



**OHIO**

**ASSOCIATION OF  
FOODBANKS**

Hunger and Health Newsletter  
December 2023

# HUNGER AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER



## OAF UPDATES

**Root Cause Coalition 8th Annual Summit  
December 3rd - 5th, 2023, Kansas City, Missouri**

Members of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Health Initiatives team, along with various representatives from member foodbanks, attended the 8th Annual Root Cause Coalition Summit, in Kansas City, MO. The National Summit “brings together representatives from health systems, hospital associations, foundations, businesses, national and community nonprofits, health insurers, academic institutions and policy centers to share best practices” on addressing the Social Drivers of Health. Featured sessions included Food is Medicine through a Social Determinants of Health Lens: Discussion and Workshop, A Comprehensive Approach to Closing the Racial Health and Wealth Gap, A National Strategy to Improve Household Food Security Through Medicaid, and the Massachusetts 1115 Waiver.



**For more information on the Root Cause Coalition Annual Summit, Visit: <https://www.rootcausecoalition.org/nationalsummit>**

## Foodbank Champions Team Transform Health

Thank you to all who attended the first monthly meeting of the Foodbank Champions Team, on Thursday, December 7th, lead by health policy consultants, Transform Health. The Foodbank Champions Team will continue to meet on a monthly basis, to discuss the next steps for finding sustainable funding for SDOH Interventions in the state of Ohio. Please stay tuned for the announcement of the day and time for the January Foodbank Champions Team meeting. All materials from the first meeting can be found by clicking the links below. All materials are also in the shared google drive, accessible to members of the committee.

**12/7/2023 - Foodbank Champions Team Materials: [Meeting Recording](#), [Meeting Notes](#), [Slide Deck](#)**

### Key Informant Interviews:

The Transform Health team will be contacting the champions from your foodbank’s team to conduct key informant interviews. These interviews are for the Transform Health team to understand the structure, capacity, and interest of each foodbank represented in our network, and what they value in an SDOH Medicaid Waiver proposal. Stay tuned in the coming weeks!

### Transform Health Contact Information:

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# YEAR IN REVIEW & 2024 PROJECTIONS

## FEDERAL

### **USDA Says High Farm Production Costs Not Easing in 2024**

The United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry published a report in July of 2023, discussing the predictions for farm production costs for the end of 2023, and into 2024. Since 2020, Crop production costs have sky rocketed, and input costs have on average tripled in percentage. Slow improvements have been made to these statistics since 2022, but continue to remain elevated, causing significant inflation prices nationwide, and a continuing effect on hunger relief programs across the nation

- ‘USDA’s first 2024 cost-of-production forecast reveals that input costs are expected to remain elevated into the next growing season, at the third-highest level of all-time.

## 2024 - Looking Forward

### **Ohio Capital Budget**

House legislators have already begun drafting requests of 2 year funding through the Ohio Capital budget, to be approved in the coming months. ‘In 2024, legislators will also be divvying up the \$700 million general revenue funded Ohio Time Strategic Community Investment Fund.’ These funds could have a significant positive impact on hunger relief programs in the state of Ohio.

- More information about the Community Investment Fund [here](#).

### **Hunger Free Campus Bill**

In early 2023, when the public health emergency ended, many college students lost access to their SNAP benefits that they gained as a result of the pandemic. Ohio reinstated these rules in October to expand access to SNAP for college students. In order to complement this exciting new change, the OAF Public Policy team will continue to advocate for the state of Ohio to pass a Hunger Free Campus Bill, to reinstate SNAP eligibility permanently for college students.

## STATE

### **2023 - Year in Review**

#### **Conference Committee Budget**

This year marked a significant step forward in the advocacy of the state operating budget, with the approval of a **\$32.05 million per year** investment in the Ohio Food Program and the Agricultural Clearance Program. Chairmen Rep. Jay Edwards and Sen. Matt Dolan and conference committee members also prioritized funding to offset the cost of reduced price meals for 80,000 K-12 students, in addition to removing many harmful provisions related to SNAP and Medicaid.

