

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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Response to State of the State Address: Ohio Association of Foodbanks Calls on Governor Kasich to Strengthen Anti-Poverty Programs and Policies

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

“We applaud Governor Kasich for his commitment to supporting new investments for Ohioans living in poverty—our sisters and brothers often left in the shadows, working parents earning low wages, seniors living on fixed incomes, individuals living with disabilities and adults struggling to find employment in a stagnant job market.

“Through his support of Ohio’s foodbanks and summer meals programs for low-income children, and his work to expand Medicaid coverage in Ohio, Governor Kasich has demonstrated a commitment to better understanding the issues facing Ohioans living in poverty. In his State of the State address, he again expressed concern for the least among us and committed to bettering the economic outlook for all Ohioans and creating a path to the summit for all to achieve their God-given talent.

“Unfortunately, many of the Ohioans that can now access health care through Medicaid coverage thanks to the Governor’s leadership are the same Ohioans losing access to the last line of defense against hunger and poverty, the food stamp program, thanks to state policy decisions.

“We urge the Governor to consider the importance of nutritious food in the battle to move the needle on health outcomes. The economic picture for the poorest Ohioans remains bleak. We ask Governor Kasich to strengthen the state’s response to the poverty and hunger that continues to plague too many of our fellow Ohioans. We look forward to working with the Governor on our common goals for ending poverty in our great state.”

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 2013, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 173 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.

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