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Ohio Association of Foodbanks Executive Director to Attend “Communities in Action: Building a Better Ohio” at the White House

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

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is proud to join Ohio elected officials and community leaders at the White House to kick off the Biden-Harris Administration’s Communities in Action series. This important conversation will focus on the investments the Administration has made in our communities and give us a chance to share our insights about how we can continue to partner together to leverage these historic investments on behalf of working families.

“The recently passed Inflation Reduction Act will help lower prescription drug costs, health care costs, and energy costs. Lowering health care costs will save hundreds of thousands of Ohioans about \$810 per year on average while also expanding coverage to about 55,000 Ohioans. Our ACA [Navigators are at the ready](#) to help Ohio consumers connect to those affordable coverage options, freeing up more of their income to afford healthy food and meet other basic needs. This aggressive action to confront the climate crisis will also be important to the future security and sustainability of our food system and food supply for every Ohioan and American.

“The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) made additional investments in the transformative power of national service, and we are thrilled to partner with AmeriCorps to deploy our communities’ future change makers and visionaries in service at hunger and poverty relief organizations throughout Ohio. The expanded Child Tax Credit made available through ARPA benefited more than 1.3 million Ohio families with nearly 2.3 million children, reducing child poverty by as much as 30%. The expanded Earned Income Tax Credit made work pay for 691,000 Ohio workers earning low wages.

“However, the August 2022 U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey estimates that nearly 762,000 Ohioans sometimes or often couldn’t get enough to eat during the previous seven days – a 20% increase from a year prior. Our foodbanks and the neighbors we serve are already hurting, and we need help to keep them from hardship this Hunger Action Month. We commend the Biden Administration and members of Congress for working hard to keep more money in Ohioans pockets. We urge Ohio’s elected leaders to work swiftly to build upon the President’s proposals to provide immediate support for Ohioans, including by [investing federal American Rescue Plan Act funds](#) in hunger relief and long-term community basic needs infrastructure.”

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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 3,700 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