

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Ohio Association of Foodbanks Awarded AmeriCorps State Grant *Now hiring for 30 full-time national service positions across Ohio*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Association of Foodbanks (formerly the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks) received notification that it has been awarded one of 276 AmeriCorps State grants made nationwide by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#). As one of just six awarded programs in Ohio, the association will place 30 AmeriCorps State members with foodbanks and other community organizations throughout the state.

“Our national service members bring passion and dedication to the organizations they serve,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the association. “The time they spend helping to connect low-income Ohioans with the food and resources they need propels households and communities forward. We are thrilled to be able to once again provide these valuable national service members to nonprofit organizations doing great work in our state.”

“Without AmeriCorps State members, our operations would not run as efficiently and our volunteer program would not be as developed as it is,” said Toni Lipsey, site supervisor at HandsOn Central Ohio. “We look forward to hosting members in 2012-13 who will gain firsthand knowledge of the food scarcity issue in Franklin County and will aid in its alleviation every day.”

Thanks to its partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the [Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism](#), the association has operated its AmeriCorps State program, called HarvestCorps, since 2009. The program is also made possible thanks to the association’s partnerships with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Going into the program’s fourth year, the association is seeking individuals passionate about strengthening local communities and making a difference in the lives of low-income Ohioans for these positions.

AmeriCorps State members must be 18 years or older and able to commit to one year of full-time service, beginning September 11, 2012. Members are paid a modest living stipend and receive an end-of-service education award upon completing the year-long term. The program is an opportunity for individuals of all backgrounds to gain valuable work experience and make a difference in their community. Interested individuals should fill out an application online. More information on the applications process is available at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. In SFY 2011, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 150 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.

About the AmeriCorps State Program

AmeriCorps State is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The program is designed to fight poverty in America through full-time national service. The Ohio Association of Foodbanks has partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service to host an AmeriCorps State project since 2009. Since 2006, more than 500 AmeriCorps members have served hunger- and poverty-relief initiatives through the association's AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA initiatives. To learn more about the AmeriCorps State program and other national service programs, visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>

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Participating Organizations

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
Akron

Columbus Region Adult Parole
Authority
Columbus

East End Community
Services
Dayton

Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc
Corps Community Center
Ashland

Columbus Refugee and
Immigration Services
Columbus

Information & Referral
Services of Fairfield County,
Inc.
Lancaster

Trillium Family Solutions
Canton

Columbus State Community
College
Columbus

Second Harvest Food Bank of
North Central Ohio
Lorain

Freestore Foodbank
Cincinnati

HandsOn Central Ohio
Columbus

ABLE, Inc.
Toledo

Pickaway County Community
Action Organization, Inc.
Circleville

UHCAN Ohio
Columbus

United Way of Muskingum,
Perry, and Morgan Counties
Zanesville