



**OHIO**

**ASSOCIATION OF  
FOODBANKS**

**Hunger and Health Newsletter**

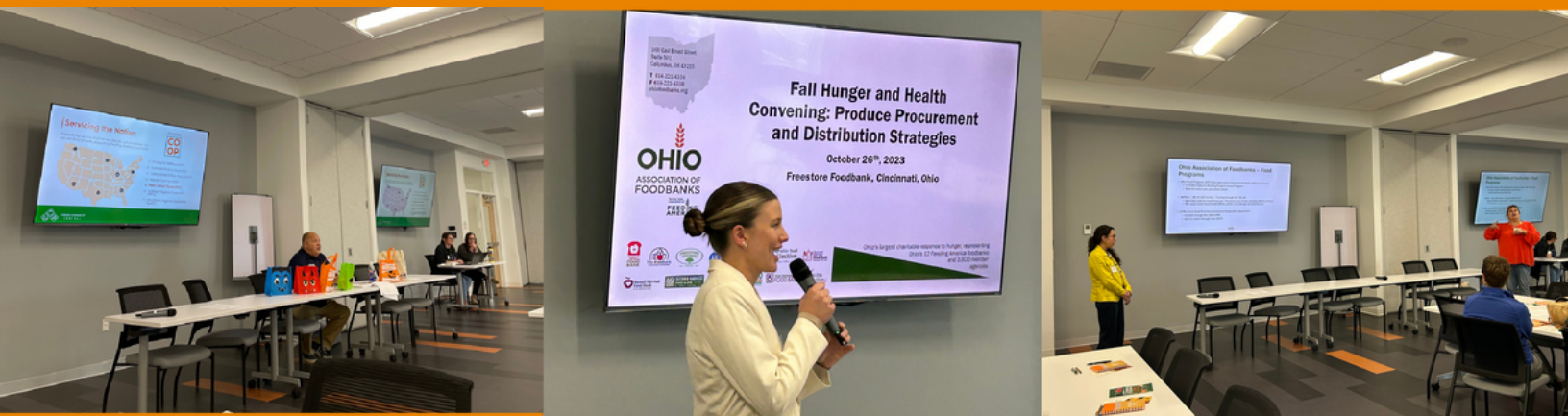
***November 2023***

# HUNGER AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER

## OAF UPDATES

On Thursday, October 26th, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Health Initiatives team, in partnership with Freestore Foodbank, hosted the Fall Hunger and Health Convening, to discuss produce procurement and distribution strategies. We are so thankful for the food bankers and healthcare providers from across the state, and representatives from Kentucky and Indiana, who traveled to Cincinnati, OH to gather together and exchange ideas, and listen to speakers on how to strengthen each foodbanks own programming.

If you have not received a copy of the slide deck, are looking for the contact information of any of our panelists or guest speakers, or interested in hosting the next hunger and health convening in Spring 2024, please contact Eliza Richardson ([erichardson@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:erichardson@ohiofoodbanks.org)).



## OAF LEADERSHIP TRANSITION



On November 1, 2023, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks officially marked the transition of its Executive Director. Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, a fearless and courageous leader, dedicated 22 years to the Association. We are forever thankful for her impactful leadership, relentless advocacy for the hungry across Ohio, and extend congratulations on her well-deserved retirement. The Board announced the appointment of Joree Novotny as the association's new executive director. A promotion that follows her successful tenure as director of external affairs and most recently as chief of staff for the organization. We can't wait to see what her leadership will bring to the association, and our network.

## FEDERAL UPDATES

### Extreme Pressures in Congress Cause for Further Delays in Farm Bill

From an impending government shut down, to a continuing resolutions bill, a new speaker, and an expired Farm Bill, Congress continues to experience severe pressures to pass the 2024 appropriations bill. Congress currently has until Nov 17 to pass legislation to fund the government, or there is risk of shutdown, unless a short-term funding bill is approved. As the new House Speaker, Mike Johnson (R-La) begins his term, House Republicans are attempting to move quickly to pass appropriations, and further cut government spending.

