



Support Ohio's Hunger Relief Providers and Hungry Ohio Families

Ohio's emergency food assistance network collectively served more than 2.3 million men, women and children in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012 and in the same year provided more than **160 million pounds** of food and grocery items to our clients. The network is operated by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks (the association) and is funded in part by a line item in Ohio's state budget, which is administered through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

The state funding directs food supplies to millions of Ohioans through the state's network of 12 Feeding America foodbanks and more than 3,300 food pantries and soup kitchens. This funding is a highly effective and fiscally responsible use of state dollars, and our association works tirelessly to leverage that funding to maximize our ability to get food to hungry Ohioans.

Our state-funded program – the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP) – has been praised for its effectiveness, demonstrated return on investment, and its efficiency in getting fresh foods and shelf-stable items to Ohioans in need. From every dollar of the \$12.5 million in state funding provided to the association in SFY 2012, 95 percent was used to purchase food or improve the distribution network.

OFPACP – which for more than a decade has purchased surplus or unmarketable products directly from Ohio farmers, growers and commodity producers – is among the most unique and most replicated food programs, and in SFY 2012 supplied to Ohio's hungry citizens more than 40 million pounds of fresh, Ohio-grown, wholesome, highly nutritious agriculture products that normally would have gone to waste. No other state program can illustrate this kind of return on investment – serving millions of Ohioans in need, helping our state's farmers sell surplus foods, and improving hunger relief in all 88 counties.

It's time to focus on programs that will hasten economic recovery and provide a strong foundation for the future we all share.

For the 2014-2015 biennial budget, our association requests \$34 million (\$17 million each year) to support the continuation of our grant agreement. The undersigned hereby endorses this request in support of the association's Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program.

Please return to: Attn: Nora Balduff, Ohio Association of Foodbanks

Signature _____
Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ County _____
Telephone _____ Email _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive hunger action alerts & news about the state and federal budget!
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive the Ohio Association of Foodbanks e-newsletter!