



Working together toward a hunger-free and healthier

Aug 31, 2018

Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Hunger Action Month; Go Orange September 13!

September is Hunger Action Month (HAM), the opportunity for us to raise awareness of efforts to end hunger in our communities. For daily facts, links and activities, go to [our dedicated HAM web page](#).

September 13 is Go Orange Day

This is the day to wear orange in support of anti-hunger efforts. Share this date with colleagues, friends and family to spread the message that no child, senior or adult should ever go hungry!

Farm Bill Conference Committee

The Farm Bill Conference Committee will hold its first public meeting next Wednesday. Lawmakers stated they intend to finish the Farm Bill by the reauthorization deadline of Sunday, September 30th. Feeding America has sent a [letter](#) outlining priorities for the Farm Bill to all conference leadership. Be sure to share with Feeding America any advocacy actions taken during August Recess by filling out the [August recess advocacy actions survey](#); continue to use the [August Recess Toolkit](#) for meeting talking points, policy resources and more. Also use the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [Recommended Legislative Asks on the Farm Bill](#) talking points. Feeding America will be coordinating a [National Farm Bill Call-In Day](#) on Thursday, September 13, to coincide with the Farm Bill fly-in. For questions about the Farm Bill, contact policy@feedingamerica.org.

Tax Reform 2.0

House Republicans are beginning efforts to make permanent temporary provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted last December. If passed, the tax plan – known as Tax Reform 2.0 – would have a significant negative impact on the people we serve. Feeding America does not support making the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act temporary provisions permanent (view their [statement](#) on Tax Reform 2.0) and has developed a [sign-on letter](#) to communicate to lawmakers collective concerns about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and opposition to Tax Reform 2.0. The deadline to sign the letter is Friday, September 14.

USDA Bonus Commodities Update

The USDA recently announced purchases of \$50 million for fluid [milk](#), \$15 million for [beef](#), and \$60 million for [chicken](#) using Section 32 funding. The food will be distributed through the TEFAP program.

Ohio Benefits Assistance Services Change

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is completing transition of benefits services from the current Ohio Benefits Bank (OBB) to a new web-based eligibility platform. The Ohio Association of Foodbanks (OAFB) was notified earlier this month that the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved ODJFS's plan to proceed with a full statewide rollout of the new portal - <https://benefits.ohio.gov/>. This transition is raising deep concern about the transition, especially since there was no statewide communication. County JFS offices will be locally responsible for communicating these changes and working through the change. The ODJFS "go live" date for the new ODJFS self-service portal was this past Tuesday. With this transition, the OAFB counselor-assisted OBB program no longer has access to submit applications electronically to the counties. However, the OBB service will continue to produce paper applications that will need to be signed by the client and mailed/faxed/walked into the County JFS office. Without the OBB platform, SNAP outreach strategy will change, since OBB has been the online platform leveraged for nearly all SNAP and other benefit outreach.

To enroll in the online new system, clients will have to visit <https://benefits.ohio.gov/> and set up an account. Clients may also call the ODJFS Help Line number at (844) 640-OHIO (6446), and the call center will route calls to the appropriate County Shared Services. When they call, clients must enter their Zip code and then follow the prompts.

Connect with Us



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