

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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IN SPITE OF BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT, SNAP REMAINS ON CUTTING BLOCK *Voters reject the idea of cutting spending on hunger; cuts already set for November*

COLUMBUS – The House and Senate Agriculture Committees—including committee members Senator Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, Representative Marcia Fudge, D-Ohio, and Representative Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio—are preparing to take up the Farm Bill to determine spending for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). A new Farm Bill being proposed by the chair of the House Agriculture Committee, Frank Lucas, R-Okla., would cut \$20 billion from SNAP.

Yet [new polling data](#) released by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) shows that support for SNAP remains high; seven in 10 voters say that cutting food stamp funding is the wrong way to reduce government spending. Only 23 percent of voters think the federal government should be spending less money to address the problem of hunger; 77 percent say the federal government should either be spending more or about the same amount.

“The threat of hunger is very real for far too many Ohioans, including children going without adequate nutrition, adults working for low wages or still struggling with unemployment, people with disabilities and seniors living on fixed incomes,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks. “As we continue to struggle with stagnant wages and high costs of living, SNAP benefits remain vital not only to food insecure Ohioans, but to our entire economy.”

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided a temporary boost to SNAP benefits during the height of the recession. Those SNAP benefits are scheduled to end on November 1 unless Congress acts to extend them. In Ohio, the loss of those ARRA benefits could result in \$20 to \$25 less per month for a family of three. Ohio could see a loss of \$134 million in SNAP benefits¹—benefits that directly stimulate local economies.

“Adequate nutrition is essential for reducing health care costs, improving educational outcomes and increasing worker productivity,” said Hamler-Fugitt. “The vast majority of Americans agree—Congress should not balance the budget on the backs of low-income families.”

To view the full findings from the poll, visit FRAC’s website at www.frac.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.

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¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *SNAP Benefits Will Be Cut for All Participants in November 2013*
<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=3899>