

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 8, 2014

Ohio Association of Foodbanks Awarded \$2.18 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) for the second consecutive year. This approximately \$2.18 million grant will allow us to continue to raise awareness about the federally-facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace and help Ohioans enroll in available 2015 plans beginning November 15.

“After some challenges early in the open enrollment period last year, we were thrilled to contribute to thousands of individuals securing private insurance through the Marketplace or coverage through the recently expanded Medicaid program. We worked with our consortium and other stakeholders throughout Ohio to ensure that those Ohioans uninsured or underinsured and struggling to afford health care had the help they needed to make informed decisions about their health insurance options. This year’s project will once again 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 are excited to continue the momentum built last year as we embark on another year as Ohio’s largest federal Navigator program. We thank CMS for entrusting us with these dollars and we are excited to continue this important outreach in the state of Ohio.”

Consumers or organizations looking for more information can call 1-800-648-1176 or visit www.ohioforhealth.org.

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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 614-937-2046 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 2014, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 186 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
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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 proposed consortium members (collectively serving all 88 counties):

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