- [Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on Conference Committee Budget \(June 2023\)](#), Ohio Association of Foodbanks
- [Ohio Senate Budget Would Increase Hunger Amid Record Hardship \(June 2023\)](#), Ohio Association of Foodbanks

*“I am really looking forward to continuing to foster relationships at all levels of government in 2024 in support of issues related to poverty alleviation but am most excited for the statewide coalition we are building around eliminating hunger among Ohio's college students. I am also deeply looking forward to getting out to visit more of our foodbanks as there are still a few I have not yet been too and excited for more fun on our [Just A Bite](#) podcast!”*

*Hope Lane Gavin, Director of Nutrition Policy and Programs, Ohio Association of Foodbanks*

## NEWS, RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH

### CMS Published Tools and Reports

The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services published the Fall 2023 Quarterly data snapshots, data highlights, and other data tools. The following resources have been published by CMS to promote Health Equity for all communities, specifically those who live in rural, Tribal, frontier, or geographically isolated communities.

#### Recently Published Reports:

**Rural-Urban Disparities in Health Care in Medicaid (November 2023)** - ‘This report summarizes the quality of health care delivered to Medicare enrollees nationwide, highlighting rural-urban differences in health care experiences. The report examines differences in quality of care by race and ethnicity in both rural and urban areas.’



**MEDICAID FOOD  
SECURITY NETWORK**

In partnership with [Benefits Data Trust \(BDT\)](#) and [Health Begins](#), [Share Our Strength](#) is preparing for the formal launch of the Medicaid Food Security Network (MFSN) in January 2024 with the release of the Medicaid Food Security Partners Program Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP is for statewide organizations, and OAF intends to apply to advance the work of the Foodbank Champions Team. This Network will provide the infrastructure for stakeholders to collaborate with peers across the country, as well as access to resources and information on Medicaid policy and practice.

**Click [here](#) to learn more, and join the Medicaid Food Security Network!**

**HealthBegins** is also launching a **VOI Accelerator Program**. This is a 6-week, online program that will equip staff at Community Based Organizations with the resources and best practices to effectively negotiate sustainable healthcare partnerships to help Medicaid beneficiaries.

If interested, please fill out the interest form [here](#), and register by January 16th, 2024.

For questions, email [accelerator@healthbegins.org](mailto:accelerator@healthbegins.org)

**Advancing Health Equity in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities - FY 2023 Year in Review** - Summarizes how CMS accurately met the needs of these isolated and vulnerable populations throughout 2023.

**Improving Care for People with Limited English Proficiency** (Infographic) - ‘Highlights the challenges often facing people with limited English proficiency (LEP) face while getting care, including misdiagnosis, higher hospital administration rates, and difficulty getting regular screenings’

**Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Data with ICD-10-CM Z Codes** (Infographic) - ‘Explains how TCD-10-CM Z codes can help improve the collection of SDOH data. It also outlines ways that collection of SDOH data can improve equity in health care delivery and research’

**Recognizing Health Disparities in the LGBTQI+ Community** (Infographic) - ‘Calls attention to the unique care challenges and barriers that members of the LGBTQI+ community face and the work that is being done to help ensure that these individuals have access to quality health care.’

Click [here](#) to view all of CMS resources, reports and publications on Rural Health Equity.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

### AMERICORPS VISTA GRANT APPLICATION - 2024/2025

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is currently recruiting host site partners and projects for our AmeriCorps VISTA program. VISTA is a federally funded program that places professional volunteers in community-based agencies, full-time for one year of service. VISTA members can work to expand the food as medicine work your agency is completing through capacity-building tasks such as: program evaluation, community needs assessments, fund development, research, service mapping, and more. VISTA members are the future nonprofit leaders of tomorrow looking to gain skills and experience to build on their career. Learn more:

**Webinar Recording:** [VISTA 101 Webinar: Is VISTA the Right Fit for My Organization](#)

**RFP Instructions:** [Request for Applications](#)

**Host Site Application:** [Host Site Application](#)

**Applications to host a 2024 AmeriCorps VISTA are due by January 5, 2024.**

With further questions, please contact Maureen Allen, Director of Community Services, [mallan@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:mallan@ohiofoodbanks.org).

## OAF HEALTH INITIATIVES STAFF



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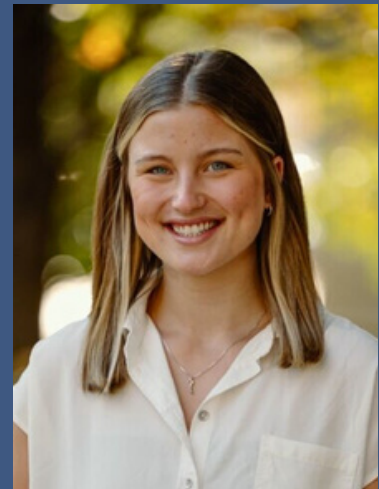
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