

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 6, 2016

Ohio Association of Foodbanks Awarded \$1.7 Million Federal Navigator Grant to Continue Helping Ohioans Learn About and Enroll in Affordable Health Care Coverage

Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:

“For the fourth consecutive year, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and its network of strategic consortium members was awarded a federal Navigator grant by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This \$1.7 million grant will allow us to provide Navigator services throughout Ohio, educating consumers about affordable health care coverage options and helping them to enroll in coverage that meets their needs and their budgets.

“Since we began operating the largest Navigator program in Ohio in 2013, our trained navigators have helped more than 32,000 Ohioans enroll in Medicaid coverage or in a Qualified Health Plan through the Marketplace. Our consortium has participated in more than 7,000 outreach and enrollment events in all 88 counties in Ohio. We are committed to ensuring that Ohioans can make informed, appropriate decisions about their health insurance options and health care needs.

“Our project will continue to be carried out in partnership with the consortium of regional and local organizations that participated in this work last year, most of which have been engaged in this work since it began in 2013. Our consortium is committed to providing informative and accessible services to make the process of selecting and enrolling in health care coverage a positive one.

“On behalf of our statewide consortium, we thank CMS for their continued partnership and leadership. About 880,000 Ohioans have been connected to health coverage thanks to the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We are excited to continue this important outreach in the great state of Ohio when open enrollment for 2017 plans begins November 1.”

Consumers looking for more information or to setup an appointment for the upcoming open enrollment period should call 1-800-648-1176 or visit www.areyoucoveredohio.org.

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Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, representing the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, is available for interviews to provide additional information about how this grant will be implemented in Ohio. To arrange an interview, please reach out to her at the contact information below.

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 2015, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 197 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.

Contact: Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at 614-221-4336 ext. 222 or 614-271-4803 (cell) or lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org

List of consortium members:

- *Ohio Association of Foodbanks*
- *Access Health Mahoning Valley*
- *Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA)*
- *Cuyahoga Health Access Partnership (CHAP)*
- *Community Action Committee of Pike County*
- *Freestore Foodbank*
- *Ohio Association of Free Clinics*
- *Southeast, Inc.*
- *Toledo/Lucas County CareNet*
- *Washington-Morgan Community Action*