

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 1, 2013

Ohio Association of Foodbanks Receives Final Certification as Federal Navigator Program from Ohio Department of Insurance

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

“We are pleased to announce that the Ohio Association of Foodbanks has completed the certification process to serve in the role of federal navigators, helping to connect uninsured and underinsured Ohioans with affordable health care coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. We want to thank the Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI), Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and the department’s dedicated staff for their consideration, hard work and approval of our application to operate a navigator program.

“Ohioans can learn more about the health insurance options available through the Health Insurance Marketplace and enroll in a plan on their own by visiting www.healthcare.gov or by calling 1-800-318-2596 (TTY 1-855-889-4325). They will need to gather basic information about their household income, household budget, medical provider and health care needs in order to prepare to enroll. Ohioans that would like additional assistance in navigating the enrollment process can visit www.ohioforhealth.org or call 1-800-648-1176.

“Open enrollment opened today and will remain open through March 31, 2014. Ohioans that enroll by December 15, 2013 will begin receiving coverage January 1, 2014. In the coming weeks and months, we will be working diligently to ensure that Ohioans have access to the affordable health care coverage available to them. We thank the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for their support and funding that has made this navigator program possible and are pleased to officially assume the role of navigators in the state of Ohio.”

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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 the Ohio Association of Foodbanks navigator program. 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 –
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