Speaker Johnson is also experiencing extreme pressure from House Republicans to cut much of the spending that is within the Farm Bill. The House Freedom Caucus continuously opposes both government spending and bipartisan compromise, and may pressure Johnson to push for cuts to spending on federal programs such as SNAP. The Freedom Caucus has also continuously advocated for work requirements to be attached to SNAP.

On Nov 1, the Senate passed a trio of funding bills, that will hopefully move Congress along in passing all 12 appropriations before Nov 17. Although appropriations may start to roll out, pressures from House Republicans to cut spending, in addition to international conflict may cause a further delay in passing a full appropriations bill.

## STATE UPDATES

### As Farm Bill stalls, Ohio foodbanks see unprecedented levels of demand.

As another month passes on the Senate and House floors with no Farm Bill, the pressure continues to rise for Ohio foodbanks in our struggle to meet the demand of our neighbors, without a proper legislative package. Highlighted in this article by the Public News Service, Jessica Semachko, director of advocacy and public education for the Greater Cleveland Foodbank, stressed the need for reliable funding for our foodbanks, in order to “operate at high volume”.

***“We can’t afford to let the cost of uncertainty of the threat of another shutdown, and the lack of a bipartisan agreement to fund critical programs and services of the federal government, to be borne by vulnerable Americans”***

***-Jessica Semachko, Director of Advocacy and Public Education, Greater Cleveland Foodbank***

## Just a Bite - OAF Podcast

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks brings you ‘Just a Bite’, hosted by OAF Staff **Sarah Kuhns**, *Advocacy and Engagement Manager*, and **Hope Lane- Gavin**, *Director of Nutrition Policy and Programs*: a podcast that discusses the issues and topics impacting Ohioans, from food insecurity, to tax revenue, to voting, to climate change. Tune in to a November double feature of ‘Just a Bite’, to hear about the OAF leadership transition, featuring a conversation with Lisa and Joree to touch on the transition, and honor OAF’s 32nd anniversary (releasing Nov 21), and an additional episode about the most recent Congressional updates, regarding a government shutdown, farm bill delays, and the Federal debt ceiling agreement.



**TUNE IN HERE!**

# NEWS, RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH

## NEWEST REPORTS

Recent Press Releases and Reports have been published by Feeding America, the USDA, and FRAC to identify crucial statistics on the development of food insecurity in the United States from 2021 to 2022.

**Feeding America Press Release:** “Feeding America Calls for Immediate Action to Address Large Increase in Food Insecurity”

**Food Research and Action Center Press Release:** “FRAC Calls for WIC Funding, SNAP Benefit Adequacy as Rates of Hunger Rise”

**USDA Economic Research Report:** “Household Food Security in the United States in 2022”

## RESOURCES

### Health Begins Launches the Return on Investment Calculator for Healthcare Partnerships to Address Social Needs



This ROI Calculator has been designed to help community-based organizations and healthcare organizations to plan and develop strategies for sustainable partnerships to aid in the delivery of social services to patients and neighbors who need things such as housing, food, transportation, home assistance, legal aid, etc. This calculator will help an organization determine the amount of savings a healthcare entity will expect to see with a Return on Investment through social determinants of health interventions. Once you enter in the social service intervention you offer, the healthcare coverage/payer type, and where the intervention will be utilized, it will use national averages to collect reference data, and provide you with the estimated return on investment for the payer from this social service intervention.

Director of Communications for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, **Audrey Vanzant** (614) 809 - 1417 (c), [avanzant@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:avanzant@ohiofoodbanks.org), has put together a collection of crucial talking points on these resources, to help communicate the importance of food insecurity interventions both in the state of Ohio, and nationally.

