

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New Poverty Data Indicate One-Third of Ohioans Eligible for Emergency Food

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

“Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released new poverty and income data for 2013. Ohio’s overall poverty rate fell slightly, from 16.3 percent in 2012 to 16 percent in 2013, but remains significantly higher than the national poverty rate (14.5 percent in 2013). Similarly, the median household income in Ohio rose slightly from \$46,829 in 2012 to \$48,081 in 2013, but remains much lower than the national median household income (\$52,250 in 2013).

“As Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, what we find most alarming is that these data indicate that one-third (33.4 percent) of Ohioans live in households at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of three, that’s less than \$39,580 a year. As foodbanks, we are mandated to provide emergency food to households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level—which means that more than 3.86 million Ohioans are eligible for our services.

“Also released earlier this month the [Household Food Security](#) report by the USDA Economic Research Service, indicated that from 2011-2013, an estimated 16 percent of Ohioans lived in food insecure households. From 2011-2013, Ohio’s very low food security rate—those households that reduce food intake or skip meals because of a lack of money and other resources for food—was 7.2 percent, tying Ohio for the third-worst very low food security rate in the nation.

“Food is the only discretionary part of a household’s budget, and as families continue to struggle now five years removed from the end of the Great Recession, nutritious food continues to be sacrificed. We are asking Governor Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly to recognize the importance of adequate, nutritious food for all households and support our state budget request for \$20 million per year (\$40 million over the biennium) for Ohio’s foodbanks.”

Supporters wishing to sign an online petition in support of the state budget request for Ohio’s foodbanks can visit www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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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.

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