



OHIO

**ASSOCIATION OF
FOODBANKS**

Hunger and Health Newsletter
February 2024

HUNGER AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER

OAF UPDATES

Foodbank Champions Team February Meeting Recap

Thank you to all of the representatives that attended the in person Foodbank Champions Team Meeting on Thursday, February 15th, held at Columbus State Community College.

The materials from the February Foodbank Champions Team meeting can be found here:
[Slide Deck](#), [Recording](#)

Transform Health will be reaching out your Foodbank Champions Team representatives to complete a survey regarding your input on service delivery design, and potential collaboration with MCOs. You will also be receiving a Facilitation Guide to support your Foodbank in your internal conversations with leadership, and team members to respond to the survey accordingly. Stay tuned for updates from Transform Health on this survey. Transform Health will be standing by to provide technical assistance. Please consider scheduling a meeting to further explore these questions and how they apply to your organization.

Next Steps:

- Foodbanks will meet with their leadership/boards to discuss service delivery models and partnering with MCOs
- Transform Health and Ohio Association of Foodbanks will continue to meet with MCOs to gather insight on partnership
- Transform Health will incorporate feedback from MCOs and Foodbanks into service delivery model development.

March Foodbank Champions Team Meeting

Date: March 14th, 2024

Time: 11 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Transform Health Contact Information:

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Story Collection:

As discussed at the February Foodbank Champions Team meeting, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks will be creating a digital collection of food is medicine program stories, to use as a platform to advocate for sustainable funding models for food is medicine programming. Eliza Richardson, AmeriCorps VISTA Hunger and Health Associate will be reaching out to a member of your team to talk about your foodbank's participation in this project, and collect stories from your neighbors and team. If you have any questions, please reach out to Eliza Richardson (erichardson@ohiofoodbanks.org). We appreciate any and all feedback and content you can provide for this project! Stay tuned for more updates.

FEDERAL AND STATE UPDATES

FEDERAL

Equity Legislation Monitor

Developed by The Root Cause Coalition

The Root Cause Coalition has developed an Equity Legislation Monitor, which highlights the development and implementation of policies that address the social determinants of health, lower healthcare costs and improve health outcomes.

This tool was designed to track the relevant legislation on key equity and social determinants of health issues that are introduced in the 118th Congress. The tool includes bills that cover topics of nutrition and food security, rural health, digital equity, environment and climate crisis, gun violence prevention, housing, infant and maternal mortality, and payment models.

The full Equity Legislation Monitor can be found [here](#).

STATE

Ohio House of Representatives - SNAP Benefit Expansion

On Friday, February 16th, 2024, two bi-partisan members of the Ohio House of Representatives introduced legislation that would provide a minimum monthly SNAP benefit of \$50 to older adults that currently receive less than \$50/month.

“Along with many other advocates across Ohio, this is legislation that The Ohio Association of Foodbanks has championed since the previous General Assembly.”

Joree Novotny, Executive Director, Ohio Association of Foodbanks

We want to extend our gratitude and congratulations to members of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks team Hope Lane-Gavin, Director of Nutrition Policy and Programs, and Sarah Kuhns, Advocacy and Engagement Manager and other advocates in our network on this accomplishment.

A New SNAP Look-Book with Stories from Eight Neighbors

Audrey Vanzant, Director of Communications, The Ohio Association of Foodbanks

This project aimed to gather stories about the lived experience of neighbors across Ohio, and asked them to reflect on a year of higher food costs, without extra pandemic SNAP support. This look-book serves as a collection of narratives, featuring firsthand accounts from eight neighbors across the state from all walks of life

Take a look at the new SNAP Look-Book [here](#)!

Thank you to Audrey Vanzant, Director of Communications at the Ohio Association of Foodbanks for her work on this incredible project. We are excited to use this tool as a continuous form of advocacy around the state, and at the federal level for the expansion of SNAP benefits for all Ohioans.

NEWS, RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH

[What Anti-Hunger Advocates Need to Know About Standardized Screening for Food Insecurity and Other Health Related Social Needs \(November 2023\)](#) - this brief examines recent standards-setting initiatives within the healthcare sector regarding screening for food insecurity and other health-related social needs. It offers recommendations for anti-hunger advocates to leverage screening efforts to improve the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling to put food on the table.

[The Rockefeller Foundation to Increase Investment in U.S. Food is Medicine Solutions to \\$100 Million \(January 2024\)](#) - The Rockefeller Foundation announced at the Health and Human Services Food is Medicine Summit that it will invest an additional USD \$80 million over the next five years to advance Food is Medicine Programs in the United States. It also marks the start of a new partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to accelerate the adoption of Food is Medicine in health systems.

[Health Related Social Needs and Whole Person Health: Relationship Between Unmet Social Needs, Health Outcomes, and Healthcare Spending Among Commercially Insured Adults \(December 2023\)](#) - This study examined the prevalence of health related social needs in commercially insured patients, not just Medicaid and Medicaid enrollees. This study used survey data from Elevance Health commercially insured members residing in Georgia and Indiana. "Of 1,160 commercially insured adults, 76% indicated experiencing 1 or more health related social needs, and 29% reported greater than 3 health related social needs." Financial wellbeing and healthy food access were individually associated with healthcare spending (Table 3, Panel B). Financial wellbeing was associated with an adjusted average of \$3,323 (95 % CI, \$437.95 - \$6207.89) in additional healthcare spending, and healthy food access was associated with an adjusted average of \$3,950 (95 % CI, \$939.83-\$6,959.94) in additional healthcare spending." (Falconi, et. al 2023)

Highlights from the Health and Human Services Food is Medicine Summit

On Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) partnered with the Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs to host the first-ever HHS Food is Medicine summit in Washington, D.C., an all-day event for policy makers, advocates, researchers, and a wide variety of stakeholders with equities in the Food is Medicine space.

Joree Novotny, Executive Director, and **Zach Reat**, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives from the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Team attended the summit live in Washington, D.C.

Visit the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website](#) for the full agenda, live recordings of the summit, and more information.

[Feeding America Partnership with HHS](#)

"Feeding America has joined the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in a partnership that will advance Food is Medicine work..."

"HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the partnership at the Food is Medicine summit, along with similar partnerships with the Rockefeller Foundation and Instacart as a part of the federal commitment to advancing unified Food is Medicine policies and to accelerate the collective understanding of Food is Medicine interventions and their impacts.

Read more about the partnership [here](#).

AmeriCorps State Informational Meeting - February 27th, 2024, 2 pm

OAF is considering applying competitively for an AmeriCorps State project. AmeriCorps has long been a signature program of our agency and we've utilized many programs throughout the years to help build the capacity of our network. AmeriCorps State members can engage in direct service projects, serve either full-time or part-time hours, receive a modest living allowance, and receive an education award upon successful completion of service.

OAF is considering a project to implement the Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP) model.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, we will be hosting an informational meeting on February 27th at 2:00 pm.

Click [HERE](#) to Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 897 8611 2636

Passcode: 601213

OAF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES TEAM



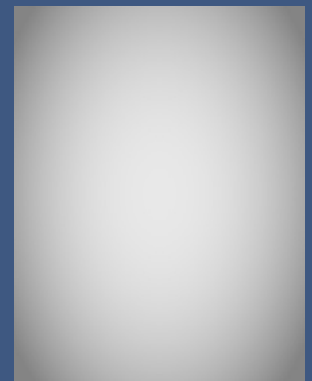
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