- Ohioans are experiencing food insecurity at increased rates from 2019-2021, when Ohio’s average food insecurity rate was 10.8%, to 2020-2022 when the average food insecurity rate was 11.5%. Ohio’s rate (11.5%) remains higher than the national average (11.2%)
- From 2020-2022, more than 50% of food-insecure households included in surveys received assistance from SNAP, WIC or the National School Lunch program.
- **However, there are hundreds of thousands of Ohio households who do not qualify for these programs, and still face hunger - nearly half of those experiencing food insecurity, who have only Ohio foodbanks and our hunger relief network to turn to for help.**
- **We urge Congress to fully fund critical government services and programs in its budget to avoid a government shutdown, then return its focus to passing a farm Bill that provides stability to Ohioans facing hunger.**

## YUVO HEALTH - EXPLORING PARTNERSHIPS

### VALUE-BASED CONTRACTING TO IMPROVE HEALTH, REDUCE COSTS, AND GENERATE REVENUE

One challenge we often face as foodbanks and community-based organizations, is sustainably financing the nutritional intervention supports that we provide to neighbors. As our healthcare system gradually transitions from the traditional fee-for-service payment model to models that reward improved health outcomes, such as value-based contracting arrangements, partnerships between community-based organizations, Medicaid managed care organizations, and healthcare providers, such as federally qualified health centers, can improve outcomes, reduce costs, and generate revenue for all involved.

Value-based contracts are negotiated between CBOs and healthcare providers to allow providers to be reimbursed based on the value of care they are providing to the patient. Value-based contracts attempt to improve the health of individuals and populations, provide better experiences and outcomes for patients, and all at a lower cost than our current healthcare model. Value based care also incentivizes healthcare providers to meet their clinical and financial targets, and therefore provides more well-rounded care for patients. By introducing a downside risk contract (a two-sided risk contract), healthcare providers have the potential to make a greater profit if they meet their clinical and financial goals. If, however, a provider exceeds the spending threshold that is allowed within their contract, they will owe a percentage back to the payers. This allows for healthcare providers to not only make a greater profit margin, but also be more effective in treating patients at a lower cost.

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks, and partner foodbanks, are exploring a pilot with Yuvo Health to coordinate the efforts of foodbanks, FQHCs, and MCOs under a value-based contract. Yuvo Health (<https://www.yuvohealth.com/>), negotiates partnerships between CBOs, FQHCs, and MCOs, to help address the health needs of patients across the country in-need of health-related social needs interventions. Yuvo Health negotiates value-based contracts, assumes risk on behalf of FQHCs, and helps CBOs to navigate the contracting process with MCOs. In addition, Yuvo provides technical assistance and data analytics services to the FQHC, which enables them to improve outcomes and reduce costs. A successful pilot would improve patient outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and generate revenue for FQHCs and foodbanks. Data from a successful pilot would support advocacy for state-wide policy change to get nutrition services covered through Medicaid benefits.

To learn more about the Ohio Association of Foodbanks potential partnership with Yuvo Health, please contact Zach Reat, Director of Health Initiatives ([zach@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:zach@ohiofoodbanks.org)), with questions.



## Foodbank Spotlight - Greater Cleveland Foodbank New Community Resource Center and Healthy Choice Market

On November 1, 2023, Greater Cleveland Foodbank opened its new Community Resource Center, located at 15500 S. Waterloo Rd., Cleveland, OH. This free healthy choice market serves as a “one-stop shop” for Cleveland neighbors struggling with food insecurity, that also provides assistance with housing, employment, and healthcare. This resource center aims to address the root causes of food insecurity with the goal of feeding Cleveland neighbors every day. Congratulations on the opening of this beautiful new facility, that will serve thousands of Greater Cleveland neighbors!



## OAF HEALTH INITIATIVES STAFF



**Zach Reat**  
*Director of Health  
Initiatives*

[zach@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:zach@ohiofoodbanks.org)

Office: 614-221-4336 ext. 356  
Mobile: 614-301-2040



**Grace Wagner**  
*Health Insurance Program  
Manager*

[gwagner@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:gwagner@ohiofoodbanks.org)

Office: 614-221-4336 ext. 227 Mobile:  
614-769-3825



**Patrick Hunter**  
*Health Insurance Program  
Manager*

[phunter@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:phunter@ohiofoodbanks.org)

Office: 614-221-4336  
Mobile: 380-219-0950



**Eliza Richardson**  
*AmeriCorps VISTA, Health  
and Hunger Associate*

[erichardson@ohiofoodbanks.org](mailto:erichardson@ohiofoodbanks.org)

Mobile: 614-507-1353