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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jill Jess
614-317-9412
jjess@midohiofoodbank.org

Mid-Ohio Foodbank to Award Urban Agriculture Grants

Funding for Fresh Foods Projects Made Possible by USDA

GROVE CITY, OH – Applications are available for grant funds for urban agriculture projects that will help build sustainable community gardens, urban farms and small-scale agriculture projects within the city of Columbus, Mid-Ohio Foodbank announced today. The projects will provide residents in low-income neighborhoods with direct access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service through the People's Garden Initiative.

"These grants are aimed at local and community-driven programs to reduce hunger and increase access to fresh food," said Matt Habash, president and CEO of Mid-Ohio Foodbank. "The funds can help enhance projects that will have a positive impact on sustainability, health and economics for both neighbors and growers."

To provide fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income urban communities, a portion of the food produced from a project must be distributed to help those in need. Innovative models to provide produce to the very neighborhoods where it is being grown, are encouraged.

Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, D-Columbus, helped secure the grant.

"In 2017, no one should be cut off from fresh fruits and vegetables. Yet, too many still are," Beatty said. "This grant will go a long way in increasing access and, at the same time, improving the lives of countless Central Ohioans." Beatty continued, "Mid-Ohio Foodbank is an important member of our community, and I am honored to work with them to create a healthier, hunger-free Central Ohio."

Two information sessions -- including an overview of the application process, program guides and an opportunity to ask questions -- will be offered:

- 2-3:30 p.m. April 4, Mid-Ohio Foodbank, 3960 Brookham Drive, Grove City
- 6-7:30 p.m. April 6, Driving Park Library, 1422 E Livingston Ave, Columbus

Applications are due Tuesday, April 27, 2017. More information: midohiofoodbank.org/urbanagriculturegrant

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About Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Mid-Ohio Foodbank provides food to half a million of its hungry neighbors each year by partnering with more than 650 community partners across central and eastern Ohio. Since 1980, the Foodbank has joined food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers, produce markets and after-school programs to make food accessible to those in our communities who are hungry. In 2016, the Foodbank distributed 68.9 million pounds of food through its partner network, and other assets including South Side Roots and Urban Farms of Central Ohio. Mid-Ohio Foodbank is a member of Feeding America. For more information or to donate, advocate or volunteer, visit www.midohiofoodbank.org.

About the grant

Funding to Mid-Ohio Foodbank to make these grant in support of projects has been provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) pursuant to award number 68-5E34-798 and CFDA number 10.902 (the "award").