

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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New FRAC Report Finds SNAP Allotments Seriously Inadequate *Polling shows three out of four Americans believe cutting SNAP is the wrong way for Congress to reduce spending*

COLUMBUS – A new Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) report, “Replacing the Thrifty Food Plan in Order to Provide Adequate Allotments for SNAP Beneficiaries,” explores the shortfalls of the Thrifty Food Plan, a calculation used to determine the amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits each household receives.

The report found that the Thrifty Food Plan:

- Includes impractical lists of foods
- Lacks the variety called for in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Unrealistically assumes adequate facilities and time for food preparation
- Unrealistically assumes food availability and affordability
- Unrealistically assumes adequate, affordable transportation
- Underestimates food waste and ignores special dietary needs

The Thrifty Food Plan can only work as intended if SNAP recipients have: access to a store (or multiple stores to bargain hunt) with a wide variety of foods at very competitive prices; transportation to the store; adequate resources to use at the store throughout the month; adequate and reliable storage space and cooking equipment; sufficient time for food preparation; and less waste and spoilage than is commonly accepted as the norm.

“Low-income households, especially families with children, often struggle to balance multiple low-wage jobs and limited household budgets,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. “SNAP is our country’s first and most important line of defense against hunger, yet this research shows that benefits are inadequate and constructed impractically.”

Congress continues to consider cuts to SNAP, in spite of overwhelming public support for the program. In a poll conducted for FRAC in August, three out of four Americans said that cutting food assistance was the wrong way for Congress to reduce spending.

“SNAP helps hard-working families in low-wage jobs to stretch their household budgets. It keeps seniors healthy and out of nursing homes longer. It helps children stay focused and learn better in school. It generates revenue for local grocery stores and tax revenues for local economies,” said Hamler-Fugitt. This research demonstrates once again that SNAP is important to the country as a whole and that cutting SNAP benefits is going in the wrong direction.”

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– Joree Jacobs, Director of Communications and Grants Management for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at 614-221-4336 ext. 265