

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 23, 2013

Governor Kasich Signs Executive Order for \$1.5 Million to Support Hunger Relief in Ohio

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

“Today, on behalf of Ohio’s foodbanks and the people we serve, I am grateful and humbled to thank Governor Kasich and the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for this historic investment in Ohio’s charitable hunger relief network.

“Governor Kasich continues to be a champion for Ohioans struggling with unmet basic needs. He understands the debilitating effects of hunger, including poor health and education outcomes, and the impact of those negative effects on the State of Ohio. With this Executive Order for \$1.5 million, Governor Kasich demonstrates once again his commitment to ensuring that our children can succeed in school, our workers can productively compete in today’s economy and our seniors can live out their retirements within their own homes.

“The Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is a longtime and extremely valued supporter of Ohio’s charitable hunger relief network, and their support for Ohio’s hungry families with this Executive Order is incredibly timely. The announcement of these funds comes at a time of unprecedented need, not only in rural and urban areas of Ohio, but in suburban areas as well. As indicated in [recently released research from the Brookings Institution](#), poverty in American suburbs has increased by 64 percent in the past decade. Hunger is a reality in every part of the state.

“The Executive Order will provide \$1 million divided up among Ohio’s foodbanks for the purpose of purchasing, distributing or preparing foods for distribution and/or the purchase of health and hygiene items and infant care products such as infant formula and diapers. The Executive Order also provides \$500,000 for “farmers market” distributions of locally grown fruits and vegetables to needy families, in conjunction with the distribution of summer weekend backpack meals for at-risk children.

“This extraordinary investment in our work to provide food and other resources to people in need will help Ohio’s foodbanks to keep their shelves stocked with nutritious Ohio-grown foods and vital personal care items. It will help us to respond to the rising need for food assistance that accompanies high poverty rates, stagnant wages and inflated costs of living. We could not be more thankful for Governor Kasich’s recognition that every Ohioan deserves access to the basic necessity of nutritious food.”

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt is available for interviews with the media to discuss the impact of this Executive Order and to underscore the need to retain full funding of foodbanks in the Ohio biennial budget. To arrange an interview with Lisa, please contact her at 614-271-4803 or lisa@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