



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 28, 2023

End of \$126 Million Per Month in Federally Funded Food Assistance for Ohio Households Will Drastically Increase Food, Economic Hardship

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

“In its end-of-year spending package, Congress [ended the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) Emergency Allotments](#) that have kept about 1.5 million Ohioans afloat for nearly three years. While these boosts to standard benefit levels were never intended to be permanent, they have been critical to mitigating more significant food and economic hardship up to now. When [we spoke to older Ohioans last year](#), they talked about how these resources improved their mental and physical health and helped them avoid rationing food. [One study](#) estimated that SNAP Emergency Allotments reduced child poverty by 14 percent. The last SNAP Emergency Allotment was issued this week; next month, Ohioans will lose an average of \$86 per person, per month toward their groceries, and many will lose much more – especially older adults, disabled Ohioans and working families.

“Imagine that the budget you currently have for buying groceries to feed your family of three was slashed by 20 to 60 percent overnight. Imagine that you are an older adult on a fixed income, and you went from having more than \$3 per meal to less than \$2 or even as little as \$0.25 per meal. How would you cope?

“Now, imagine that at the same time, food prices are higher than they have been in decades. Everything from your rent and utilities to your child care and medication continue to eat up more of your household budget. You had to start paying for your child’s school meals again. You lost the advance, expanded child tax credit payments that helped your family make ends meet. Your doctor keeps telling you to manage your blood sugar with fresh fruits and vegetables and lean proteins, but you won’t have anything left to buy food by the second week of March. You’ve [maxed out the credit cards](#) you worked hard to pay off during the pandemic. You’ve [spent down your savings](#).

“This is reality for hundreds of thousands of Ohio households. And many more hundreds of thousands of Ohio households that earn slightly too much to qualify for SNAP have already been turning to our statewide hunger relief network for help with food at record levels – our food pantries served more people in the last six months of 2022 than they ever have, even at the height of the pandemic, even in the midst of the Great Recession. And that was before we knew SNAP Emergency Allotments would end, creating an additional, insurmountable cliff. [Ohio foodbanks need help to respond](#), not just in the weeks ahead, but the months and years ahead, to ensure every Ohioan has a place to turn to put food on their table. The State of Ohio has the resources it needs to prevent harm and hardship for working families, seniors and other vulnerable people, and we have faith that its elected leaders will continue to step up and respond in their constituents’ time of need.”

###

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: Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks
614-271-4803 (cell) – or – lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org

Joree Novotny, Chief of Staff for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks
614-273-5818 (cell) – or – jnovotny@ohiofoodbanks.org