



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Joint Statement on
End-of-Year Funding to Help Foodbanks Meet Increased Need**
*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of
Foodbanks, and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Board of Directors*

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks, along with our 12 regional foodbanks and 3,600 member charities, extend our deepest appreciation to Ohio Governor DeWine, Ohio Senate President Huffman, Ohio House Speaker Cupp, Ohio Senate Finance Chairman Dolan, Ohio House Finance Chairman Oelslager, and members of the Ohio General Assembly for their leadership in providing \$25 million in today’s year-end spending bill to help us address ongoing food hardship.

“Months of historically high costs for food, housing, utilities, fuel, and other basic household expenses have contributed to record demand for help from our statewide hunger relief network, especially from working families and older adults. Last quarter, we served 38 percent more households than we did one year ago as Ohioans spend down their savings, take on debt, and struggle to keep up with their essential needs.

“Fortunately, with this appropriation, the State of Ohio and its elected leaders have told Ohioans that they believe food security is an essential ingredient for a strong and resilient workforce, thriving children and students, and an older generation that can age in place with dignity.

“We applaud the DeWine Administration, including our partners at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and food security champions within the Ohio General Assembly for investing in our decades-long public-private partnership to not only reduce hunger but also support Ohio’s number one industry, agriculture. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to be effective stewards of public and philanthropic resources to lessen food hardship and promote household stability.”

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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 2022, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 242 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