**July 18, 2019**

**State Budget Enacted with Increased Food Support**

Both chambers passed the delayed state budget bill by overwhelming margins and it has been signed by the Governor. In spite of the uncommon delay in enacting the two-year state spending plan, it ultimately passed with bipartisan support. The news is good – the Ohio Association of Foodbanks request that was included in the Ohio Senate version was kept in the final version that was signed and enacted:

* $24.55 million per year for Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP) – an increase of $5 million over current allocation;
* $2.83 million per year for summer meals programs (equal to previous funding);
* $2 million per year for capacity building (equipment and VISTA program funding**).**

Great job by all in getting our message out and getting the $5 million increase in the OFPACP line item! The state budget bill went into effect immediately to fund the new biennium which began July 1 (the previous continuing budget expired at midnight of the 17th).

We want to thank our State Representatives and Senators for passage of a state budget bill supporting anti-hunger efforts; in particular, leadership in the Ohio Senate for adding the amendment to increase OFPACP funding by $5 million. Please take the time to let our state legislators, in both the House and Senate, know that we appreciate this support – drop a note to say thank you for adding the funding for anti-hunger programs in Ohio. Legislator contact info can be found at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>.

**Advocacy Contacts**

For questions or information, contact your advocacy team: Tim White, Advocacy Manager: (614) 317-9480 or [twhite@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:TWhite@Midohiofoodbank.ORG); or, Marilyn Tomasi, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs (614) 317-9446 or [mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:MTomasi@Midohiofoodbank.ORG). Access [advocacy resources and FAN e-blasts](https://www.midohiofoodbank.org/get_involved/advocacy/ways-to-help/) here; or, for federal advocacy information, visit the [Feeding America](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=SPnfUrAhWwFez6hLDsvQxt6KDijlIXA%2B) and the [Food Research and Action Center](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=yKcA9%2BRcLHlF7QVGsnEeYd6KDijlIXA%2B) (FRAC) advocacy sites.