

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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As Tax Deadline Looms, Free Tax Assistance Remains Available
Ohio Association of Foodbanks urges Ohioans to file their federal and state taxes
for free with The Ohio Benefit Bank

STATEWIDE – Filing taxes can sometimes seem overwhelming, and many Ohioans that have delayed filing until the last minute are now feeling the crunch as the April 15 deadline approaches. The Ohio Association of Foodbanks partners with hundreds of faith-based and community organizations throughout Ohio to help more Ohioans complete the tax filing process without losing some of their refunds to costly paid preparers.

“We want everyone to remember that your tax refund belongs to you,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, home of the Ohio Benefit Bank. “Whether you file on your own using our free online service, or you set up an appointment with one of our trained tax counselors, don’t give part of your hard-earned money away.”

Since its inception in 2006, The Ohio Benefit Bank has helped nearly 100,000 Ohioans file their tax returns at no cost, potentially returning about \$227 million in tax refunds and credits to Ohio families and their local communities. The Ohio Benefit Bank screens for all tax credits, including the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credits, and allows Ohioans to electronically file their returns.

For taxpayers using the married filing jointly status, most households with annual incomes under \$95,000 can file with The Ohio Benefit Bank. For all other taxpayers, most households with annual incomes less than \$65,000 can file.

Ohioans can visit www.ohiobenefits.org to file on their own through an easy-to-use, question-and-answer based process. For those looking for more help, visit www.ohiobenefits.org and click “Benefit Bank Locator” or call 1-800-648-1176 to find a trained tax counselor nearby.

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 2013, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 173 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association also serves as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank and operates the state’s largest navigator program for the Affordable Care Act. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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