United Christian Services Food Pantry
First United Methodist Church	North Lewisburg Food Pantry	of Indian Lake
FISH of Tiffin	Northwood Local School	United Way of Greater Toledo
Foremost CDC	Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	United Way of Licking County
Free at Last Ministries	Oak House	Unity Holiness Ministries
Freestore Foodbank	Oasis Food Ministry	Ursuline Sisters
Friendship Meals, Inc.	Oberlin City Council Member at Large	Village Food Pantry
GHD Services, Inc.	Kristin Peterson	Vine of Hope Community Church
Give and Take Food Pantry	Oberlin Community Services	Vinton Baptist Food Pantry
God's Hands at Work	Open Door Food Pantry	Warren First Presbyterian Church
Golden Harvest Food Pantry	Open Hands Caring Hearts	West Ohio Food Bank
	Panther Backpack	WTA Veterinary Consultants
		WTWH Media