

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 15, 2013

Ohio Association of Foodbanks Awarded \$1.95 Million Federal Navigator Grant

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

“We are thrilled to announce that the Ohio Association of Foodbanks—along with a network of strategic consortium members—was awarded a federal Navigator grant by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This approximately \$1.95 million grant will allow us to raise awareness about the federal-facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace and connect Ohioans with assistance in enrolling in plans in the Health Insurance Marketplace beginning this fall.

“Through our existing network of thousands of community-based organizations, and in partnership with our strategic partners, we look forward to making sure that those Ohioans uninsured or underinsured and struggling to afford health care have the help they need to make informed decisions about their health insurance options. Our project will raise awareness about the Marketplace through many avenues and will be carried out in partnership with a consortium made up of regional and local organizations knowledgeable about the specific needs of the uninsured and underserved Ohioans in their geographic service area.

“As the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank, we have worked in partnership with the State of Ohio and many other state and federal agencies to connect Ohioans with health care programs and other services for many years. We feel that serving as Navigator in Ohio is a natural extension of our work to provide food and other important resources to people in need. We thank CMS for entrusting us with these dollars and we are excited to begin this important outreach in the state of Ohio.”

Consumers or organizations looking for more information can call 1-800-648-1176.

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Lisa Hamler-Fugitt and Jason Elchert, both representing the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, are available for interviews to provide additional information about how this grant will be implemented in Ohio. To arrange an interview with Lisa, please contact her at 614-271-4803 or lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org. To arrange an interview with Jason, please contact him at 614-9372046 or jason@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 2012, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 164 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.

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
– OR –
Jason Elchert, Deputy Director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at 614-221-4336 ext. 224 or 614-937-2046 (cell) or jason@ohiofoodbanks.org

List of consortium members and areas served:

- Ohio Association of Foodbanks, All 88 Counties
- Access Health Mahoning Valley (AHMV), Mahoning and Trumbull Counties
- Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA), Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, and Summit Counties
- Carmella Rose Health Foundation (CRHF), Cuyahoga County
- Cuyahoga Health Access Partnership (CHAP), Cuyahoga County
- Community Action Committee of Pike County (CACPC), Jackson, Pike, and Scioto Counties
- Disability Rights Ohio (DRO), All 88 Counties
- Freestore Foodbank (FSFB), Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Highland Counties
- Toledo/Lucas County CareNet, Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, VanWert, Williams, Woods, and Wyandot Counties
- Ohio Association of Free Clinics (OAFC), 40 Counties Across Ohio
- Ohio Department of Health (ODH), All 88 Counties
- The Community Action Program Corporation of Washington Morgan Counties (WMCAP), Morgan and Washington Counties